

The Catholic Register.

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

VOL. I.—No. 17.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1893.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

Register of the Week.

In the Local House the question of Toronto's representation was brought by Mr. Mr. E. F. Clarke moving: "That in the opinion of this House the provisions of the Revised Statutes respecting the representation of the Legislative Assembly as to the representation of the electoral district of Toronto are inadequate and unjust, and no reason exists for maintaining the anomalous, exceptional and unfair method of electing representatives for the said electoral district which was established by the said Act."

This resolution had reference to the principle of minority representation, which, since 1845, had been applied to Toronto alone. Mr. Clarke thought that sufficient time had elapsed since the measure had become law to test its fairness. If it had worked fairly in Toronto it was reasonable that it should be applied to other constituencies; if it had not worked satisfactorily it was time that it should be removed. At the general election in 1890 there were 16,850 votes polled in the city, of which the Government candidate (the minority representative) there had been 5,857 votes cast, and for the two Conservative members 11,000 votes. In thirty seats held by the Government the average population is 18,900, while in 19 held by the Conservatives is 19,125. In 22 other Government seats the average is 25,218, and in 14 held by the Conservatives 22,125. The average in the cities of Hamilton, Ottawa, London and Kingston is 31,517, while in Toronto it is 58,138. The member for Toronto claimed not only the repeal of the Act, but also adequate representation.

Mr. Davis, member for North York, rising to move an amendment, stated that the principle of minority representation both in England and in Canada was experimental, and he claimed that the Government had acted wisely in selecting Toronto wherein to try the working of such a measure.

Sir Oliver Mowat observed that when the Act of 1885 was introduced it was stated to be a trial. It had been found to involve a great deal of labor, as the candidate and his friends had a much larger area to cover. The Government, "while not proposing any other change in the distribution of seats, would introduce a change."

A numerically strong deputation waited upon the Government last week urging the passing of Mr. Marter's Bill, which is intended to forbid the retailing of liquor. Temperance men and women had met to the number of 300 in the afternoon to discuss the question of entire prohibition. Strong resolutions were passed endors-

ing the proposed Act, and "holding the Government responsible for the continuance of the liquor traffic within its jurisdiction. To the delegates who interviewed the Ministry upon the subject, Sir Oliver Mowat was not very satisfactory. While regretting the evil which drinking habit produces, a prohibition law was so difficult of enforcement that it was inoperative. Again, the question of power to pass some of the temperance is a disputed one—local option, the McCarthy Act, and now the very Act which was proposed by Mr. Marter. This Bill is intended to prohibit the sale by retail; but the Privy Council has repeatedly held that there is no distinction between retailing and wholesaling. "What, then, is the use of stopping retailing? I say, therefore, if it comes to be decided—I don't speak for others in this matter, I don't speak for my colleagues, but for my own personal sympathy in regard to it—so that there could be no further question about it in our courts, that we had the power to pass a prohibitory law, I am prepared to go for it. But whatever the consequences may be, I believe it to be my duty not to adopt such a measure until its constitutionality can be attained."

The following extract is taken from the Holy Father's reply to the students of the College of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, and is well worthy of being made a universal text for students in all Catholic Colleges: "Continue," said the Pope, "to be penetrated with the teachings of this great amiable doctor, and may you, by his intercession and example, make every day new progress in the practice of Christian virtues. Be animated especially by that spirit of love and charity which shone with such lively brilliancy in St. Francis of Sales. Love God and your neighbor, and learn to devote yourselves later on to all the great and noble causes upon which the general welfare of society depends."

The despatches of Saturday last brought the glad tidings that the Liberals had marched in solid line through the trench of the second reading of the Home Rule Bill. The vote stood 847 to 304. Mr. Gladstone proposes that the 4th of May be named for the Committee stage.

The last guns were fired by Mr. Gladstone who closed the debate. The principal weapons of the Opposition, he said, were bold assertion, persistent exaggeration, constant misconstruction, and copious arbitrary and baseless prophecies. True there were conflicting financial arrangements to be dealt with, but among the difficulties nothing existed which ought to abash or terrify men desirous to accomplish a great object. For the first time in

90 years the bill would secure the supremacy of Parliament as founded upon right as well as backed by power. The Irish leaders before the whole House had accepted the bill in good faith. The Opposition had evaded steadfastly the real question of the second reading. How must Ireland be governed if this bill be rejected? Lord Salisbury had asked for 20 years of coercion, but as the policy of converting Ireland to Protestantism inaugurated under Queen Elizabeth had failed down to the present time, what ground was there for hope that in only 20 years more it would succeed? The late Government had started with a majority of 120. Neither the children nor the grandchildren of this generation would see such a majority again. Yet the whole fabric of their policy had failed, and what guarantee was there it would not fail again? The present bill sought to close a controversy that had lasted for centuries. His closing words were "You cannot be surprised that we have undertaken the solution of this great question, and, as on the one hand it is not the least of the arduous efforts of the Liberal party, so on the other hand it will have its place in history, ay, and not remote but early history, as not the least durable, fruitful, and blessed among its accomplished acts."

Belgium, though a small Kingdom, is a hive of industry and the home of a thrifty, simple people. For many years, however, it has also been the central scene of some of the great social contests which are harrassing all Europe, as in the early part of this century it was the battle field upon which Bonapartism was overthrown. In the last elections Christian education gained the day, but this only roused the Free Masons to all the greater exertions. News arrived last week that the industrial revolution, gaining strength all the time, had demanded Universal Suffrage from the Chamber of Deputies. At Antwerp and Mons, the centre of the mining District, the mobs were especially violent, the latter town being the scene of several dynamite outrages. The Civic Guard, on being called out, and being defied, fired upon the crowd, killing four. A second fight thereupon took place, in which fourteen of the soldiers were wounded.

When the Chamber of Deputies met the vote for universal suffrage was carried by 119 against 12—14 of the representatives abstaining from the vote. In view of this decision the labor leaders resolved to advise the abandonment of the strike, which at one time threatened the kingdom with the evils of a miniature but no less violent French revolution.

Referring to a visit paid the Holy Father by the Emperor and Empress

of Germany, a despatch from Rome of the 28th instant says. Their majesties alighted in the court of San Damaso. The imperial couple were received in the Clementine hall by Mgr. Sambeth, prefect of the ceremonies, Mgr. Azovedo, grand chamberlain, and other members of the Papal court. The Emperor was in Hussar uniform, and during the short pause in the first hall the Swiss guards paid him military honors. At the door of the fellow chamber their majesties were met by the Pope, who conversed with both for fifteen minutes. The Empress then left. The Pope summoned the major domo, who accompanied her majesty to the galleries, and presented her to Commander Friconti and the museum officials. Under their guidance she proceeded to the ducal hall, the sixtine chapel, and the other rooms in which the art treasures of the Vatican are shown. Meantime the Emperor remained in conversation with the Pope, while Frieherr Marschall von Breberstein was in attendance in the ante-chamber. The interview lasted 68 minutes after the departure of the Empress. The Pope was more affable than usual, while the Emperor, though amiable, seemed to be somewhat preoccupied and nervous. At the end of the interview the Emperor's suite was presented to the Pope. Upon leaving, the Emperor was accompanied by the Pope, contrary to the etiquette of the Vatican, through the ante-chamber to the throne room. As they parted the Emperor made a movement as if to kiss the Pope's hand. The Pope quickly withdrew his hand, then grasped the Emperor's and shook it cordially three times.

An incident of the debate on the second reading of the Home Rule bill is thus noticed in the despatches. No body has ever devoted more facile malignity to the task of enraging and affronting his opponent than Chamberlain, whose later speeches, indeed, have been almost savage in their revelation of personal bitterness against his former leader. Last night Gladstone went quite out of his way to speak kindly of the maiden speech of Chamberlain's son, which, he remarked in deep, full tones, with a gracious bow, was one that must have been dear and refreshing to the father's heart. Chamberlain at the first mention of his son lifted his head and turned his surly, cynical gaze upon the speaker. When these courteous, flattering words came he stared for an instant in blank surprise, then flushed made a low obeisance and covered his face with his hands for fully five minutes. Those near said there were palpable tears in his eyes. Everybody talked about it afterwards as one of the most touching and notable instances in the memory of parliament.