

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 cold weather of the past week was rendered warmer and the quiet which generally follows Christmas holidays was rendered livelier by the political entertainments which took place throughout Ontario. On last Thursday night the Young Men's Liberal Club gave a banquet to the eloquent leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Mr. Laurier. On Friday evening Sir John Thompson and the other members of the Dominion Cabinet, upon the invitation of the Young Men's Liberal Conservative Association, addressed a very large and enthusiastic audience upon various subjects of public interest. The Premier, as might be expected, was more definite upon the Manitoba School question than he had been the week before. He said.

Fellow citizens, I have nothing to conceal from you on that question. This is a question which, I said a few nights ago, has aroused the warmest feelings of the people of Canada on both sides of it. It is, let me tell you, however, a question for which there is but one solution, so far as we are concerned, and that is to stand strictly by what the constitution provides. An appeal has been presented asking the Governor General and his Government to interfere with the existing system of education in the province of Manitoba as it was established about a year ago. Our right to interfere, to say nothing of the policy of interference, is challenged by those who stand upon the other side, and within the next ten days we are to hear that question discussed as to our power and our obligation under the constitution to deal with it. Let no man or woman in this hall or elsewhere suppose that there lurks in the breast of any Minister of the Government of Canada a secret design to interfere with the legitimate rights and powers of the provinces. (Great cheering.) We will not interfere with the rights and powers of any province; nor will we desert our duty which is imposed upon us by the constitution, no matter how painful it might be to our feelings or obnoxious to others. (Cheers.) I want simply to impress upon you this one thing, that candidly and honestly we intend to be guided in that matter by the constitution and the constitution as it will be expounded by the highest authorities that can be got to expound it, and not by the private opinion of any member of the Government. (Great cheering.) When I tell you, therefore, that we intend to be guided by the constitution, I am not equivocating and I am not concealing. The whole question will be argued by the counsel on both sides in the face of the whole people of Canada, and not in any secret convocation. You will see in the next ten days the arguments which are presented on both sides, and you will be able to measure the value and weight that ought to be attached to them, and eventually you will be satisfied that whatever impulses move any one class of the people, we have done our duty according to the law, whether it agree with our religious inclinations or is against them. (Cheers.) You will not ask me to say more, for this reason: That I would be prejudging a case which has not yet been heard and which we have invited the parties to discuss before us, and a report of which will be presented to you in the course of the next ten days. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I have told you all that any gentleman could, consistent with his duty, tell you of all we intend to say, and all we intend to do with regard to it will be open to every Canadian, man and woman, who cares to study the subject or follow our course. (Prolonged cheers.)

The eloquence upon both occasions was fervent and of an order which must thrill the whole country with a feeling of pride. The leader of the Opposition announced nothing new,

because it is his work to criticize, the Premier announced nothing new, because he wished to walk in the old paths. The former spoke of the signs of prosperity as trash; the latter claimed by figures and statistics that, without questioning numbers, the country was doing well. Thus party politics run, and we are happily out of them. What changes upon this continent the next generation may see we know not, but the Premier pointed to a subject which will be of increasing importance as time advances, when he stated that the growth of population in the United States was such, "that within ten years it will practically cease to be a wheat exporting country; and very soon after that it will become a wheat-importing country." The great storehouse from which that people will then be supplied will be Canada. For this reason especially the Dominion of Canada "possesses, to the eyes of the thinking people of the United States, one hundred times the value which it seemed to them to possess a single decade ago."

A couple of days before Christmas the Holy Father received the usual Christmas greetings of the College of Cardinals. The address which was read by Cardinal Monaco la Valletta, Dean of the Sacred College, wished the Pope all prosperity and congratulated him upon his Episcopal Jubilee. In his reply his Holiness thanked the Cardinal for their homage and good wishes. He remarked that to the most careful observer of moral and religious Europe, a mighty storm fraught with disasters and ruin is pending, which will have no end or effective restoration except through that divine institution which continues to be the object of attack. Turning his attention to Italy he spoke of the moral situation so dangerous on account of the snares and the work of Free masonry. To this sect were to be attributed many of the evils which afflicted unhappy Italy. These Masonic doctrines and influences, by waging war with the spiritual order, shake the foundations of the social and civil. "In the midst of all the perils, when the exigencies of excessive parties became more threatening, it is sorrowful to see how men persist in enmity to the Church, and in rendering her suspected by the nations which she has redeemed. And yet, her action, essentially destined to sanctify individuals, cannot but be a guarantee of order and a garrison of security to States." The venerable Pontiff concluded by bestowing his benediction upon the members of the Sacred College, upon Rome and the world, praying Almighty God "to call back the generations of mankind to sound resolutions and to sentiments of peace

that God who, in becoming incarnate, willed to be proclaimed the Prince of Peace."

We also learn from the *Tablet* that the Italian Parliament has a Panama scandal upon a small scale. Some of the large banks have for some years been retaining unpaid bills, many of which represent large sums of money now gone. Signor Crispi complained that a parliamentary enquiry would produce a damaging effect upon the country—whereupon a liberal paper enquired, "Has the Masonic influence that governs Italy shut up what might have been a serious scandal?"

A very interesting discovery of relics of St. Bridget of Sweden have been made in the Church of St. Lorenzo in Panis Perna, which is being restored in honor of the Pope's Jubilee. A sarcophagus was found containing certified bones of this great servant of God.

If ever a nation's patience was tried and its faith in republican institutions put to the test, France is that unfortunate country. Every day brings forth new rumors of Panama scandals, with merely a change of the persons charged and a difference in the amount of defalcation. One minister charging an army of ministers, until, with the poet, "the whole world wondered." At the time of De Freycinet's third Cabinet the present President of the Republic, Carnot, was implicated. Other well known names are Boulanger, Goblet, Develle, Lockroy and Granel. The friends of President Carnot claim that no faith is to be attached to these disclosures of M. Bailhaut, ex-Minister of Public Works, since they have their origin in malignity.

The situation in Monday's despatches was somewhat improved so far as the republicans are concerned, by the Imperialists being found implicated, as well as by the speech of the German Chancellor on the army bill. Rumors are also abroad that Gen. Saussier who is in command at Paris has been sounded by the various factions hostile to the republic, but with no encouragement. He is not an ardent republican, but he has too much respect for authority to disobey the powers that be. If France can successfully purify itself of the corruption of its public servants, and still retain its present political form, the republic will be assured and the patience of the French people will be suitably rewarded. In the mean time it looks as if they wanted a Cromwell to come and order the bauble and the members out of the House.

In Germany the all absorbing topic is of course the Army Bill, whose passage seems now assured. Chancellor Caprivi's speech before the Reichstag Committee last week while

commenting the feeling in Germany seems to have produced an undesirable effect at St. Petersburg; but at Vienna it encouraged a more friendly view of things. Its most significant part referred to the rather insignificant Kingdom of Denmark, which seems to be running with France and hunting with Russia. Both of these powers may have courted Denmark's friendship by promising the return of Schleswig Holstein if in the next war Germany were defeated.

The strikes which had been agitating Germany for some time are at an end. However the Government feeling that matters are not in a settled state are making special exertions to suppress any further outbreaks.

Turning once more to this continent the Church in the United States has afforded a great many double-headers to many of the enterprising journals of the great republic. Some of these would have been as productive of good if the items had not been given to reporters, and made public. It is unnecessary to go into cases which are personal and with which outsiders like ourselves have nothing to do but it is rare, thank God, and we hope it will be rarer still, that misunderstandings between zealous, earnest prelates find their way into the columns of the public press. The actions of Mgr. Satolli have been discussed for some time. But all this was closed when it was announced on Saturday last that Mgr. Satolli was permanent delegate to the United States. The proper documents will be sent from Rome authenticating the powers conferring upon the office. The following telegram was received by the Delegate from Dr. O'Connell, Rector of the American College at Rome: "The apostolic delegation is determinedly established in the United States, and you are confirmed as the first delegate."

The following announcement from Archbishops Ireland and Corrigan will be found interesting. Archbishop Ireland says:

"The Catholic church in America is now thoroughly organized and has put on the mantlings of perfect stature. She has on her own territory a supreme court—a branch of the appellate of the court of Rome, deriving from this latter its life, but capable in itself of immediate action. This is home rule for American Catholics, so far as Catholics away from Rome can have home rule. In addition to our energies and inspirations we shall have in all our undertakings the direction and impetus, so directly as never before, of the sovereign head of the church. Catholics will have a more practical realization of what church unity and papal supremacy mean. Remote authority dwindles at times into a speculative theory or an idle beau ideal; present authority is a living test. It tests one's obedience, while at the same time adding new power for well-doing. So far as the country at large is concerned the American people will welcome the recognition that a religious element of the land so important as the Catholic has this new glory added to its record, this new strength infused into its life. Moreover, a closer acquaintance with the working of the papacy will be interesting and salutary; it will dis-