

The Catholic Register.

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

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Register of the Week.

A rather harmless motion by a Dr. Meacham in the Legislature on the 18th inst., was the occasion of a very lively debate. The Dr. moved for a return showing what amount of the Public School grant was apportioned to cities, towns and those incorporated villages containing High Schools or Collegiate Institutes. In making the motion Dr. Meacham criticized the management of the school system generally—counties did not receive their fair share of the Public School grants, an unfair share of which was going to the towns—only half the Roman Catholics were using the Separate Schools. After Mr. Ross replied Dr. Preston briefly followed and was succeeded by a third medical gentleman, the doughty Dr. Ryerson.

His was no skirmish shot about returns, but a broadside against the whole Department—text-books, authors, copyright, executive methods, political intrigue. The British History had been withdrawn and odious terms omitted "no doubt in deference to a certain vote." Protestantism was spoken of as the 'new religion'—"a grievous error," thought Dr. Ryerson, "seeing that Protestantism was as old as Christ." After charging the Minister of Education with buying up two of the teachers of the Province—no very large number—with giving them books to write, the following dramatic dialogue passed between the speaker and Mr. Ross:

Dr. Ryerson—The Deputy Minister of Education is a nephew of the Hon. Minister.

Mr. Ross—No, he's no relative of mine.

Dr. Ryerson—He's a nephew of your wife.

Mr. Ross—No; he's not my wife's nephew.

Dr. Ryerson—Well, he's your first wife's nephew.

Mr. Ross—No, he's no relation to my first wife.

Dr. Ryerson—Well, he's a relation to your second wife.

Mr. Ross—No, nor my third wife.

Dr. Ryerson—Well, I thought he was.

(Prolonged applause).

Hon. Mr. Ross replied by administering a severe castigation to the restless Doctor, replying at some length to the various trivial charges made. The old charge of the connection of Mr. Nelson with the *Globe* which had been made in a general way without proof, he threw back in the teeth of the hon. gentleman. It was very evident that Dr. Ryerson knew very little about the text-books he criticized, and still less about the teaching. The gentlemen whom he (Mr. Ross) was accused of purchasing had been selected on account of their talent, and Dr. Ryerson was the first man to rise in the House and attack the reputation of the High School Masters. In conclusion he urged that the Doctor had spoken with an altogether insufficient acquaintance with the facts.

As many as 15,000 Spanish pilgrims were in Rome on the 18th inst., to

witness the ceremonies of beatification of Juan d'Avila Diego of Cadiz. Headed by 15 bishops and large numbers of priests, they marched to St. Peter's where the Holy Father officiated. After the Pope had celebrated Mass he sat on his throne and received an address which was read by the Archbishop of Savile. The formal reply of his Holiness was read in Spanish. After referring to the importance of the pilgrimage, which numbered so many from all classes, rich and poor, the exalted and the humble, it dwelt upon the Catholic condition of Spain. It spoke of the necessity of a full and complete return to the principles of religion, union, concord and submission to constituted authority, and concluded by eulogizing the Queen Regent of Spain. Thereupon the signal being given the pilgrims knelt to receive the Holy Father's blessing, and as he was borne back to the Vatican, after being in the Basilica two hours and a half. It is gratifying to learn from the despatches that the venerable Pontiff continues in good health.

The Benedictine Fathers of Fort Augustus, Scotland, with the approval of all the Archbishops and Bishops of Scotland, are starting a work which will be of interest to all fervent Catholics. It is the forming a Confraternity, which bears the name of the "League of St. Andrew." All Catholics, whether belonging to the clergy or the laity, are received as members. "The only obligations which they undertake are: (1) Enrolment in the Register of the League at St. Benedict's Abbey; (2) the daily recital of one *Hail Mary*, and three or four ejaculations to the Sacred Heart, and the Patrons of Scotland; (3) the offering of Mass by priests or Holy Communion by lay members at least once per annum for the intentions of the League. The intentions, specified in the official circular, are: (1) The conversion of Scotland in general; (2) of particular individuals whose names or initials have been forwarded to the Secretary; (3) the eternal rest of departed members whose names have been entered on the death roll; (4) thanksgiving for the conversion of those whose names have been sent for entry in the thanksgiving roll.

A tremendous strike, in which 137,000 miners are taking part, was begun on Saturday in the coal districts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. They demand an increase of 20 per cent. in wages.

The Hon. John Morley brought forward an Evicted Tenants' Bill in the English House of Commons on the 19th inst. It proposed to establish a Board of Arbitration, whose office should continue for three years, with

power to issue orders reinstating evicted tenants, when petitioned to do so. These orders are conditional if opposed by the landlords; but otherwise they are absolute. In case of landlords objecting to any orders the dispute rests with the Board. Meanwhile the tenant will occupy his holding until a fair rent is paid, either by the Board of Arbitration or the Land Commissioners. Arrears and costs, amounting to not more than two years' rental at the old figure, may be directed by the Board. For the restoration of a reinstated tenant's house, if it has been destroyed, a sum not exceeding £50 may be advanced. No evicted tenant's petition is to be heard before due notice has been served on the new tenant. Any objection from the latter is to be treated as an absolute block on the jurisdiction of the Board.

To carry out these purposes £100,000 is to be appropriated from the temporalities of the Irish Church. The expenses of the administration, and the salaries of the arbitrators and their officials, are to be paid from the consolidated funds.

"This measure," said Mr. Morley in closing, "is not brought forward in any spirit of partizanship. There is no desire to give either party a triumph over the other. The Government wish to heal the deep wound in the social condition of Ireland. For this purpose of healing they commend the measure to the House."

Messrs. Dillon and Sexton expressed themselves as fairly satisfied with the bill, which, in the opinion of the former, was exceedingly valuable, and, in the judgment of the latter, as good as anything Ireland was likely to get from an English Parliament.

A good deal of discussion is going on in Germany as the question of the re-admission of the Jesuits approaches solution. It is expected that the Federal Council will vote the proposal. This does not discourage the Catholic party. They are proposing that the Chancellor should admit a measure allowing each German State to deal with the Jesuits according to its own law. They hope that the repeal of the Imperial law will move the individual States as Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg and Prussia, also to repeal theirs, and admit once more the Society.

The French Cabinet has decided to stop the salary of the Archbishop of Lyons on account of a pastoral letter denouncing the law dealing with the funds for the maintenance of churches. All the French bishops are required to send to the Government copies of their addresses upon this subject.

The marriage of the Princess Victoria Melita of Saxe-Cobourg, grand-

daughter of Queen Victoria, with her cousin, the Grand Duke Ernest Louis of Hesse, took place at Cobourg on the 19th inst.

Relations between the Chamber of Italian Deputies and the Ministry are, according to the *Times*, so strained that the military bill is in grave doubt. The strain is due to the intense feeling upon the proposed economies in the navy. Crispi is master.

His Eminence Cardinal Dusmet, Archbishop of Catania, died in Rome on the 4th of April. He was born in Palermo, 15th August, 1818. In his youth he joined the Benedictine Congregation of Monte Cassino. He was made first Archbishop of Catania by Pius IX. in 1867. During the eighteen years of his pastoral charge he gave great proofs of his activity and zeal in giving a new impulse to the works carried on in his diocese. Through him the monasteries of Sicily were led back to the observance of the primitive rule of St. Benedict. He succeeded so well in these attempts that the Sovereign Pontiff, Leo XIII., gave him charge of the College of St. Anselm in Rome, the future Seminary for all the Congregations of the Benedictine Order. The deceased Cardinal belonged to the Congregations of Bishops and Regulars, Ecclesiastical Immunities, Rites, and the Index.

"The Protestant Alliance has been snubbed by the War Office," says the *Liverpool Times*, "and what will the frequenters of Exeter Hall May meetings, the supporters of Irish Church Mission, and the like, say to this? Whatever they may say or think, most people will conclude that the Alliance got only what it deserved." The committee of that very zealous body addressed a memorial to the Secretary of State for War, drawing his attention to the forming of "Guards of Honour to the Most Holy Sacrament" in certain Catholic churches at the Curragh, and the "carrying in procession of the Blessed Sacrament, the cope being borne by members of the Royal Munster Fusiliers," at the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Rathmines, Dublin. They received a reply that Mr. Campbell Bannerman, after making necessary inquiries, had given every consideration to the memorial, and found nothing that would require any action on his part.

"It surely is not to be expected that a Catholic who loyally serves his Sovereign and country in the ranks of the British army," continues the *Times*, "is to lay aside his Catholicism when he dons his uniform." "The Catholic soldiers have been organized into confraternities for their mutual edification and improvement at the Curragh, and special retreats to the military have been given in Rathmines for the Catholic soldiers at Portobello barracks.