The Catholic Register.

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

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Current Topics.

The Boer War. The beginning of the fifth month of the war finds the British forces practically at a standstill. England and the whole British Empire are wondering what will be the next move in the game. The entire force of a magnificent British Army is held at bay by an inferior force of Boers splendidly equipped for defensive warfare and almost unassailable behind their rocky coverts. This seems to be the position that has produced such astounding results. For the past week it was known that General Buller had made a third attemp to force his way to Ladysmith, then that he had retired to his former position south of the Tugela. Speculation as to the meaning and purpose of this retreat was rife. The war office was silent. Some put on it the worst construction; some the best. It was due to defeat; it was only a feint to mask an attack in another quarter or to hide a plan aimed at a quick advance upon Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State. The following despatch to the War Office from Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, dated Modder River, Sunday, Feb. 11, tells the story in brief:

"I have received a telegram from Buller, as follows, dated Friday, Feb. 9.—'It was necessary after seizing Vaal Krantz to entrench it as the pivot of further operations. But I found after two days that, owing to the nature of the ground, this was impracticable. It was also exposed to the fire of heavy guns in positions from which our artillery was dominated. It is essential to troops advancing on Ladysmith by Harding or Mongersdritt to hold Vaal Krantz securily, and accordingly we are not pressing the advance by those roads, as I find we cannot make it secure."

Columns of useless speculation may be written upon the situation, but it all comes to one and the same thing. The British are simply unable to break through the iron circle which the Boers have drawn around Ladysmith. Whatever plan of operations from the south or west of the Orange Free State may be tried, the road to Ladysmith seems to be blocked. The situation grows worse from the British standpoint as the weeks go by, while the Boers instead of showing any signs of weakening are reported to be slowly assuming the offensive by extending their operations westward in Zululand and southward into Natal with the evident design of outflanking Buller's army.

English Army Measures. The war has evidently taught England that in point of numbers, armament, equipment and general efficiency, she is not up-to-date. The superiority of the Boer artillery over the British has been pounded into Her Majesty's troops on half a dozen gory fields. To recognize one's weakness is an accession of strength, and so the British army is forthwith to be put upon a footing of efficiency capable of meeting all emergencies at home and abroad. The military measures outlined by Mr. Geo. Wyndham, Parliamentary Secretary of the War Office, are chiefly for the anticipatory purpose of strengthening the home defences. The Government proposes to put the pay of the militia on the same scale as the regulars and embody the whole militia. The volunteer artillery is to be rearmed, a mounted infantry volunteer corps formed, and the Yeomanry treated on the same broad principles. The artillery, army service corps and engineers necessary for two additional army corps would be raised forthwith, namely, thirty-six field batteries and seven horse batteries. Twelve additional infantry battalions are to be raised, the existing cavalry forces to be expanded by seven regiments, and commissions offered to militia officers, to the colonies, and to the universities. At present there were 100,000 regulars in the country, and the increase was anticipated to be 30,000. There were now 328,000 men in the auxiliary forces, and it was estimated the increase would be 50,000 men. So, altogether, the country would soon have at least 517,000 men, and Mr. Wyndham anticipated that the numbers would be nearer 600,000 than half a million.

War Sentiments in Canada. Public sentiment in Canada in favor of assisting the Motherland in her struggle against the Boers seems to be still on the increase despite British reverses instead of Canadian military ardor only stimulate to greater effort. With one contingent at the front and before long likely to be right in the thick of it, with another still larger and heavier contingent on its way, with two other smaller bodies of troops in the process of organization, Canada might be said not to have done badly. The public conscience, however in Toronto here does not seem to be at ease and a patriotic meeting, convened by Mayor Macdonald and likely to be copied by many other civic corporations, is to be held at the Pavilion on Feb. 16. The object of the meeting is to pass resolutions urging the Dominion Government to offer more troops to the Imperial Government.

Cardinal Vaughan and Dr. Mivart.

It is always regretable for the Catholic press to have to chronicle the lapse of any member of the Catholic Church from the true faith,—but it is painful to have to do so when that member is distinguished by eminent abilities and much good work. Actuated by those sentiments, certain Catholic papers either held back in their condemnation of Dr. Mivart's recent course of action in regard to some particular articles of his, or charitably tried to shield or defend him.

The following circular has been addressed to the Catholic Clergy of the diocese of Westminster by the Cardinal-Archbishop:

Archbishop's House, Westminster, Feast of St. Peter's Chair, 1900.

Rev. Dear Father,—Dr. St. George Mivart, in his articles entitled "The Continuity of Catholicism" and "Some Recent Apologists," in the "Nineteenth Century" and the "Fortnightly Review" for January, 1900, has declared, or at least seemed to declare, that it is permissible for Catholics to hold certain heresies—regarding the Virginal Birth of Our Lord and the Perpetual Virginity of the Blessed Virgin; the Gospel account of the Resurrection and immunity of the sacred Body from corruption; the reality and transmission of original sin; the Redemption as a real satisfaction for the sins of men; the everlasting punishment of the wicked; the inspiration and integrity of Holy Scripture; the right of the Catholic Church to interpret the sense of Scripture with authority; her perpetual retention of her doctrines in the same sense; not to speak of other false propositions. As he has thereby rendered his orthodoxy suspect, and has, moreover, confirmed the suspicion by failing, after three notifications, to sign the annexed profession of faith when tendered to him by me, it now becomes my duty to take further action, and I hereby inhibit him from approaching the Sacraments, and forbid my priests to administer them to him, until he shall have proved his orthodoxy to the satisfaction of his ordinary.

Believe me to be, Rev. dear Father, your faithful and devoted servant,

HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN,
Archbishop of Westminster.

P. S.—If it were true, as Dr. Mivart asserts, that there were persons calling themselves Catholics who held any of the above heresies, it would be necessary to remind them that they have ceased in reality to be Catholics, and that if they were to approach the Sacraments, they would do so sacrilegiously, at the peril of their souls, and in defiance of the law of the Church.

HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

They Will Go.

The most striking incidents in connection with the war if we can trust the "Daily Telegraph" is the number of young ladies dressed in masculine attire who are volunteering for the front in the hope of being engaged as hospital nurses when they arrive. Here is one case mentioned amongst many:—The police there received information from Bath that a young lady had left her home suddenly and as it was conjectured that she might make way to Bournemouth a sharp lookout was kept at the railway-station. The other evening Sergeant Philpot noticed on the arrival of the Somerset and Dorset train that a stylishly-dressed 'youth' stepped on to the platform. The young man who stumbled as he left the carriage was well dressed wearing a deep upright collar and bright neck tie and a double watchchain across his waistcoat. However the newcomer was somewhat dismayed when requested to go to the police-station where the young man turned out to be the missing girl. She had cropped her hair closely but had preserved her tresses in a small box she was carrying. Her parents were communicated with; she has since left for home again accompanied by her father. It is stated, says our Bournemouth correspondent, that the young lady who is only about sixteen years old left home because she wanted to go to South Africa as a nurse, a step to which her friends objected. Freeman's Journal.

THE HORSE—noblest of the brute creation—when suffering from a cut, abrasion, or sore, derives as much benefit as its master in a like predicament, from the healing, soothing action of DR. THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL. Lameness, swelling of the neck, stiffness of the joints, throat and lungs are relieved by it.

HON. F. R. LATCHFORD HONORED BY C.M.B.A.

The reception tendered in St. George's Hall on the evening of the 8th inst. to the Hon. F. R. Latchford, M.P.P. Commissioner of Public Works by the officers and members of the C.M.B.A. was attended by a gathering that taxed the capacity of the hall to the utmost. It was to Mr. Latchford in his capacity of Grand Solicitor of the Association, not to the Commissioner of Public Works, that the welcome was extended, and was an expression of the sentiments of the order for the services rendered it by the Hon. Mr. Latchford in the past. The Chairman of the evening was Mr. F. A. Anglin, and a selected musical programme was carried out to the enjoyment of all present by the Misses Tymon, McCarron, and James and Mr. Armstrong, Mrs K. J. Smith acting as accompanist. The following address of welcome to Mr. Latchford was read by Mr. W. T. Kernahan;

"To the Hon. F. R. Latchford, Q.C., M.L.A., Grand Solicitor of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, Commissioner of Public Works for the Province of Ontario, etc, etc

Honorable Sir and Brother,—As members of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of the Toronto District, we take great pleasure in welcoming you to this, Metropolitan City. Though you purpose for the present to make the City of Ottawa your home, we look forward to having you spend much of your time amongst us, while holding your present distinguished position. Should you find it consistent with your private interests to take up your residence permanently in Toronto, while our brethren in Ottawa will no doubt much regret your loss, we shall deem such a change matter for self congratulation.

Of your earlier career, with its numerous academic distinctions, your friends are justly proud: but to us your course as Grand Solicitor of our cherished Association is of paramount interest. We have admired the prudence displayed in the discharge of the difficult duties imposed upon you as an officer of the C.M.B.A. We know that our Association has greatly benefited by the solicitous care which you have bestowed upon its affairs. The single fact that during the eight years of your tenure of the Solicitorship, you have, without sacrificing or compromising in any way its rights or interests, succeeded in keeping our Society out of litigation, in itself entitles you to our gratitude and respect.

It was therefore with feelings of peculiar satisfaction that we learned that you had been called upon to become a Minister of the Crown in the Government of your native Province. We have every reason to believe that your selection commends itself to the Catholic people of Ontario without regard to their political allegiance.

The improvement of the social, as well as the moral and intellectual condition of its members is one of the avowed objects of the C.M.B.A. We know of no means better calculated to help in the achievement of this object than to foster amongst our members a laudable ambition for the attainment of honourable and responsible positions in their various callings. We are always gratified to learn of the success of a fellow member. Still more are we pleased that one of our brothers has so largely merited and so well earned the esteem and the good will of his fellow citizens that they have chosen him to fill a representative position in public life as important as it is dignified and distinguished.

Permit us to wish you personally every success in your new career as a public man. As a strictly non-political organization we must refrain from giving utterance to any desire that the Government of which you are a member may long continue in power. We are not precluded however from expressing our earnest hope that we may in the future always find a member of our Association holding a portfolio in the Government of Ontario."

In response, Hon. Mr. Latchford said that he would reply both to Mr. Anglin's words of welcome and to the address at one and the same time. He wished to say that he was much indebted to the members of the C. M. B. A. for the very welcome reception they had accorded him. It was not the first occasion of his meeting his brethern of the C. M. B. A. in Toronto, but it was the first time he had had the pleasure of meeting not only the members of the Association, but also their wives, sisters and friends.

His friends had been good enough to refer to what they termed his academic career, but as to that he intended only to say a few words in order to point a moral. It was not until eight or nine years after he had left school that he came to realize that the advantages of a University education are exceedingly great, but were not as fully appreciated by the Catholics of the Province as they might be. He therefore undertook and completed a University course extending over six years.

Mr. Latchford said he was glad to be reminded of his school days when he had the pleasure of first meeting the gentleman who was chairman of the meeting. Looking back he could make the usual comment that they were happy days, but at the same time they were full of difficulty. The youth who determined to obtain a Catholic education then as now, encountered many obstacles which did not lie in the path of others. The public school system of the Province, as a system, was perfect. From the entrance of the child into the kindergarten, to the graduation of the man from the university, there was no step in the course which might not be easily taken. Catholic education on the other hand had little system about it, except in the primary schools. His old university had done and was doing work of the highest order, but between the Separate Schools and that university, there was a gulf in Catholic education that was not easily passed. He hoped more attention would be given to intermediate education, so that the almost unanimous desire of Catholics for a complete Catholic education should be gratified, and a system established as well worked out in all its details, and as satisfactory in its operation as that which obtained in the public schools, high schools and the Provincial university.

The address stated that he had acted as the Grand Solicitor of the C. M. B. A. for eight years, and had kept the Association free from litigation. That had been his good fortune, as also the good fortune of the members of the C. M. B. A., which he trusted would continue so long as he held the position of Grand Solicitor. He could remind some few who were present of the fact that he had attended the meeting of the C. M. B. A. held in Toronto in 1886, upon which occasion a body of men came together that would have compared favorably with any similar body of men that could have been found in Canada. He had attended every general meeting of the Association held since that time.

In referring to the good work done by the C. M. B. A., Mr. Latchford took occasion to point out that, in a city with Toronto's Catholic population, 350 or 400 members of the C. M. B. A. were not enough. The C. M. B. A. should be made better known to the people, and open meetings, he thought, would do much to direct the attention of the people to the advantages in insurance offered by the Association and tend to increase its membership.

Open meetings like the one assembled would also tend to increase sociability amongst the Catholics of the city. In this respect, he considered Catholics to be behind their brethern belonging to non Catholic churches. Mr. Latchford concluded an interesting and highly appreciated address by expressing the hopo that he would be able to be present at other meetings of a similar character, and expressed his appreciation of the reception so warmly tended him.

Hon. G. E. Foster on the Press.

At the Annual Banquet of the Canadian Press Association, the Hon Geo. E. Foster, Ex-Finance Minister, made a notable speech on the responsibilities of journalism. As reported he said in part:—

"The newspaper was now the people's magazine. It went in to every home, dropping its instilled instruction into the individual and thus carving out his future career and destiny in the way of thought and action to a greater degree than any of them thought. The newspaper enabled a public man to see himself as others saw him, and caused him to ask the question whether he was really as bad as painted. Of course he always came to the conclusion that he was right, but the mental process of asking and answering that question had perhaps a tendency to develop greater conservatism with reference to the actions and thoughts of the public man—speaking, of course, in the way of life and not in politics. The press might do a public man and the public life of the country much harm, on the principle of the old saying that if they give a dog a bad name they spoil the dog. If they persistently said of public men, and to public men, that they were bad and corrupt, that they lacked principle, and so on, there was a class of mind which hardened under such comments, and tended not to grow better, but more extreme. In the heat of debate he had himself, maybe, forgotten sometimes to put into practice the views which in his cooler moments he held; but was it not better—no matter how strongly they might hold and enforce their party views—for the public life of the country that once in a while they should give some credit, where they fairly could do so, to those who differed from them in political sentiments? Would this not make public life somewhat better, nobler and sweeter than to have for ever and for aye one side of the newspaper press of the country saying nothing that was good and almost everything that was derogatory, and the other side of the newspaper world lined up to do the same thing with regard to the other party? Mr. Foster elaborated the idea that the press was the greatest possible educating machinery with regard to love of country and of empire, and gave the Canadian newspapers credit for the great influence they had exerted in creating among the people of the Dominion a love of Canada and of the empire. He was heartily applauded at the close of his speech."

Home is the habitat of woman. In the home all that is characteristically feminine in woman unfolds and flourishes. Home without woman is a misnomer, for woman makes the home and home is what she makes it. If she is illiterate her home partakes of this quality; if she is immoral her home cannot be the abode of virtue; if she is coarse, refinement does not dwell where she resides; if she is cultured, pure, refined, these qualities will characterize the home which she creates. The higher the degree of her culture her purity, her refinement, the more will these qualities characterize the home of which she is the centre. The self that a woman takes with her in her marriage is her real dower. If her dower can be reckoned in numerals, [illegible] they may be written [illegible] will be her husband, impoverished her children. But if she possesses industry, cleanliness, self abnegation purity intelligence combined with capability, she is in herself a treasure.

Some Stern Facts for England

All thinking men now plainly see that by the time the present war is ended Great Britain will be called upon to pay a bill of at least £100,000,000. The question—the very important question—now occupying the minds of financiers is, Where is the money going to come from? Mr. Birrell has just declared that a reward ought to be given to the man who could invent a new tax at the present moment. But the difficulty lies in knowing what precisely ought to be taxed. There are certain things which we regard as necessaries and these no Government could tax and survive a week. But there are certain other commodities which are luxuries pure and simple and these to our mind ought to be taxed as heavily as possible. We are told that we must expect the income tax next year to be at least a shilling in the pound. This will press very heavily on people of moderate incomes. At the present moment the income tax stands at eightpence in the pound and, during the last year the revenue from this source was £12,913,311. If therefore another 4d. were added an extra £6,000 000 would be obtained. The highest tax yet levied was that of the years 1855—57, when it was 14d. on income from £100 to £150, and 1s. 4d. on incomes over £150. That of course was necessitated by the Crimean war. That campaign added £39,000,000 to the National Debt which in March 1857, amount to £808,108,000. During the forty-two years that have elapsed since then £203,877,000 has been paid off and on March 31st last the debt was £635,040,965 from which has to be deducted £36,074,154 in the form of asset—such as Suez canal shares and bank balances This leaves the net liability at £598 966 881. The debt was decreased in 1899 by the sum of £6,643 365; in 1897 by £7,630,258, in 1896 by £7,620,502, and in 1895 by £8,943,417. At the commencement of the American war the National Debt amounted to £126,842,000 and the annual charge was £4,703,000. The war added £116,220,000 to the debt which at the commencement of the French war in 1792 stood at £239,565000 During the war the sum of £297,989,000 was added to our national indebtedness so that when the peace of Amiens was signed we owed £537,658,000 Then came the war with Napoleon which cost this country £323,886,000 and when peace was declared at Paris in 1815 we were saddled with a debt of £861,039,049 involving an annual charge of £32,645, 618. In the succeeding forty years the debt was decreased by £91,956,000, and at the commencement of the Crimean war in 1854 the debt was £769,082,649.

John Ruskin's Religious Opinions.

The Catholic Times says, in Mr. Ruskin's religious opinions there took place a change which became very marked during later life. Brought up by his mother in the rigid school of Scottish Evangelicism, he was in his early days very antagonistic to the Catholic Church. We trace this hostility in his writings up to a mature age. He glories in the "magnificent and successful struggle" which Venice maintained against the temporal authority of the Church, and attributes the total exclusion of ecclesiastics from a share in her councils to "her knowledge of the spirit of the Church of Rome." His travels and his art-studies exercised an educational influence upon him. We find him bearing witness to the deep and constant tone of individual religion characterizing the lives of the citizens of Venice, and to the value of the religious ideas imparted by the great mosaics of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries which covered the walls and the roofs of the churches with lustre. "They were before the eyes of the devotee at every interval of his worship; vast shadowings forth of scenes to whose realization he looked forward, or of spirits whose presence he invoked." And the man, he declares; "must be little capable of receiving a religious impression of any kind who to this day does not acknowledge some feeling of awe as he looks up to the pale countenances and ghastly forms which haunt the dark roofs of the baptisteries of Parma and Florence, or remains altogether untouched by the majesty of the colossal images of the apostles and of Him Who sent them, as they look down form the darkening gold of the domes of Venice and Pisa." Again in "Fors Clavigera" he asserts his conviction "after the most careful examination," that the cultus of the Blessed Virgin "has never been otherwise than productive of true holiness of life and purity of character." And so the change went on until some years ago his venerable neighbor and friend, Father Laverty, of Coniston, with whom his conversations were frequent, was able to assure us that Ruskin accepted all the Catholic doctrines, though, strange to say, he did not think it necessary to enter the fold. Throughout life he set a noble example of earnestness and of devotion to the interests of his fellow-men.

Speaking of his concessions to England in order to avert war, President Kruger said: "They first asked my coat. I handed them that. Then my vest. I handed them that. Then my shirt. I surrendered that. When then they asked me for my skin I refused from sheer inability to comply."

Jest or Jancy.

Men and Women.

No. 6

It has often been a matter of surprise to me that, with the liberal inducements offered by philanthropic advertisers for the relief or assistance of suffering humanity, so many unfortunates should go through life miserable, wretched, despairing, downhearted. I suppose it is that like myself, they go on suffering until the evil is passed, or they have to come and cherish it as a pet grievance against fortune, before they awake to the fact that an antidote for every ill in life may be found, if sought for diligently in the advertising pages of the magazines and papers of the day. But then the knowledge comes too late to be of any practical service. For instance, I remember the time, at least it seems so to me now, when I would have jumped at such an offer as the following:

"I am now able to assist about 1,000 deserving, energetic, and ambitious persons to attend any school or college of their own choice, or to pursue any special course of study in any part of the United States. It is a grand opportunity to get a good start in life, and applications should be made immediately." An authority of unimpeachable veracity also states that the advertiser in question has done more to inspire and assist young men and young women to greater things in life than any other living American. Now it seems to me that it should be an easy matter to secure desirable applicants for this blessing to thousands, but the blindness and perversity of deserving humanity is past all understanding. And then applicants are requested to inclose postage stamps for blank and full particulars; but that is a small matter unworthy of hesitation.

A glance at the ads, which have a singular fascination for some disinterested persons, makes me feel faint at the many splendid opportunities I have missed of being launched upon a brilliant and lucrative career in journalism, law, science, business, or medicine, by mail. If I had only known; but these opportunities like many others come too late to be available. Here is one, however, which I think it might be worth while to inquire into: "Give us some idea of how long you can take for your summer outing, how much you want it to cost you, etc. We may be able to suggest just the trip you have been looking for. It will cost you but two cents postage." Well, that sounds reasonable enough, and yet—there is no telling how much there may be at the back of it. It might be more economical to invest in a bicycle and cycle around the city. I wonder how much the Company paid for this notice: "The—Shoe owes its success to the plucky and intelligent advertising which has made it so famous." Evidently advertising wears better than leather, and even a shoe needs some guarantee of quality. A strong point of another shoe is that it is "always correct in style," even when down at the heel, out at the sole and a constant source of amusement to one's pet corn, which fashionable shoes, like the weather, make their particular study.

Here is a thoughtful paragraph from the Criterion, which, no doubt will recommend itself to thoughtful readers.

"It is within comparatively recent history that some social prophet began to denounce loudly the reprehensible habit of promiscuous introduction, which had grown to be a hydra-headed evil, and which resulted in more unpleasant happenings socially than could ever be set down in type. In elevators, cars, on the street, in church, in shops, one was thrust into acquaintance with unnecessary people through the too overflowing good nature of one's friends. Luckily the fashion has waned, to the relief of everybody. There is another evil quite as objectionable, and, in many cases where it occurs, it denotes a woeful lack of ordinary good breeding on the part of the culprits. It is the letter of introduction that some friend of yours sends y a friend of his whom he wishes to get rid of. I am not now referring to the letter of introduction which has a reason and an excuse. It is the abuse of the custom which is to be deplored. Many people scatter letters of introduction like chaff before the winds, and after thrusting most undesirable acquaintances upon their friends cut the same acquaintances dead and wonder how decent people can receive them. One of the most glaring examples of this particular form of bad manners came to my attention recently. A man presented himself in a woman's drawing-room, sending up the card of a woman acquaintance. On the back of the card was scrawled the name and address of the woman honored by the visit. She went down prepared to meet her acquaintance, and found a strange man, of most undesirable appearance and manner, who calmly informed his surprised hostess that he wished a letter of introduction to one of her social friends, as he had some business deal in operation in which this friend could assist him. When this lady coldly refused this high favor, he drew a letter from his pocket, which had been written by the woman whose card he had sent up and read a portion of it in which the writer assured him that Mrs. Blank would give him the required note."