

The Catholic Register

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

VOL. VIII.—NO. 20.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

Current Topics.

The Boer War.

The movements which Lord Roberts has been planning during the past weeks are now about, and seem to be irresistible. According to Roberts' despatches to the War Office, the Boers held strong positions which were abandoned before the overwhelming forces brought against them. In these operations the Boers do not seem to have shown that indomitable courage and tenacity displayed in the early stages of the war. Kroonstad, which had been made the temporary capital of the Orange Free State, where a determined stand was expected to be made, was evacuated, and President Steyn and his forces fled to Lindley, a town forty miles east of Kroonstad, which has been designated by Mr. Steyn as the new seat of the Free State Government. Lord Roberts ordered Kroonstad on May the 19th. The report further states that the Transvaalers have left the Free State territory for their own country, accompanied by Generals Botha and Dewet, and that the Free States were giving up the struggle and returning to their homes. The attempt to thwart the British advance by harassing the eastern flank resulted in the dispersing of their forces, so that the defence of the main line of the advance was too weak. The German press, which has watched the struggle throughout with close, if not unfriendly interest, considers the fate of the Dutch republics sealed by the capture of Kroonstad.

The news has come that General Buller has at last waked up from his long term of inactivity, has crossed the Drakenberg Range, and is on his march to Pretoria, with the Boers, who have so long held northern Natal, retreating, like their comrades-in-arms in the Free State, before him. The Boers are said to be still making great efforts to capture Mafeking, but the plucky little garrison reports itself as able to hold out. No doubt the defence of Mafeking, when the story is told, will prove to be one of the most gallant episodes of the war. General Buller is most probably moving in concert with Lord Roberts, and the near future will see two large British armies in the Transvaal, where what is now considered to be a hopeless struggle for the Boers will terminate.

The Canadians still continue to be in the front line of the fighting. The Royal Canadian Regiment reached Kroonstad on May 12th, thus sharing in the honor to be among the first to enter this Boer stronghold. The latest casualties reported are two Canadians killed and eleven wounded, six at Tabya Mountain and five at Zand River. The South Africa says:—Details of the affair at Israel's Poort, seven miles west of Thaba N'Chu, show that the colonial troops again had to bear the brunt of the fighting. General Ian Hamilton, who was in command, ordered Smith-Dorrien's brigade to drive on the Boers at all risk and press on to Thaba N'Chu. The place of honor was assigned to the Canadian contingent, who were supported in the assault by the Grahamstown Horse. The Canadians moved forward very cleverly under the direction of their dashing commander, Colonel Otter. Successive rushes brought them almost to the foot of the kopje without receiving a shot from the enemy. There they got amongst the wire entanglements, which had evidently been placed within marked range of the concealed Boers. At this juncture the enemy opened a terrific fire, but the Canadians had taken such good cover that comparatively little damage was done by the enemy's rain of bullets. Colonel Otter now led another short rush up the side of the nearest kopje. Just as the gallant colonials were taking shelter after this fine uphill burst, Colonel Otter was twice struck, the first bullet inflicting a nasty, but not dangerous, wound in the neck, while the other tore off the badge from his shoulder without penetrating the body. Obscured on by their wounded commander, the Canadians now swept right up the kopje, and as they neared the summit the Boers finally bolted. The top was first gained by the Canadians, closely followed by the Grahamstown men, who had fully shared the honors of the day. The other kopje was carried simultaneously without difficulty. Our losses amounted to only twenty killed and wounded. Among the latter was Captain Gethin of the Grahamstown Volunteers, which

corps had also half a dozen officers wounded.

The Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on May 18th introduced in the British House of Commons the Australian Commonwealth Bill which he described as a great and important step towards the organization of the British Empire. The following clause in the scheme will prove of interest to Canadians:—

The Government purposed to introduce in the House of Lords forthwith a scheme to appoint for seven years a representative each of Canada, South Africa, Australia, and India, to be members of the Privy Council, and who would sit as Lords of Appeal. Life peerages would be conferred on them, so that they would continue to sit in the House of Lords, although they would not sit as judges after their term of service had expired. They would be paid the same as Lords of Appeal, and as the cost of the Imperial Government. Mr. Chamberlain said the new constitution, although in important respects unlike any now existing, more closely resembled the constitution of the United States than any other. State rights throughout were jealously preserved. In Australia the Senate would be elected by the same electorate as the Legislature, and the members of both bodies would receive the same salary.

An Essential Element in a Successful Career.

The Baltimore Sun says:—To one who has passed the age of ambition and who is despondently accepting whatever fate may have in store for him, much enjoyment may be obtained from observing the hopes and ambitions of young people about to leave school or college and enter upon the serious life of the world. It is interesting to see the intense desire of the young something of his own spirit at a similar age, and if he has not been soured by adversity he will encourage them, though he may know that they will meet with many disappointments and misadventures, and help to correct minor faults. Knowledge and ability count for a great deal, but hope and self-confidence for quite as much. Without these little uses is made of either knowledge or ability; with them the youth struggles on until he has had enough of experience, he has acquired both knowledge and ability. The young are naturally hopeful, so that it is not necessary to inspire them with promises of success in life; nor is it necessary, on the other hand, to dampen their ardor by pointing out to them the few risks which are offered to a great number of contestants. They will be discouraged soon enough by sad experience; the best we can do for them is to teach them enough philosophy to sustain them under disappointments while keeping their hopes alive.

Mr. X's age is properly reckoned by the years he has lived, but by the condition of his heart. When he is no longer young in years and his personal ambitions have become a memory, he should still be young enough in heart to sympathize with the youth who are about to begin the battle of life and should have enough of hope and ambition left to bestow them upon younger men. To such men a school commencement is an inspiring scene. The young graduates bring back to memory scenes of other days and stories, some sad and some merry, of the struggles, victories and defeats in which he and his companions were engaged.

Wisdom in This.

The interests of the Catholic Church and of the Catholic newspaper are in many instances identical. The Catholic Church is ever on the alert to further the welfare, both temporal and eternal, of its children, and the Catholic newspaper is very active, bringing good news and valuable information right into the very homes of Catholics. As the church desires the Catholics to have happy homes, just so our Catholic newspapers never advise Catholics to leave the country and go into the city; but the cities are high and happy, and we who have had varied experiences, in city, town and country, laboring among all classes, know full well that nowhere are there happier, quieter, more Christian homes than in the country. They are the places to raise children, happy, intelligent, and true to their parents, their country, church and God. A far larger percentage of parents in the country find in their children a true staff for old age than parents in the cities. And again the crops will grow, the stock will fatten on a good farm even after they have become old and cannot perform hard work any more. And after all what can be a greater consolation for the parents on the eve of their lives than the assurance that their children are good and true?

No honest business pays like the farm. Farming in the past has been made overhauled and unproductive. So many have tried to farm with their

muscle only. They neglected to use their brain. They have read no books. They have not even kept a book of accounts. We find some such even on this progressive age—Catholics without keeping a good weekly Catholic paper. We call them tinkers, shillies, dead beats. They are now being brought out; they are crowded out and must move on.—Pittsburg Herald.

A Distinguished Churchman.

Monsieur Merry del Val to Be Honored by the Pope.

It is said in Rome that Monsignor Merry del Val will receive a titular See and the honors of archbishop in partibus infidelium. This was expected to come about for some time, because of this prelate having been appointed to the Noble Academy, but the delay has not been long and his friends are now confident that a public announcement to this effect will soon be made from the Vatican. Monsignor Merry del Val is a Spanish ecclesiastic, but he performed his duties in his ecclesiastical course at Cahow College, and has spent this time partly in England, and been in much contact with English people.

It was expected that he would take the papal English title, and refer to the querel raised between the newspapers in Rome and those in England over the South African war, and considerable feeling has been aroused against him, partly because he did not correspond to certain demands for but he performed them from England, and then because it was felt that he should have interfered on his own account.

He was in immediate attendance on the Pope when these questions were hotly debated, and as he was perfectly courteous, his silence can only be ascribed either to his personal reluctance to interfere, or else to his knowledge that all interference was useless. Neither of these excuses will be received by the critics, and the incident shows how devoted the Vatican is to the interests of peace. As far back as the year 1888 the Pope, in replying to the congratulations of the Cardinals, referred to the "sinister events of 1897," and said that it was his high duty to prevent the European world from slipping into "outrages and savage exuberances." He referred to the war then raging.

The pontiff added that this could not be stopped until the peace had been fully restored, and that he was attempting to bring about a revival in the conscience of the people, and become the principle of the organization of States.

The Vatican is all of one mind on the point, and the hope that it will attempt to bring about the cessation of war as well as a lot one.

Monsieur Merry del Val is about forty years of age. He was on the Embassy of Cardinal Rufo-Scilla to London for the first time in 1897, and he has since been in Canada on a special inspection in the year 1897. It is said that he will be sent as Nuncio to one of the minor Nunciatures.

Catholicity in Germany.

A writer in "La Voix Roma," who signs himself "A Diplomatist," has an able resume of the results achieved for the Catholic religion under the sagacious guidance of Pope Leo XIII. by which almost the whole of the "May Laws" have been swept off the Imperial statute book of Germany. When the illustrious Windthorst disappeared it was thought that the Catholic or Centre Party had gone with him. The Centre Party, however, recovered itself rapidly. Its chief has since been a school; of the Centre to stem the tide of Socialism and of other enemies of the Empire. The Centre had the balance of power in the Reichstag. On one side the State yielded step by step, and on the other, the Centre maintained all its positions, and labored to achieve, one by one all the articles in the programme—political, social and religious. By means of the law of 1890, the Centre secured the endowment of the May Law is overturned; the action of the Church extends everywhere; the sacerdotal ministry has been all the more strengthened; the expelled religious orders have been restored; the Jesuits, to whom he has donated the Church of St. Mary, of Leach, near Cologne. During his recent pilgrimage to Jerusalem he bought the ground

where stood the house of the Blessed Virgin, and made it over to the German Catholics. The only thing now remaining is the recall of the Jesuits, and this, when accomplished, will make the triumph of the Catholics complete. Now this unparalleled success would have been impossible but for the unrivaled wisdom and sagacity of Leo XIII. On the one hand he established a network of mediators between Rome and Prussia and other German principalities, by whose agency he brought about the most amicable and cordial relations with the ruling powers of those countries. On the other hand he always followed with a sympathetic and encouraging interest the episcopal reunions and Catholic congresses—once named by Windthorst the assemblies of the Catholics—thus inspiring them with a true zeal and spirit of charity in all their deliberations. From the Vatican came the encouragement, the guidance, the advice which trained the Catholic army and led it to victory. Besides, he conferred the highest official honors on the chiefs of the Centre party. Thanks to the cordial relations between the Pope and the German State, the Episcopate, the Catholics, and the Centre Party which represents them, the Reichstag, under the able leadership of Lieber, will soon see their prolonged efforts crowned with success by the fall of the last stone of the edifice raised by the fanaticism of the Iron Chancellor.

The Queen and Irish Catholicism.

The Queen's visit has been unquestionably marked by a determined desire, so far as forms and ceremonies and Royal courtesy might suffice, to conciliate Irish Catholic opinion. This was the deliberate intention of her Majesty's private secretary, the Duke of Devonshire, who was her chief attendant. It was also manifested by her refusal to lessen the compliments to Catholic Dublin by accepting the invitation to extend her visit to Protestant Belfast. All the chief Catholic dignitaries of the Dublin hierarchy were invited by her Majesty or by some members of the Royal party. The Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh was one of the most honored guests at the Royal table. At Rathfriland convent and at Mount Anville, the Queen conversed most graciously with the Rev. Mothers and Sisters in charge, but with numbers of the Jesuit and Dominican Fathers assembled to welcome her. She paid a special visit to the great Vincentian College at Ballinacorney, and conferred special honors upon its principal.

The question is inevitable, now that her Majesty's visit draws to a close, what was the meaning and what will be the practical result of the Queen's visit to the Catholicism of Ireland. Does it imply an honest attempt to remove all or any of the grievances innumerable and intolerable under which Irish Catholics still labor?

It is worth recalling that, while the Queen of Ireland may be a Catholic, all Catholics are by statute shut out from the position in Catholic Ireland. This, however, it may with some force be contended, is but a sentimental grievance by which the body of the people are not so much affected. A grievance of a much more serious character is the statute which robs the members of religious orders in Ireland of civil rights and liberty, and degrades them to the level of outlaws and criminals by a denial of the Act of Emancipation as drastic as anything in the old Penal Laws, the members of religious orders in Ireland are, ipso facto, criminals of particularly desperate type and liable to penal servitude for life. The penal servitude is of course not enforced, but the members of the Society of Jesus, the Society of the Sacred Heart, and the Vincentians are none the less subjected to very gross indignities and injustice. They are every other day plundered by this iniquitous law of large sums bequeathed to them by Religious and charities suffer from the loss of their property. It is certainly a little curious to reflect that her Majesty during her visit was engaged in courteous intercourse with those statutably outlaws and criminals whose degrading disabilities her Majesty's presence and official appointments are practically monopolized by Protestants in this Catholic country, where Catholics are in a majority of over seventy-five per cent. of the entire population. The Executive Government of the country is wholly in the hands of Protestant officials from the Lord Lieutenant downwards. Catholic Ireland is the only country in Europe whose executive does not include a single Catholic. The four judges of the High Court of appeal are all of the Protestant faith. 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