The Catholic Register.

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

VOL. I.—No. 20. TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1893. PRICE 5 CENTS.

Register of the Week.

During the past week an important bill—the enfranchisement of women—received its quietus in the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Waters had two bills on the order paper; one placing women on the same footing as men in regard to provincial elections; the other conferring the municipal franchise upon married women under the same terms as it is enjoyed by widows and spinsters.

In moving the second reading of the first of these bills Mr. Waters maintained that there was no ground in history, sacred or profane, forbidding women to be placed on a level with men. That she is not allowed to vote is a blot on our civilization, which admits them to the learned professions, which entrusts them with the education of a large number of our children, and which submits them, if charged with crime, to the same trial as man. He brought forward evidence to show that where women possessed more or less extensive franchise she exercised it to the moral benefit of all. "By reason," he said, "of the influence of women in municipal matters in the city of London the liquor licenses had been reduced from 69 to 40."

The Hon. Mr. Dryden replied by proving from Holy Scripture that woman does take a secondary place. The true woman should shine at home, and not at the polling booth, where she would exercise much less influence with the vote, than she would by her hearthside without it. From the consideration that the extension of the suffrage to women would double the number of electors, and thereby give women a preponderating power in all matters affecting the laws and institutions of the Province, Mr. Dryden moved the six months' hoist.

The Premier briefly gave it as his opinion that public sentiment was not ripe for such a measure. Mr. Dryden's amendment was then put and carried by 57 to 16.

It is unnecessary to add anything to the report. The spirit of the Church is strongly opposed to this modern tendency of women rushing to learned professions, political arenas anywhere but the quiet retirement of a modest, model home, where she might reign as queen over those whom she schools in virtue, religion and refinement. There she would do more to build up a country and direct its destinies than if she took her place on a public platform, or were elected to a seat in the legislature. We are glad, therefore, that this political weapon will not be put into their hands for some time to come, and we were pleased with the manly stand taken by Mr Dryden.

The Druggists are still knocking for the admission of their selfish measure. As will be remembered, the objectionable clause was that referring to the sale of patent medicines. The measure, upon being referred to a committee, was amended so that patent preparations shall be scheduled poisons, when the druggists will thereby have *the monopoly. This change*, which amounts to the same thing as the original clause, is causing just indignation.

Another example of class legislation—a proposed bill respecting embalming—called for a strong protest from Mr. Balfour. Privileges had been given to the law society, to the medical men, to the architects. The undertakers were now asking to be called registered embalmers; but next session they would demand that nobody should be allowed to call himself an embalmer who did not belong to their combine. As an instance of the way in which special concessions are got, Mr. Balfour cited the pharmacy bill, which, when introduced, was said to be unobjectionable, and which, after passing through the hands of a committee of the house, would practically forbid the country from selling patent medicines.

The Separate Schools are already receiving the attention of the newly-elected member for Toronto, Dr. Ryerson. As the law stands at present the assessors may, upon representations made by anybody, place a ratepayer on the list of supporters of the Separate schools. Section 120 of the Public Schools Act provides that the assessor shall accept the statement of, or made on behalf of, any ratepayer as sufficient *prima facie* evidence for placing such person in the proper column of the assessment roll for Separate school supporters. The clause Dr. Ryerson proposes to amend is sub-section 1 of section 14 of the Assessment Act. It reads as follows.—"In any case where the trustees of any Roman Catholic school avail themselves of the provisions contained in Section 120 of the Public Schools Act for the purpose (amongst others) of ascertaining through the assessors of the municipality the persons who are the supporters of Separate schools in such municipality the assessor shall accept the statement of, or on behalf of, any ratepayer that he is a Roman Catholic as sufficient *prima facie* evidence for placing such person in the proper column of the assessment roll for Separate school supporters, or if the assessor knows personally any ratepayer to be a Roman Catholic this shall also be sufficient for placing him in such last-mentioned column." To this Dr. Ryerson proposes to add the words. "And shall notify such person that his or her name has been so placed on the assessment roll within fourteen days of the date of entry."

It caused no great surprise, while its official guarantee sealed anticipated pleasure, when it was announced on Friday last that the Earl of Aberdeen is to be our new Governor-General. The interest which he and the Countess have always shown in Irish matters and which they are now taking in the Irish exhibit at Chicago, is a strong claim for their warm welcome in our midst.

The Earl is forty-six years of age, and has been an active member of the Liberal party since 1876. He was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in 1886 by Mr. Gladstone, and although his reign was of short duration, he made himself very popular.

In welcoming the new we must not part from the old Governor-General without a word of regret. Lord Stanley, during his sojourn, rendered to the cause of justice and freedom, services which we Catholics will not forget. He leaves us with our best wishes and congratulations on his accession as Earl of Derby.

At the time of the silver wedding of King Humbert Rome was crowded with Italian visitors who availed themselves of reduced railway rates, and went, not to witness the festivities, but to see the Pope. The august prisoner of the Vatican is the object and desire of multitudes who, according to the liberal press, swelled the number of the anti-clerical demonstration.

The interview between the Holy Father and the Emperor of Germany is variously discussed. The Pope received the royal guests in the Yellow Chamber, where three arm-chairs were placed for the accommodation of the Pope, the Emperor and the Empress. After conversing for quarter of an hour the Empress and her suite withdrew, leaving the Holy Father and the Emperor alone. They remained in conversation for nearly an hour, when the Emperor took his leave from his Holiness, who accompanied him to the door of the chamber.

The Pope presented the Empress with a handsome mosaic representing the basilica and piazza of St. Peter's. His Holiness was given a photograph in colours of the Imperial family.

As to the surmises upon the subject of the interview, nothing can be certain. Some of the Roman journals, claiming to know, state that the principal subject of conversation was the position of the Central party in Germany.

In the British House of Commons the Home Rule Bill is running the gauntlet of the Committee. Over 1,000 amendments were handed in as blows to be delivered at the proper time. Joseph Chamberlain, wishing to attack clause 9, which provides for the retention of the Irish members at Westminster, moved the postponement of clause 1. His purpose was to begin the discussion with the most important proposals of the bill. Mr. Gladstone replied by stating that the *bill was before the House in a* particular form, and the Government also had a right to indicate variations from that form. The amendment was rejected, as also were many others which, being merely captious, were clotured and voted down with a majority ranging from 40 to 50.

The motion which has caused the greatest discussion is one by a Conservative member, striking out the *first clause—a motion which practi*cally means the rejection of the whole bill. Mr. Chamberlain, in speaking to this amendment, commented upon the scarcity of changes from the Government supporters. He explained it in his fertile imagination by supposing that they recognized the bill to be only a sham. The Liberals were unnaturally silent, and the Irish members were suddenly dumb. In reply, Mr. Gladstone repudiated the insinuation, and *justly claimed* that the Government, having given the fullest explanation of the bill, wished a fair discussion, and would remain silent when obstructive debates were introduced.

After several exciting scenes had taken place the Committee suddenly changed to good nature, and, on a vote, rejected the motion.

The Counsel for the United States before the Behring Sea Arbitrators, having completed their argument, Attorney General Sir Charles Russell began his address on behalf of Great Britain last week. He thought the theory that seals, although wild, were nevertheless, American property, because they possessed the *animum revertendi*, displayed a remarkable confusion of ideas. He also commented upon the contention that moral and natural law were a synonymous term for international law.

When Sir Charles, in the course of his speech, asserted that Mr. Bayard had never tried to justify the Behring Sea seizures, on the ground that the United States had property in seals, a hot and bitter altercation took place. Senator Morgan and Mr. Phelps declined to guarantee that the United States would accept damages for seizures, even if the tribunal decided against them. This *threatened to* upset the whole proceedings, for, in in such a case, the arbitration would be useless. A temporary adjustment was arrived at by postponing the discussion upon the point of liability.