

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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Register of the Week.

The Chinese and Japs, after fighting for a week, have at length taken the trouble to declare war in Western fashion, and no doubt rivers of blood will run before the supremacy of either nation in Corea is decided. The Japanese are thought to have precipitated the conflict in order to take China unprepared. The Chinese were ordering arms and ships in England, and now these cannot be delivered under the flag of England. The method of bringing on the conflict is as barbarous a tale as the annals of Timour the Tartar. A Chinese transport called the *Kow Shung*, sailing under the British flag, was sunk by the Japs, and the struggling victims were shot down in the water. Japan has now to explain matters to the British Government, as there had been no previous declaration of war.

The reports of the situation have the merit of being varied, and of leaving much to imagination. First comes a report of a victory gained by the Chinese battle-ship *Chen Yuen*, and the next day we are informed that the *Chen Yuen* was defeated and disabled. Both sides also have claimed a blood victory on the mainland. The Celestial Emperor has meanwhile stultified himself by degrading his Minister, Li Hung Tchang, on account of Chinese reverses. This is like the conduct of the British, who shot Admiral Byng for the loss of Gibraltar. "They kill one," said a witty Frenchman, "to make the rest brave." From a Christian standpoint, after the horrors of war, the saddest aspect of the trouble is the danger it will cause to Christian missionaries in the three countries involved.

Europe has also its war, not of nation against nation, but of individuals against society. The trial of young Caserio, who stabbed Carnot, has developed the ideas of the anarchists before the eyes of the world. He glories in his crime, and is sorry he could not kill Humbert and the Pope as well as Carnot. His counsel tried to advance the plea of insanity, upon which the assassin became virtuously indignant, and asserted his full responsibility. He will pay the penalty of his fearful crime on the guillotine.

The Italian Senate approved, almost without discussion, of the three Government Bills passed in the other House against Anarchists—the first dealing with crimes committed by means of explosive substances, the second with Press offences inciting to crime or amounting to an apology for crime, and the third enforcing a fixed residence under police surveillance for persons reputed dangerous to the public safety.

The labor troubles in the neighboring Republic are almost settled. President Debs has abjured strikes as a means of settlement of labor quarrels. He said they had the railways fairly beaten, but public opinion was against them, and public opinion was crystallized in the presence of bodies of armed troops who had come for the sole purpose of putting down the strike. The works at Pullman opened quietly, but only 250 men returned to work. There is talk of starting a rival company near Pullman's "model town," in which case his striking employees would desert him and work for the other. However, as such a scheme requires large capital, it is doubtful whether it exists.

Coxey's army settled down in a small village near Washington. The people were going to mob them, but were dissuaded by the influence of the energetic young pastor, Father Russell. Not satisfied with this, Father Russell gave a mission for the Catholics in the army, who number about 70 in 150. He was so successful that all but two or three made their confession, and some of them had not been to the sacraments in 20 years. Many non Catholics in the army are also preparing for reception into the Church. Father Russell accomplished this without expenditure of money. He was not going to buy their souls from them. The men little thought, when they marched forth to obtain "Good Roads," that they would find the sure and safe road to heaven.

The *Wine and Spirit Gazette* of New York said in an article on Bishop Watterson's pastoral. "We dare Archbishop Corrigan to enforce in letter and in spirit the decree against the liquor traffic just issued by Mgr. Satolli, the Papal Delegate. Let the Archbishop do it and watch the consequences." The Archbishop replied by letter, which is in his own handwriting. In it he says:

In reply to your expressed wish, I have the honor to say that I loyally accept the principles laid down by Mgr. Satolli, both in the spirit and the letter. More than this, no Catholic can refuse to accept them.

As to the fear of consequences, I have yet to learn what fear is in the discharge of my duty.

Please remember, however, that acceptance of principles is not to be confounded with the blind application of the same on all occasions, and under all circumstances.

M. A. CORRIGAN.

As is well known, his Holiness is engaged on an Encyclical on Church music. The Press correspondent says that he will leave the kind of music to the will of the individual bishops but will strongly recommend the use of Gregorian Chant in polyphone.

The *Daily News* correspondent in Rome says in a despatch concerning the new civil marriage law in Hungary: "The Pope has acceded to the

request of the aristocratic Catholics, the Bishops and magnates and has sanctioned a form of prayer appealing to the Virgin and the Patron Saint Stephen to save Hungary from the enemies of the Church. The prayer will be said daily in the Hungarian churches, everybody repeating it. The Pope also has granted 800 days indulgence. Thousands of copies of the prayer have been printed, and are being spread through the country."

The celebration of the centenary of the Jesuit College of Stonyhurst is shared in by all England. Stonyhurst is the old and famous English College of St. Omer's, transplanted to English soil. It has been the nursery of faith ever since the stormy days of the Virgin Betsy, and all will rejoice in its continued success.

It has been found necessary in the House of Parliament to apply a strict closure in order to carry the Evicted Tenants Bill. Hundreds of amendments were offered by Tory obstructionists, and the Government has applied the rules made by Tories to repress Irish obstruction in former days. Brilliant speeches were made in favor of the Bill by Messrs. Morley, Healy, Dillon and Sexton, and there is every guarantee of its success. The Tories threaten to use that convenient tool, the House of Lords, to drive the poor tenants into starvation or emigration, but the Lords know that they have already gone too far in rejecting legislation.

The Tories have advanced a semi-official platform for the criticism of the electorate. Besides the old shibboleth of union of church and state and a strong army and navy, a new departure is proposed in the adoption of a referendum or direct appeal to the nation on crucial questions, the abolition of the illiterate vote, old age, pensions and the aliens bill, the transfer of poor and school rates from local charges to the Imperial exchequer, and for agricultural laborers easy acquisition of small holdings. As an additional sop, Scotland is to get local control of the private bill legislation, and Ireland is to have local government on a popular basis. The programme is designed to offer every electoral force some inducement to support the Conservative party policy. The plan is eyed askance by the Conservative press and received with jeers from the Liberal papers.

We receive periodical rumors of the coming retirement from office and Parliament of Sir William Vernon Harcourt, but he still retains his position. At a banquet recently given him in London he announced that his services would still continue to be at the disposal of his party. Certainly

the strain of his double office as leader of the House and Chancellor of the Exchequer is hard on him, so he may be relieved of either and still not retire.

Our gallant Colonel Denison has been waving the bloody shirt in London at our friends and relatives who live a few miles south of us. He thinks the United States is anxious to get at us, but is deterred by visions of British gunboats and Colonel Denison's sword. We regret that a Canadian should talk thus, not only because we know full well that if we became involved in war with our big neighbor we would get the worst of it, but because we do not wish to see any break in the friendly relations of the past eighty years. "Bombard New York," said an old Canadian on hearing a man speak as Colonel Denison spoke. "Why! I have three sons in business in New York." Most of us in Canada do not want a fight, but then of course we are not all Colonels.

The Democratic Tariff Conference has not quite settled the points of dispute between the two branches of Congress. The Senate will probably yield on iron, and may take the duty off coal if Canada will grant reciprocity in that article, but the great fight rages around sugar. How it will be settled is doubtful. Meanwhile the President keeps the House members steady in their opposition to the Senate Bill. He is backed by the public opinion of Democrats all over the country. The Senate can be reached by this weapon only indirectly, and one result of the struggle is a proposition to make the Senate a body elective by the direct vote of the people.

Up to date 26 petitions have been filed against members who won in the last election. In order they are as follows:

- West Hamilton, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Liberal.
- East Toronto, Dr. G. S. Ryerson, Conservative.
- South Renfrew, R. A. Campbell, Liberal.
- Mouck, Hon. R. Harcourt, Liberal.
- London, W. R. Meredith, Conservative.
- East Hamilton, J. T. Middleton, Liberal.
- North Perth, Thomas Magwood, Conservative.
- East Peterboro', Thomas Blexard, Liberal.
- Welland, W. M. Gorman, Liberal.
- South Brant, Hon. A. S. Hardy, Liberal.
- Centre Simcoe, Robert Paton, Liberal.
- North Lanark, Dr. R. F. Preston, Conservative.
- Kingston, Dr. Smythe, Conservative.
- Haldimand, John Senn, Patron.
- West Northumberland, C. C. Field, Liberal.
- West York, J. W. St. John, Conservative.
- Addington, Jas. Reid, Conservative.
- West Huron, J. T. Garrow, Liberal.
- South Huron, M. Y. McLean, Liberal.
- South Perth, John McNeill, Patron.
- West Wellington, George Tucker, Patron.
- East Simcoe, A. Miscampbell, Conservative.
- West Durham, W. H. Reid, Conservative.
- North Toronto, G. F. Marter, Conservative.
- Haltou, Wm. Kerns, Conservative.
- North Ontario, T. W. Chapple, Liberal.