

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 writs have been issued for the Ontario elections. Official nominations will take place June 19, and June 26 has been fixed upon as polling day. There is little doubt that Sir Oliver Mowat, the Grand Old Man of Ontario, will be returned to power. Sir Oliver has had a remarkable career. For twenty-two years he has enjoyed the confidence of the people of this Province, and in all that time not a charge of wrong-doing has been sustained against him. His administration of the affairs of the Province has been as remarkable for its purity as for its great length; and the old man, whose 74th birthday will occur just four days prior to the polling, goes to the Province with a record unsurpassed in the political history of any country. There is no doubt he will have much the same kind of sympathy that was shown for Sir John Macdonald at the last Dominion elections. There is little doubt that this will be Sir Oliver's last appeal to the Province.

It is of vast importance to Catholics in the coming Provincial struggle to know just how the two great parties stand with regard to the P.P.A., and also the strength of the latter. Five straight Conservative candidates and nine Conservative-Patrons have been endorsed by the P.P.A.; and in five of the eight constituencies in which straight P.P.A.'s have been nominated the Conservatives have not put up a candidate. That is to say, in 19 constituencies Mr. Meredith will get the support of the P.P.A. On the other hand, we find but one Liberal candidate endorsed by the P.P.A., and but one constituency in which the Liberal party has not nominated a man to oppose the P.P.A. candidates. These figures tell a tale that needs no comment. It is easily seen which leader the P.P.A. proposes to support in the coming legislature. The total number of candidates who will receive the support of the P.P.A. is 26, divided as follows: Straight P.P.A., 8, Liberal (endorsed), 1; Conservative (endorsed), 5; Patrons (endorsed), 9, Independent (endorsed), 3. These figures are worthy of consideration by every Catholic voter in the Province.

Mr. William Harty, M. P. P. of Kingston, is to succeed Hon. C. F. Frazer in the Ontario Cabinet, the latter retiring to accept the position of Inspector of Registry Offices and Forestry at a salary of \$3,500. We congratulate Mr. Harty on his appointment, and hope he may be as successful as his worthy predecessor. He has had a long experience in Provincial politics, and is possessed of the ability that should insure his success.

The papers are saying a great deal these days about the Dillon divorce

case, now before the Dominion Senate. What makes this case of peculiar interest is the fact that it is the first instance of Catholics applying to that body for a severance of the marriage tie. Some of the Catholic Senators sought to bring out this fact, but their questions were ruled out of order. The course of the Catholic Church on the divorce question has always been consistent, and strictly to the letter of the law of God. No human power has the right to sever the bond of matrimony, and the Church does not recognize divorcees, with the right of re-marriage. Catholics who go to the Senate for a divorce, and then re-marry, lose the right to the name. Death alone can relieve a Catholic of his or her marriage tie. People who marry in the Catholic Church do so with a full knowledge of the fact that the marriage is for life, and "for better or for worse," and if it turns out for the worse, no one has a right to complain. Catholic Senators and members of Parliament deserve great credit for their unvarying opposition to all divorces that come before them. It is the sacred relationship of marriage that makes civilization possible, and every act that tends to weaken that tie, is a blow at civilization and morality.

The "private judgment" doctrine of the Protestant churches gives rise to some very queer situations. For instance, the names Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist do not mean anything definite. If a man is a Presbyterian he may be of any one of twelve different shades, if a Methodist, he has seventeen chances to suit himself within that fold, while a Baptist can shift his opinion thirteen times and still remain a Baptist. That is to say, in these three bodies that are forty-two distinct sects or creeds, or whatever they call them, and every one of these forty-two are to be found in the United States. So many different roads to Heaven must be confusing, particularly when the devil is so busy tracing out cross-roads and by ways.

Seven thousand Spaniards, belonging to the second group of the Spanish pilgrimage, assisted at the Beatification of their countryman, Diego of Cadiz, of whom the following brief sketch will be of interest: Born March 29, 1873, of noble parentage; in November, 1757, he put on the lowly dress of the Seraph of Assisi in a monastery of the Capuchin Minors. He made his solemn profession March 31, 1759, and was ordained priest in 1767. He devoted himself to the apostolic ministry, and so great was the number of those who flocked to hear him that he often had to preach in the open squares. He effected so much good that he justly merited the title of

Apostle of Spain in the eighteenth century. He closed his eyes in a blessed end March 24, 1891; and in a short time his tomb became the object of devout pilgrimages of the faithful, and God, through the intercession of His servant, wrought many miracles. After a few years the cause of his Beatification was presented to the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and was brought to a happy end, so that Leo XIII., on April 1, gave his consent to the decrees of approbation of the miracles and of the *toto procedi passe*.

It is understood that the next general election in England will take place in July. The McCarthyite section of the Irish Parliamentary party have been notified to that effect, and other Liberal authorities have conveyed similar intimation. It is also announced that the Cabinet are resolved to make the question of the survival of the House of Lords, as at present constituted, the first plank in their elective programme. London papers express the opinion that the doom of the House of Lords is near at hand; and even the lords themselves, among them the Duke of Fife, son in law of the Prince of Wales, are prepared to make concessions. It is believed that this line of action will greatly increase Rosebery's chances for a new lease of power.

Patrick Donahoe, the veteran Catholic publisher and Irish patriot of Boston, received a most flattering Testimonial Banquet on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. More than half a century ago Mr. Donahoe founded the *Pilot*, through which his name has been made known in every corner of America and his influence felt. Three hundred of Massachusetts best and most influential citizens assembled to do honor to this great and good Irish Catholic, who, landing in Boston a poor boy, has worked himself up, solely on his own efforts, to a height that is the lot of few, even when backed by money and friends, to attain. Patrick Donahoe is a bright example of what an Irishman can do when placed in a land where there is room for expansion, and no racial hatred to retard the natural development of a bright mind and a great heart.

The following clipping from the last issue of the *Presbyterian Review* sustains our contention in the editorial columns of this week's REGISTER, to the effect that Protestant young men stand in greater need of the missionary efforts of the Protestant churches than do Catholics. "The Committee on the State of Religion, at the recent meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, reported that nearly ninety-five per cent. of the membership of

Young Peoples' Societies were composed of women and girls. This is tantamount to saying that the young men of our congregations are not reached and won for Christian work. Nor can the truth of this be gainsaid, for the Committee's results are derived from data furnished by Sessions and Presbyteries."

The first gun in the Provincial campaign was fired at London Monday night, when Mr. W. R. Meredith, Conservative leader, addressed a monster meeting of his supporters. During the course of his remarks he dealt with the separate School question. He admitted, somewhat sorrowfully, that separate Schools were guaranteed to the Catholics under the B. N. A. Act, and could not be disturbed, either by the local Legislature or the Dominion Parliament. But Catholics, he said, enjoyed many privileges that were not guaranteed to them, and these should be looked into. Taking a broad view of the whole question, he said, if the B. N. A. Act were to be passed over again its provisions in this respect would be different. He concluded this portion of his speech by saying that he did not blame Catholics for opposing him, and intimating that he thought he could pull along without them.

At a recent conference of the Methodist Deaconesses in Chicago there came very near being a serious breach. The elder Deaconesses, who had passed the line when youthful vanities please, or rather, who had reached the age when the youthful vanities of their sisters became objects of jealousy, wanted the impiety of frizzes put a stop to. Of course the girls demurred. Before they would consent to plaster their hair down flat, they would leave the conference and the church and eschew Christianity itself. It was hard to think of such a thing, and the Methodist church could look for new Deaconesses if it meant to make non-frizzled hair a test of membership and a rule of faith. It looked as though there would be a genuine hair-pulling match, when the gallant Doctor North, of New York, sprang to the defence of frizzy hair. He said it was very nice, and he liked to see it. It gave tone to the Deaconesses and was quite compatible with Christian belief. That settled it. Plain hair was beaten, and a holy calm settled over many a frizzled brow, as the young Deaconesses resumed their places, and the work of the conference progressed serenely.

The English settlers in the Transvaal are appealing to the British Government against the action of the Boer authorities in impressing them for service in the proposed operations against the Northern chiefs. The settlers are holding indignation meetings and many refuse to serve.