

# The Catholic Register.

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

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## Register of the Week.

Few events of a passing nature roused so much interest as did the visit of the Spanish caravels. The term caravel was applied to small ships used by the Spaniards and Portuguese for long voyages in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. With three of these vessels Columbus made his first voyage; and now to give greater reality and interest to the World's Fair these have been reproduced, and have already taken part in the Spanish celebration of the centenary. *Santa Maria* the second, which was the name of the vessel which carried Columbus, was built at Cadiz in Spain last year. On the 20th of July she started for Palos, the port from which Columbus had sailed, to commemorate the event. Last February, in company with the two other vessels, the *Pinta* and the *Nina*, she started for America. In crossing the Atlantic the two smaller vessels were towed by steam convoys; but the *Santa Maria* sailed unassisted. This last is a three-masted vessel, with a length at the water line of 71 feet 8 inches; beam 25 feet 8 inches; depth of hold, 12 feet 5 inches; and her displacement 288 metric tons. Her tonnage is given at 127.57. At bow and poop arise the castles to a height of about twenty feet. The hull, as a whole, is short and very chunky; the gunwales, wide and heavy. Besides a painting of the Blessed Virgin, from whom the vessel takes its name, there are several heraldic devices ornamenting the shield-shaped stern. The *Pinta* and the *Nina* are smaller.

As we inspected these pioneers of the Atlantic we understood very well one source of the opposition to the enthusiastic Columbus.

Amongst the latest visitors to the Holy Father were some Italian pilgrims on their way home from the Eucharistic Congress at Jerusalem. His Holiness expressed his pleasure at seeing the pilgrimages to the Holy Land increasing, and showed himself as quite satisfied with the result of the Congress.

Cardinal Mazella has been named President of the Roman Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas in the place of the late Cardinal Zigliara.

A brief account appears in the *Tablet* of a strange sickness which is troubling some of the Chinese missions. It is called the red serpent, and derives its name from the fact that the person attacked by it notices on the arm a red stain that appears spirally round the arm, and which gradually grows until it reaches the neck. Unless the illness can be cured before the red lines appear on the neck the person attacked dies of suffocation

after fearful agony. It seems that this illness always breaks out with the cholera in certain parts of China.

The feast of St. Urban, June 9, was celebrated in Rome by the re-consecration of a very ancient Church dedicated to the Saint. It stands upon the Appian way above the celebrated grotto of Egeria. Before Christian times it is said to have been a Temple of Bacchus, and marks the spot where Hannibal turned back from the gates of Rome alarmed at the visions which prevented his nearer approach. A romance is connected with its pagan history. Herodes Atticus was a man of good Athenian family, who came to Rome and was appointed tutor to Marcus Aurelius. Herodes married Annia Regilla, a descendant of Regulus, the hero of the first Punic war. They resided happily together at this, her villa, for some years. But the wife died suddenly in the prime of life and her brother accused Herodes Atticus of being her murderer. A trial took place. he was absolved, there being no proof. To perpetuate her memory Herodes built this temple, which, after the fall of paganism, shared the fate of many others. But in the beginning of the ninth century it was consecrated by Pope Pascal I. to St. Urban. It was again abandoned until the reign of Urban VIII., when it was restored a second time. As the centuries rolled on it fell again into solitude and disuse, until now it is once more restored for the requirements of the devout people of the Campagna.

It is a long lane that has no turn, and at last the turn in the Home Rule Bill has been reached. The Grand Old Man moved in the English House of Commons, that the Bill be reported through Committee on July 31st. The leader of the Opposition asked for the terms of the resolution before it was made known to the House. With subtle irony Mr. Gladstone informed Mr. Balfour that the resolution was based upon the proposal made by the Conservatives by which the Crimes Act was rushed through Parliament in 1867. The following is the report of the Opposition's feeble attempt at hoisting the resolution.

Mr. Gladstone then moved the adoption of the resolution providing for the quicker passage of the home rule bill.

T. W. Russell moved the rejection of the resolution.

Mr. Chaplin, president of the board of agriculture under the last Salisbury administration, criticized the minister for their refusal to debate the resolution and eventually moved that as a protest against the conduct of the ministry an adjournment be taken.

Mr. Chaplin's motion to adjourn was defeated by a vote of 308 to 279.

Mr. Russell's motion to amend practically so as to reject was defeated by a vote of 306 to 279.

In continuing the debate on the original resolution, Jesse Collings, Liberal Unionist for the Bordesley division of Birmingham, declared that in stripping amendments the government might hide another gigantic

error like the one that rendered necessary the revision of the financial clauses of the home rule bill. He accused the government of intending to evade altogether the discussion of the land question.

Ferdinand de Rothschild, Liberal Unionist for the Aylesbury division of Buckinghamshire, moved that the house adjourn. Everybody was anxious he said, to follow the prime minister's example, and go to bed.

These words were greeted with cries of "Shame" from the liberals and the speaker reproved Mr. De Rothschild.

In urging the government to assent to an adjournment, Joseph Chamberlain made a cutting remark concerning Mr. Gladstone.

Twenty Liberal and Irish members cried "Shame," and somebody shouted "Judas." The speaker interrupted the discussion to rebuke the unidentified shouter.

Mr. Balfour made a final appeal to the government to accept Rothschild's motion to adjourn.

The house then divided on the motion, which was defeated by a vote of 284 to 257.

Viscount Cranbourne, Conservative moved to adjourn. Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Balfour and others spoke on the motion.

Thomas Sexton, anti-Parnellite, accused the opposition of trying to force an all night sitting upon the house and then trying to back out. On division the Cranbourne motion to adjourn was lost by a vote of 270 to 242.

At 3.30 o'clock Charles Conybeare, Radical for Northwest Cornwall, moved the closure. The speaker flatly refused to put the question, and the debate on the original resolution was resumed.

After some further discussion Mr. Balfour agreed to conclude the offering of amendments at 7 o'clock to-day, and Sir Wm. Harcourt consented to adjourn the house.

The members rose a few minutes after 4 o'clock.

The motion was subsequently carried by a vote of 299 to 267.

The election in the parliamentary division of North East Cork to fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Michael Davitt was held on the 28th of June, and resulted in the return of William Abraham, anti-Parnellite, without opposition. In the South-East division of Cork Dr. Andrew Cummings, anti-Parnellite, was elected by acclamation.

A bye-election in England, Pontefract, caused by the unseating of the member, who was a Liberal, resulted in a victory for the Gladstonian candidate, T. W. Hussey, with a majority of 32. The Conservatives had made heroic efforts to win the constituency, as a Liberal defeat would have been interpreted to signify a re-action against Home Rule.

His Eminence, Cardinal Logue, replying to an address from his old diocese of Raphoe, amongst other things said. "You make reference to Lord Salisbury. I think the best return we can make his lordship for the hard things he said of us, is simply to leave him alone. His visit to our country was a complete fiasco from beginning to end, and if we said anything about it now, it would only tend to give importance or dignity to what was a very undignified and unstatesman-like proceeding. Better leave it in silence. When a balloon gets a rent in it, it is almost impossible to patch it up again. I think it is pretty much the same way with political balloons. I think that the priests and people of

this grand old country who have been so hardly spoken of can afford, without the least prejudice to their character, to let all these calumnies and hard sayings pass without saying a word in return. I think that is the Christian way, and I think also it is the dignified way. We have no reason whatever to be ashamed of what we were called, 'a lamentably disciplined body of Celtic priests.' We have not the least reason in the world to be ashamed of that description, and speaking of the body of the Catholic clergy of Ireland, I defy Lord Salisbury or any other statesman to find in all Europe a more faithful, disinterested or devoted priesthood than this 'lamentably disciplined body of Celtic priests' that he spoke so disrespectfully of."

The details of the *Victoria* disaster served only to reveal greater horrors from which the unfortunate hundreds suffered. The vessel sank slowly, and, like a great vortex, sucked all within its reach. The engines were in a water-tight compartment, so that the steel flanges of the screws kept swiftly turning, and with their knife-like edges, cutting the water and the limbs of the poor fellows as they battled in vain against the suction. They were drawn down and thrown against the sharp blades. One man who escaped told how he saw fifty fighting with each other and with death. Then after the knives had disappeared beneath the closing waves, there was a muffled sound of thunder, the waters were tossed up and steam burst from them, scalding the swimmers. The boilers had exploded and the survivors were beating waves of steam. Thus, say the despatches, in less than ten minutes death in three awful forms attacked the officers and crew of the *Victoria*—death by drowning, death by the screws, and death by scalding water.

A few returns of the new German Reichstag are still subject to revision, viz., five constituencies where irregularities vitiated the elections. But if these be allowed to the parties entitled to them the list of 397 deputies is divided generally as follows amongst the parties: Clericals, 82; Social Democrats, 15; Conservatives, 77; Free Conservatives, 25; National Liberals, 52; Richter Radicals, 23; other divisions, 98. Of the whole number of deputies 92 are counted for the Army Bill and 185 against it, while thirteen are doubtful. It is thus rightly conjectured that there will be a working majority in favor of the Bill—more war-like peace, more taxes and heavier burthens for the German peasants.

Every human affliction is the disappointment of some affection, the loss of some sweet custom, of some dear hope, and when that ground gives way beneath our feet, we gravitate to a lower, or we seize a higher, and the trial reveals what we are worth. *Martinian*