

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 Roman correspondent of *The Irish Catholic* sketches in a very interesting way the return of Crispi to power. Two reasons worked to prevent Zanardelli forming a Cabinet: He had refused to promise that he would increase the taxes, and no one would assume the ministership of Finance. Again he had given serious offence to Austria by offering the portfolio of Foreign Affairs to Baratiere, an implacable enemy of Italy's north-eastern neighbor. The choice had been made, and had been confirmed by the crown before the blunder was perceived, and rather than show the complete helplessness of Italy with its allies King Humbert threw over Zanardelli and recalled Crispi whom he had driven from his presence only a few years ago.

How degrading King Humbert's position is, appears from the interview which took place between him and Zanardelli, when the minister told the King to his face that his Majesty was in no small way to blame for many of the scandals which have reduced Italy to such misery and disgrace. Then the King has to recall a man who is hated by the Court, and loved by none, the fraudulent possessor of 240,000 francs—but a man of tenacious will, and supported by those only who have a material interest in the Piedmontese occupation of Rome.

A remarkable letter from the Anglican Monk, Father Ignatius, was sent to the Editor of the *Liverpool Catholic Times* on the Holy Father's latest Encyclical. Father Ignatius says: "Every Protestant and Anglican, every Roman Catholic and Orthodox Oriental, must thank God for inspiring Pope Leo XIII. with such glorious courage. I was startled beyond expression as I read on. It was the Holy Ghost alone, who nerved the mind and hand of this Second Leo the Great, to pour forth such a torrent of heavenly faith and courage, such consolation and reassurance for the benefit of all sincere disciples of Jesus Christ, whether Catholic or Protestant." And again he upbraids the Archbishop of Canterbury for not taking notice of a memorial that was presented to him in Convocation to allay the unspeakable pain now existing in the church (Anglican) by reason of false teachers (the 'Higher Critics') within the fold." He asks, "Why is it? Have our spiritual leaders lost faith in the Bible? If the English Church authorities do not come forward soon in defence of the Sacred Scriptures and silence their opponents within the ranks of our authorized clergy there will certainly be an exodus to the Church of Leo

XIII, far greater than all that have gone before." The publication of the Holy Father's defence of the Holy Scriptures must indeed make an impression on all Protestants who read it, and who have always held the opinion that Catholics do not read the Bible.

In an interview at the bedside of the Abbe Lemire, Comte de Mun expressed the opinion that the existing laws can be effectively utilized to deal with the Anarchists without any sudden and arbitrary measures, thus proving that charity of heart and great prudence for which this eminent Frenchman is distinguished.

The members of the Catholic Workmen's Congress who assembled in Turin, a fortnight ago, have entered a solemn protest against the attacks on Christianity by the anti-religious press of the continent. They called on their brethren to shun these newspapers, which, while professing enlightened principles are doing their best to undermine all religious faith.

The Cardinal Archbishop of England is very interested in various social schemes for the amusement of the working people. Recently in Tower-hill was opened a social club for the benefit of the Catholic people. "The Catholic young men and young women require to be amused," says the *Catholic Times*, "as well as young people of other denominations. If amusement is not to be had in connection with the parish they will seek it elsewhere." Cardinal Vaughan approves of innocent amusements combined with religious duties, and takes an enthusiastic part in aiding the establishment of these clubs. A little recreation makes the path of religion less ascetical looking than it appears to be, and places of this kind draw all classes together, and here the cultured and learned help the poor and ignorant on the toilsome road of life.

On the 29th December Mr. Gladstone celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday. He was in excellent health and the dispatches say rose bright and early, looking strong and well. The scene at his official residence in Downing street that morning was one of unusual animation. The hourly mails were extraordinarily heavy, and messengers were arriving and departing with great rapidity. Telegrams, messages and cards of congratulation were constantly arriving. The Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and prominent members of both political parties tendered their congratulations. A large number of greetings were sent from America and Australia. When Mr. Gladstone entered the House of Commons that afternoon a perfect ovation was given him by his supporters.

As he passed down the aisle to his seat the Liberals sprang to their feet and waving their hats cheered him over and over again. The Prime Minister smilingly bowed an acknowledgment and took his seat, after which Mr. Balfour on behalf of himself and party offered the Prime Minister their sincere congratulations.

The Catholics of Milwaukee numbering several hundred, and representing twenty-six parishes in that city, met and formed a society called the Columbian League. The following explains the purpose of this League: "Its object shall be to sustain the rights which all Americans enjoy in common under the constitution and in accordance with the spirit of our free institutions. It shall aim to promote the good will, confidence and harmony which have existed and should continue to exist among Americans, and, by diligent and open discussion, remove all misapprehensions and oppose all influences which secretly or otherwise antagonize the American principles and the constitutional right of American citizens." This is the proper stand for Catholics to take, and if a union like this could be accomplished there would perhaps not be so much in the power of the P.P.A.

We learn from the *New World*, Chicago, that the Hon. W. J. Onahan of that city has received a very great honor from the Holy Father, on the recommendation of the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Satolli, and is made a "Supernumerary Private Chamberlain of the Sword and Helmet." This honor has been bestowed in appreciation of the services of Mr. Onahan in organizing the Catholic Congress, which was held at the World's Fair.

The anxiety felt in Italy concerning the state of Sicily, has turned out a stern reality. The people showed dogged resistance to the carrying out of the law relative to Custom house duty, and are now in open riot. Both Sicily and Sardinia are covered by a network of Socialists called the *fasci*. The Government does not know what policy to pursue with regard to the *fasci*, and the conciliatory spirit which it has so far displayed towards them cannot be looked upon as anything but a lenitive, which can never subdue the angry passions of an infuriated and tyrannized population.

The riots were very grave, the troops were called out, eight men were killed. The peasants in the mob tried to disarm the soldiers who were compelled to fire at close quarters. In a village in the province of Trapani, the anti-tax rioters burned several houses, and when a notorious usurer tried to pacify them, he was shot dead. The

situation in Sicily is regarded with increasing alarm by the Italian Government. The troops there number 40,000, and it is reported two hundred reserve officers have been called out for service.

At Berlin the Foreign Office is gravely pre-occupied with the uprising in Sicily, with regard to its probable effect on the European situation. Although the reports are thought to be exaggerated it is felt that the situation is full of peril and a source of weakness to the triple alliance.

Details have been received from Free Town, the capital of Sierra Leone, of the killing of British troops by the French near Warrina. When they were fired upon, the British at once responded, and the French shortly afterwards retired. Lieut. Moritz was wounded and captured by the British. When he was questioned by his captors for his reasons for firing on them, he explained they had mistaken them for members of the Sofas tribes, as their troops were all blacks, and their European officers, who were tanned with the sun, were taken for Arabs. Lieut. Moritz died from the effect of his wounds. The British loss was less than was at first reported.

Another report of the engagement says it took place by moonlight, and that it was owing to this fact Lieut. Moritz was unable to distinguish the uniforms of the British troops. Before his death, Lieut. Moritz said that natives had told him that the British were Sofas whom he was pursuing, that he had no idea who they really were. This serious mistake has not only been the loss of life, but there is a danger of whole nations being implicated.

Several London papers print an interview with Lieut. Mizou, the African explorer and French traveller in the French service. He said he was not surprised when he heard of the battle of Warrina. The territories of France and England were not adequately defined in Northwest Africa and there was deep hatred between the Senegalese sharpshooters and the West Indian soldiers. Lieut. Mizou could not believe the fault lay with the French.

The death is announced of the Rt. Rev. Dr. McNierney, Bishop of Albany, N. Y., which took place last week after a short illness. The Saturday before Christmas day, he ordained seventy five students of the Troy Seminary, and on the Sunday he ordained another to the priesthood at the Cathedral in Albany. Christmas morning he attended the services, although having a slight cold, in the afternoon he was much worse, and Tuesday morning his physician declared it a severe attack of pneumonia, from which he never rallied.