

The Catholic Register.

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

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Register of the Week.

On January 1, the patriarch of the Irish College in Rome, the Most Rev. Dr. Tobias Kirby, titular Archbishop of Ephesus, celebrated his ninetieth birthday. A number of his more intimate friends were invited to dine with him. When the rector of the college, who has just been made a Monsignor by the Holy Father, proposed Dr. Kirby's health, he drew the attention to the fact that "Mgr. Kirby had been the friend of Daniel O'Connell in life, and was present when the heart of the Liberator was brought in its silver case to be laid in the Church of St. Agatha, where the young students of Ireland form guardians around the memorable relic." The Archbishop until recently was the acting rector of the College, and still preserves all his activity of mind. "As a student in Rome the young Kirby was at the Irish College in the *Via degli Iibernesi*," says the Roman correspondent of the *Pilot*, "when the youthful Francis Mahony, better known to the world as 'Father Prout,' was resident there, not a student for he did not stay long enough to study much. It was here, according to a tradition which Mgr. Kirby remembers prevailed about that time, that young Mahony wrote upon the walls of the room he occupied the first stanzas of one of his most celebrated songs, 'The Bells of Shandon.' Amongst the students in Rome at this time was one who has become the most celebrated and honored in the Catholic world, and who came in contact with young Kirby, in competing for a prize for the best essay, on what subject we are not told: the young Pecci gained the prize, but that of Kirby received very high praise. The Holy Father has a very warm friendship for the Archbishop of Ephesus who was a friend in his student days.

It is estimated that the loss in the revenue for the past financial year in Great Britain is £2,000,000. A margin was left for a deficit by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but things have turned out very much worse than was ever expected. At the beginning of the financial year, it was well known, that a time of great depression in trade and commerce had set in. The depreciation of silver seriously affected the export trade with the East, and "the revolutions," says the *Liverpool Times* "in South America injured the commercial relations with that continent. The year that has closed was no less disastrous in banking affairs. A Chancellor of the Exchequer who has tided over such a year with only a deficit of two millions may not be an administrative genius, but he is a minister to be relied on in the day of financial tribulation."

We see by the old country exchanges the annual report has been issued by General Booth of the work accomplished by his social organization. Last year £30,000 was asked to carry on his Darkest England scheme, but the amount has not been subscribed. "There is evidently little faith in the General and his work," says the exchange. It is most probable the enthusiasm caused by the publication of his "Darkest England" has cooled. The project may have seemed feasible at first, but it was not so easy when put in practice. It was thought when the scheme was first proposed, that not only five thousand would find occasional shelter, but about two millions would be able to secure employment. Under the heading of 'A Wonderful Record' which deals with rescue work a solitary English example is quoted by the *Liverpool Times*. "This is the case of a girl whose record we felt it incumbent on us to expose in the interest of truth sometime ago. If the girl," continues the above, "has been reclaimed from her wayward life, we are glad to hear of it. But opportunities of reformation were offered to her both in Catholic and Protestant institutions before she drifted to General Booth's shelter. The work which General Booth essayed to do belongs to the State. The law of England decrees that no man shall starve or want shelter. A modification of the Poor Law would cover the ground on which General Booth works."

Cardinal Gibbons as the spokesman of all the Catholics in the United States, presented Mrs. Anna Dorsey, through the Right Rev. John Keane, rector of the Catholic University, Washington, with an address, in appreciation of her good work in the Catholic literary world. It was accompanied by a purse of \$1,500. The Holy Father sent her his special benediction by the Cardinal for her services to religion through her writings. The University of Notre Dame, Ind., also honored her by presenting her some years ago with its Laetare medal. The *Pilot* speaking of Mrs. Dorsey's literary work says: "Over twenty volumes have come from her pen, and it is the barest statement of the truth that there is not in one of them a line which the most scrupulous might wish to blot, or a thought which may not be offered to the Giver of all good gifts."

Rev. Father Lucey, Rector of St. Joseph's Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., made a pathetic appeal some time ago through the columns of the *Pilot*, on behalf of a church to be erected for the Catholic colored people under his care. He was quickly answered in a very substantial way by numbers of generous Catholic Americans, whose hearts are ever open to assist and pro-

mote a good cause. The first letter he received was from the priests of the diocese of Portland containing \$200. The foundation of the church is to be laid immediately, as Father Lucey by these generous responses to his appeal has received almost enough to build his church.

The meeting in Ottawa on behalf of Home Rule last Thursday evening was a great success. The *Ottawa Evening Journal* says "The meeting from beginning to end may be described in one word—enthusiasm. It was a rousing gathering at which many of the prominent citizens of Ottawa demonstrated their zeal in the Irish cause, not merely by their attendance but by their liberal contributions." A hearty welcome was given the Hon. Edward Blake, the member for South Longford, as he appeared on the platform accompanied by a number of friends of the cause, among whom were: His Grace Archbishop Duhamel, Hon. John Costigan, Hon. R. W. Scott, Hon. E. H. Bronson, Rev. Father Whelan, Rev. Father McCarthy, Solicitor General Curran, Auditor General McDougal, ex-Ald. Heney, ex-Mayor McDougal, County Treasurer Cowan, Dr. J. A. McCabe, Chas. Mohr, John Harvey (Arnprior), P. Baskerville, ex-M.P.P., Col. Panet, C. Higgins and F. B. Hayes. Hon. Jno. Costigan, as chairman, expressed pleasure at seeing so large and representative a gathering. He assured the speaker of the evening, "that the friends of Home Rule in Ottawa were eager to help the cause financially in as much as they had already subscribed an amount of \$1,200 in this direction and considerable more might be expected from them. After concluding he read an address of welcome to the Hon. Mr. Blake from the citizens of Ottawa."

In rising to reply to the address Mr. Blake was received with warm applause. "His first duty," he said, "was to thank the friends of Home Rule in Ottawa for the substantial way in which they were endeavoring to help the cause, and for the cheering words vouchered in the address. He rejoiced to return to Ottawa, where for many years he had fought for Home Rule in the Dominion Parliament even if it were only to resume for a few hours, the cause, which he had previously advocated here, and to inform the many true friends of the cause, that Home Rule was rapidly gaining more general approbation. What had been expected ten years ago, was now more than realized. The House of Commons had at last adopted Home Rule. Although the irresponsible House of Lords had rejected it, and were now looking for a change—a forlorn hope he believed it to be—at the next election. In obtaining Home

Rule the Irish people would be given power to govern their country in matters of local concern. He had every confidence in the success of Home Rule. After Mr. Blake had finished, the Hon. R. W. Scott rose and in a few words eulogized Hon. Mr. Blake because of his earnest endeavors and sacrifices in the interests of the cause, and in conclusion moved that he be tendered a hearty vote of thanks for his interesting and profitable address." J. L. McDougal, Auditor General, spoke briefly and seconded the motion, which was endorsed by loud applause. Many in the audience went forward and subscribed in response to the urgent appeal made. "The Ottawa Varsity boys were out in full force," says the *Evening Journal*, "and occupied seats in the gallery. After the vote of thanks Mr. John Clarke, the famous tenor of the College, struck up 'God Save Ireland,' and the boys took up the chorus."

After four years' separation the Emperor of Germany and Prince Bismarck met on Friday last at Berlin, whither the latter was invited to be His Majesty's guest. Whether the kiss of peace with which they saluted each other meant peace for the rest of Europe, whether it signified a complete restoration to favor of the exiled Prince what it meant—is a problem like the Sphinx. Whatever foreign stratagem there may be in it, it was as an act of domestic policy a very wise thing. Bismarck's past services to Germany, although not the wisest, were so great that he could not be suffered to go to the grave without some sign of pardon, gratitude and affection from the highest power in the Empire.

The Holy Father on Saturday delivered an address to about 12,000 persons, suggested by the disturbed state of Italy. "If," said His Holiness, "we would profit by bitter experience let us trace the evils to their origin and seek an effectual remedy. The religious ruin invoked and designated has brought moral and material ruin. Not only justice, but also political expediency must demand the return of the nation to the religion of its fathers, with mutual confidence and affection, and without suspicion of the Pope, whose preaching of the life eternal renders even mortal life happy and prosperous."

The Congregation of rites has pronounced Joan of Arc worthy of veneration.

About one hundred and fifty priests of various missionary Orders, as the Jesuits, Redemptorists, Dominicans, &c., have been invited by Cardinal Vaughan to labor during Lent amongst the London poor.