

## HOME RULE DEBATE.

## STILL THE FIGHT GOES ON IN COMMITTEE.

A synopsis of the different incidents in the course of the struggle—Some hot words and very strong passages between Home Rulers and anti-Home Rulers.

London, May 12.—The House of Commons sitting as a committee of the whole on the Home Rule Bill to day resumed the debate on the motion made yesterday by Mr. George Bentley, Conservative for North Islington, to strike out the first clause of the measure, a motion which practically means to reject the whole bill. The debate was marked by several scenes of excitement, the greatest of which occurred while Mr. T. W. Russell, who represents the south division of Tyrone, had the floor. Mr. Russell, who, though a liberal, is opposed to Home Rule for Ireland, who protesting against Ulster being coerced in acquiescing in the establishment of an Irish Parliament, when a voice was heard asking: "What the devil are you talking about?"

Mr. Russell at once stopped his protest and accused Mr. John MacNeill, Anti-Parnellite, who sits for South Donegal, with asking the objectionable question.

Mr. MacNeill emphatically denied having asked the question and insisted that Mr. Russell apologize for accusing him for having done so.

Viscount Cranbourne, Conservative, declared that he had heard Mr. MacNeill utter the words attributed to him by Mr. Russell.

Mr. Wm. MacCartney, Conservative, who represents the south division of Antrim, said that it was Mr. Thomas Sexton, the well known anti-Parnellite, who had asked the question.

Mr. Sexton denied this statement and added that he had not uttered a word.

A general squabble seemed imminent, and Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt appealed to the House to preserve order.

The chairman then intervened, saying that order must be observed. He added that such remarks as the one that some member had just made were most indecent, and were becoming frequent in the House. He sincerely hoped that every member would assist the chair in keeping order under the difficult circumstances attending the session of the committee.

The chairman's remarks were greeted with cheers, and the committee good naturedly proceeded to take a vote on Mr. Bentley's motion, which was defeated by 309 to 267.

## EVIDENTLY THE WORK OF A MADMAN.

LONDON, May 13.—William Townsend, the man arrested on the charge of having discharged a pistol in Downing street, and also suspected of having designed to kill Prime Minister Gladstone, was brought up in the Bow street Police court yesterday, and again arraigned. Townsend was also charged to-day with having sent a menacing letter to Mr. Gladstone, which was read in court. The letter is dated April 25, and is as follows:—

"Do drop that cursed bill. Say something about it in the house to-night. You gave me such a shock yesterday looking so cheerful and happy. I had never seen you before. Your appearance compelled me to raise my hat out of respect. I had been waiting for you since morning. After reading the newspaper on Saturday, I left home and wife and the little ones. If you are removed, the bill is as dead as Queen Anne. I was in Brighton on Saturday expecting to find you. If it had not been for my sudden revulsion of feeling, nothing could have saved either of us yesterday. I could have fired six shots before anyone laid a hand on me. I will give you another chance. I have a strong opinion of your cleverness. I firmly believe that, if you will it, the bill will become a law, despite Salisbury, Balfour, Chamberlain, and the Lords; but it shall not if by taking two lives, yours and mine, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of loyal Ulstermen will be saved. Surely that will be sufficient justification. I shall look anxiously in to-morrow's papers for an answer."

The prisoner admitted that he had written the letter. Then several entries in his diary were read, of which the following are samples:—

"I went to Downing street and watched quietly all day, being afraid of raising

suspicion by making enquiries. There are five chambers, surely sufficient for both."

"April 25.—I saw Mr. Gladstone emerge from his residence. I was so surprised at his happy and cheerful appearance that I raised my hat. I hurried to the park and had to weep for two hours."

The prisoner appeared greatly distressed, and said that he would reserve his defence. He was committed for trial.

## ROMAN NEWS.

From London universus and other sources.

The Sacred Congregation of Rites has held the preparatory assembly for the discussion of two miracles operated by God through the intercession of the Venerable Theophilus da Corta, professed priest of the Minor Observants, who is proposed for beatification.

The German Emperor paid his visit to the Pope in the most formally respectful manner, and had a long conversation with him. Nothing is known authoritatively of its purport yet, but is affirmed that Leo XIII. looked radiant as he bade a farewell to the German potentate.

A fearful accident occurred on Monday evening in the Church of Torre 'Jell' Annunziata, near Naples. Some hangings took fire from a taper during service, and the flames rapidly spread to adjoining woodwork. An alarm was raised, a panic immediately arose, and the crowded congregation pressed to the doors, with the horrifying result that eight women and five children were crushed to death, and many others received serious injuries.

It is absolutely impossible for the Holy Father to give himself up as he does to the long and fatiguing receptions and at the same time carry out his daily programme of work without help. In order that all business may be disposed of with regularity and without special powers have been granted to the Cardinal-Presidents of congregations during the episcopal jubilee fetes to act in all cases of importance. But it is needless to say that all grave matters are submitted to His Holiness, and that the Cardinal-Secretary of State makes a daily report upon all things concerning the religious and political questions of the day. Leo XIII. is aged in years, but his mind is wonderfully youthful, and he studies the smallest details which are of interest to the Church and faithfully with the keenest interest and most scrupulous care.

At the presentation of the Belgian pilgrims to the Holy Father the scene was almost homely in its affectionate intimacy. Leo XIII. spoke of the many happy days he had spent in Belgium, how much he loved it, what interest he felt in its welfare, and how gratified he was with the homage and felicitations of its children. It was with a genuine sorrow he had heard of the recent disturbances, and he implored those who believed in his friendship not to be led away by wicked individuals, but to remain united under the directions of their pastors, and to follow the instructions of his Encyclicals.

## "PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS."

The Paullist Fathers Take up Arms Against Set Pieces at Funerals.

Among the notices of deaths in the newspapers you frequently read the request: "Please omit flowers." Some people desirous of offering upon the bier of their departed friends a token of affection or esteem started this sending of rare and costly flowers as a fitting tribute. Others followed their example and it finally got to be almost a universal custom. And it was then a "tribute" indeed; in other words, a heavy tax laid upon the friends of the departed. Very often it degenerated into a coarse and vulgar display, and became the more offensive to good taste as well as to Christian sentiment when the flowers were made up into wreaths and other shapes, which were only such emblems as the heathen used on the tombs of their dead. Sensible people then began to stop the custom. That is the chief reason for the request in the newspapers: "Please omit flowers."

There is the best reason in the world why we should give up the custom of sending flowers, and why we should help others to stop it by also adding to our funeral notices the same request. It is not in accordance with the true Catholic Christian sentiment about death. Death

is a penalty which everyone must suffer on account of sin. Sin brought death into this world, and all must pay this dreadful penalty. And now it must at once appear to anyone who thinks upon it that it is shocking to crown either death or sin with flowers. All Christian saints following the mind of the Church, have taught us by example that death is to be accepted as a willing sacrifice, in humility of spirit, as our Savior accepted death in poverty and shame on the cross, in expiration of and atonement for sin. The Trappist monk does not allow himself to die in bed, but breathes his last stretched upon ashes sprinkled on the hard floor. Are the saints right? If so, then all this trying to hide death away under flowers "savors of the spirit of the world," as the decree of the Provincial Synod of New York styles it. That spirit is one which seeks to ignore sin and its consequences. That decree of our chief pastors, the bishops, strongly disapproves of the custom, and urges the priests to do all they can to discourage it.

Already there are signs of something better and more Christian. Instead of buying and sending these floral offerings, we hear with great satisfaction that pious persons have sent to the afflicted mourners a few words of sincere condolences accompanied with the comforting promise of prayers and Masses for the departed. Who would not have rather such a token of affection and esteem than the most costly wreaths ever made up in a florists' shop?—*Paullist Fathers' Calendar.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS.

MR. EDITOR,—I observe that the "Ministerial Association" are out again with petitions to the City Council, praying, 1st, the suppression of all disorderly houses; 2nd, a stricter observance of the Lord's Day. So, that after all their preaching (2 sermons a week) during the whole winter, they have to throw up the sponge. In spite of their eloquence, burning exhortations, and forcible language, the tide of immorality will not recede from their territory, and they now appeal to the strong arm of the law to do what they admit to be unable to effect by their ministerial endeavors. Now do they suppose that if the City Council were to close up tobacco shops and certain places of amusement, &c., there would be a better attendance at their temples. Besides they must remember that the majority of the population is Catholic, and that in the observance of the Sunday, as we understand it, Catholics are not to be ruled by Protestant ministers, having their priests to guide and instruct them; we have no desire to turn the Catholic Sunday into a Protestant Sabbath—Protestants are quite free to keep the day as they please; we claim the same privilege.

As to places of immorality, do they suppose that by suppressing them, they will at the same time suppress the evil complained of—why the *roues* young and old who assiduously attend their preachings every Sabbath (Protestant style) will start private concerns, with this difference—that they will display more hypocrisy.

The fact is Protestantism is utterly powerless to compete with the social evil. A priest at the confessional for a week will do more to check the evil than all the endeavours of all the members of the Ministerial Association for months—for the simple reason that the priest goes to the root of the evil by the sacrament, the others can only reach the surface by their words. Moreover, if the worthy ministers think they can moralize by police regulations they are greatly mistaken.

J. A. J.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—I read in Saturday night's Star an account of a Confirmation service held at l'Eglise du Redempteur, Chatham street. At this service a report of Church work was read, and it gives the following:—

"Referring to Church work, the report stated that there were many indications that the Church of Rome was losing its hold in the Province, and in the case of the bold utterances of the French Press and also the case of a parishioner who sued his priest for having refused to baptize his child."

Because certain French papers have been held in their utterances and one parishioner sues his priest, it follows that the Church of Rome is losing its

hold in the Province! Poor, unfortunate Protestantism—it has to catch at a straw to save its existence. Did not the one who framed that report know full well that such is not the case? Why, then, dish up such trash to a congregation, only to dupe them? One has only to go of a Sunday morning, from five to ten o'clock, to witness the throngs who frequent the different Catholic churches, for Mass, throughout the city, to realize, on the contrary, the grand influence which the Church of Rome is exercising, and will to the end of time, over her children, for she alone is divine.

Some time ago, at a meeting of ministers, in discussing the conversion of Protestants to Romanism, it was stated that only the illiterate and the ignorant joined the Church of Rome. What about the late Cardinals Newman and Manning, Father Faber, Spencer, Bronson, Parsons Lathrop, and a host of the most learned men, too numerous to mention here, who have, inside of the last fifty years, come over to Rome? And, Mr. Editor, I make bold to say many more would follow their example, only the loss of friendship, the loss of the goods of this world, &c., prevent them.

See the Church in the United States, is it not increasing in numbers day by day that at this present hour it is looked upon as one of the bulwarks of the Union?

What about this great unity we have heard so much of, meetings after meetings have been held for that purpose in Toronto without accomplishing anything, and thus it will be to the end. Protestantism is doomed to remain divided for it cannot be otherwise, it was born divided and divided it will remain until it gradually drifts one position toward the Catholic Church the other toward infidelity.

In concluding I will quote a great Protestant divine who has said: What sort of people are our Protestants struggling to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, sometimes to this side, sometimes to that, you may, perhaps know what their sentiments in matters of religion are to-day, but you can never certainly tell what they will be to-morrow. In what article of religion do these Churches agree which have cast off the Bishop of Rome? Examine all from top to bottom, and you will scarce find one thing affirmed by one which was not immediately condemned by another for wicked doctrine. I could quote others who speak in the same strain but I will not trespass more on your valuable space.

So much for the expected unity in the Protestant Churches. Yours truly,  
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