

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 Tuesday of last week the member for L'Islet, Mr. Tarte, introduced a motion in disapproval of the action of Sir John Thompson's Government in dealing with the Manitoba School Question, and "in assuming to be possessed of judicial functions conflicting with their duty as constitutional advisers of the Crown." The hon. member took advantage of his position as fathering the above motion to make a vigorous attack on the Government in not disallowing the Manitoba Act, and in not keeping faith with Archbishop Tache, to whom, Mr. Tarte alleged, solemn pledges had been given by Hon. Mr. Chapleau when the elections were at hand, and when the influence of his Grace was required in securing a majority for the Conservative party. His speech lasted fully five hours. He was followed by Mr. La Riviere, the fearless but honest champion of the Catholic Separate School question in Manitoba. He declared that he could not support the motion of Mr. Tarte, as he believed it to be conceived in hatred of Sir John Thompson and his Government, rather than in any love he entertained for Catholics, whose Priests and Bishops he showed little respect for in his journal (*Le Canadien*), and whose private letters he (Mr. Tarte) was not ashamed to read publicly in that house. He (Mr. La Riviere) had several letters from Bishops and clergymen, which he might read, and which disproved a good deal of what Mr. Tarte had advanced; but he had too much respect for the sacred character of those gentlemen, and he refused to be a follower of one whom he suspected of partizanship more than of zeal for the real question in debate.

The Hon. John Thompson delivered a characteristic speech, abounding in legal technicalities, sound logic and occasional passages of wit and sarcasm at the expense of Mr. Tarte, whose motion he declared to be one thing and whose speech was another quite foreign to the motion. The speech was evidently prepared by himself (Mr. Tarte), but the motion was the creation of somebody else. Mr. Tarte had made a most forcible part of his argument and attack upon the Government on the ground that the Manitoba School Act should have been disallowed, yet when the House looked into the four corners of the resolution they found that the subject of disallowance was not mentioned at all. In the course of his able and eloquent speech Sir John Thompson denied that any promises had been made to Archbishop Tache to secure his Grace's influence in the elections, since whatever happened between the Archbishop and the Government was

not in the form of a promise, but a mere report of the Archbishop's claims, which he (Sir John) had presented to the Governor-General in Council—not weeks before, but long after the general elections were over. He denied that Archbishop Tache had been deceived. He admitted that his Grace would have been personally gratified if the Government could see its way clear to the disallowance of those statutes, which were exceedingly oppressive to his people; "But," continued Sir John, "his Grace knew, as the government knew, that the Manitoba Legislature would re-enact the disallowed statute, and that they would make an appeal to the people of the Province on the ground that their autonomy had been violated, and create an agitation in that Province which would be greater than that which had existed unfortunately for the last year or two." He said, therefore, that, from first to last, there was "no foundation whatever for the statement that his Grace was deceived or misled, or that his Grace was used for political purpose."

Mr. Curran delivered an able speech in support of Sir John Thompson's position in referring the Manitoba School difficulty to the decisions of the highest Judicature.

Mr. Devlin replied, attacking the Irish Catholic members, Messrs. Curran and Costigan, for not assuming a more independent position, and for not taking a firm stand on a question that interests the conscience of their fellow-Catholics in a distant Province. Mr. Devlin showed in his speech great power as a debater, and greater zeal, which we failed to admire, in charging the Hon. Mr. Costigan with demagogism. But the attack, far from injuring Mr. Costigan, was a source of triumph. It compelled him to explain the personal sacrifices he willingly made, when fighting the New Brunswick School Question, and forced him to justly complain of the imputation of personal motives, which were foreign to his nature. He had convictions strong enough, and courage strong enough to act on his convictions. He took too much pride in himself to stoop so low as to play the part of a demagogue.

Mr. Laurier's speech was eloquent, manly and straightforward. He condemned the Conservative Government for not having decided long before now, one way or the other, either for the maintenance or for the destruction of the Catholic Schools in Quebec. He put the alternative before his Protestant hearers of an attempt made to abolish the Protestant Board of Education in Quebec, and of placing all the educational interests of that Province under the Catholic Board, which is composed of Priests, Catholic

laymen, Bishops and Archbishops. He asked would they tolerate the change, and declared that every Catholic in the House would vote against such a change. He proceeded to say:

"If under the guise of public schools the Protestant schools are being continued and Roman Catholic children are being forced to attend these Protestant schools, I say, and let my words be heard by friends and foes over the length and breadth of the land, the strongest case has been made out for interference, and though my life as a political man depended upon it, I would undertake to say on every platform in Ontario and in Manitoba, yes, and in every lodge room, that the Roman Catholics of Manitoba had been put to the most infamous treatment."

In recording the debate, which closed with a round majority for the Government, we regret that the Manitoba School Bill was not disallowed when it first came up. It would have cut the Gordian knot, and have settled a question which still burns in the breasts of an unjustly treated minority in Manitoba.

Correspondence from Rome announces that the Irish pilgrims arrived at the Eternal City on Shrove Tuesday. The following morning they assembled at the Church of St. Agatha of the Goths, attached to the Irish College. Cardinal Logue, after distributing the ashes, celebrated Mass; and the Rector, Dr. Kelly, presented to the veneration of each a cherished relic of St. Patrick. The devotions terminated with prayers for the Pope, for the pilgrims and their associates, for Ireland, etc., and the hymn: "God Bless the Pope."

They then proceeded to the landings and corridors of the Irish College, where, on the wall of a staircase, a marble slab, surmounted by a medallion bust of Cardinal Cullen, had been erected. It was unveiled with due pomp and ceremony, when his Eminence Cardinal Logue addressed those assembled. He was delighted to see the venerable Mgr. Kirby present, who, for nearly half a century, had been rector, but who from ill-health had for some time been confined to his room.

The day following Cardinal Logue took possession of his titular church of Santa Maria della Pace. All the pilgrims and the Irish in Rome, with many others, filled the beautiful and interesting nave. Amongst the prelates present we are pleased to see mentioned the name of his Lordship, Bishop Dowling of Hamilton. The Cardinal in his discourse expressed his gratitude to all who had assembled to do him honor. He related briefly the history of the little Church which, in its earlier years, was associated with Ireland. It was here the Irish Dominicans settled when priests were banished from every lane and street in Ireland, and when they were forced to seek a refuge abroad from a most cruel persecution.

The Conservatives in the British Parliament held a caucus last week to discuss the situation. Mutterings had passed along the line concerning the leadership of the Hon. A. J. Balfour. But the uncle was there to stand by his nephew, he was full of hope, he rebuked the suggestion of a change, reprimanded laxity and braced up the faint hearted Unionists. The election held at Grimsby the day before, when a Liberal-Unionist was victorious, roused the spirits of the Conservatives, which for some time had been showing signs of depression.

Another meeting of a different shade of politics was held at Dublin on March 8, when the Irish National Federation met in the Rotunda. The following account is taken from the telegraphic despatches:

There was a crowded and enthusiastic attendance, and Thomas Sexton, M.P., presided. All the principal men in the Irish federation were present. Mr. Sexton predicted that before the end of the session the Irish Home Rule bill would reach the house of lords, and that the peers would find themselves in a critical position. They would have to decide whether they would defy the electors of the United Kingdom or yield to the popular will as expressed through the House of Commons. If Ireland, Mr. Sexton continued, would heartily help Mr. Gladstone, the Grand Old Man would beat down opposition both in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords, and also the melodramatic exhibition which the Orangemen were offering in order to bewilder and affright their British fellow-subjects. Mr. Sexton also announced that in view of the coming release of the Paris fund the fund now collecting for the relief of evicted tenants would soon be closed.

Mr. Sexton was heartily applauded and the demonstration is expected to have an excellent influence in counteracting the effect of Orange appeals in Great Britain.

The convention resolved, without a dissenting voice, to support the home rule bill at the second reading, and "at the proper time to obtain the needful amendments which will render the bill permanent and the nature of Irish rights a lasting bond of union with Great Britain." The convention also voted to establish a national fund for the promotion of the national movement.

In the Panama scandal trials evidence has been produced proving that the Company had expended 100,000,000 francs to newspapers for advertising and favorable notices. A list of more than one hundred names of conspicuous men implicated was given by a clerk who had access to Baron de Reinach's office. Charles de Lesseps testified to the contribution of 800,000 francs made at Floquet's request by the Panama Company to the fund for the campaign against Boulanger. Then another ex-minister came in for damaging evidence, de Freycinet, who claimed that his action was in the public interest. To which de Lesseps replied that it was in the same interest he had given Baron de Reinach millions. Undoubtedly patriotism inspired all—but they had a terribly itching palm.

The Emeralds of Peterborough promise a very interesting entertainment for to-morrow (St. Patrick's) evening. They have secured the services of Miss Dunn, the elocutionist, for the occasion.