

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 truth is confirmed of the story published at Berlin in the *Vossische Zeitung* November last, of the closing of a Catholic church at Krosche, Russia, by order of the Russian authorities. The Catholics, hearing of this order, took possession of their church and held it day and night. The Governor of the district sent a troop of Cossacks to turn them out, but, owing to the resistance of the defenders, a desperate conflict ensued. Twenty Catholics were said to have been killed, and one hundred wounded, while the Cossacks pursuing others drove them into the river, where many were drowned.

The Russian papers came out with the official version of the affair. They said: The Czar ordered the church to be closed, so that an agricultural college might be built on the site. They asserted that in the encounter between the military and police on one side and the Catholics on the other, four policemen were slightly wounded, but the story of the massacre of the Catholics was branded as a pure invention. The *Cologne Gazette*, a few days ago, had authority to know the story of the massacre was only too true. A correspondent of another European paper says the Cossacks displayed the greatest barbarity and took fiendish delight in killing defenceless women and children. After the capture of the church, says the correspondent, the building was desecrated in every way, some of the Cossacks throwing the Blessed Sacrament from the Altar and trampling on it. The religious symbols and church decorations were completely destroyed.

It has been announced in England that a Royal Commission is to be appointed to inquire into the state of secondary education of that country. "Royal Commissions are not very often the preludes to reforms or changes of any kind," says the *Liverpool Catholic Times*, and are "convenient methods for enabling Governments to avoid dealing practically with questions which demand attention in some degree, but yet are not of pressing importance." The success of Germans in securing employment in the large cities of Great Britain is a source of anxiety, as they get positions in mercantile establishments for which "the natives sigh, but cannot fill as effectively." And now they are only awakening to the fact, that there is something wrong in the early education of Great Britain's youth. Some years ago Mr. Matthew Arnold in his report on secondary education in Germany particularly noted the fact of the facilities afforded the poor children in the higher training there, and con-

trasted it with the difficulties children of the humble classes have to undergo in Great Britain." And to quote further from the *Liverpool Times*: "The difficulties to which Mr. Arnold called attention did not always exist amongst us. In former times and more particularly before the Reformation, the primary object of grammar and other secondary schools was to place within the reach of parents who were not possessed of wealth the means of giving their children a sound education. But gradually the rights of the poor were encroached upon by the well-to-do, and in the end admission to the secondary schools was beset with such conditions that they ceased almost entirely to fulfil the object for which they were founded. We have now secondary schools which are more or less preserves for certain moneyed classes."

Some of the Toronto papers were charitable enough to insinuate that Mr. Blake had not been invited to speak in Boston for the Home Rule cause. For their benefit, we saw a letter of invitation was sent Mr. Blake last week signed by thirty-five prominent gentlemen of that city, the name of Nathan Matthews, Jr., Mayor of Boston, heading the list. Among other prominent names are those of John Conness, ex-United States Senator, Charles H. Taylor, editor of the *Boston Globe*, Edward H. Clement, editor of the *Transcript*, James Jeffrey Roche, editor of the *Pilot*, Patrick Maguire, editor of the *Republic*, and several others. Mr. Blake answered the invitation as follows: "To Hon. Nathan Matthews, Jr., Mayor; Hon. A. G. Pillsbury and other citizens of Boston—Dear Sirs: I am greatly honored by the invitation extended to me in the letter of the 5th inst., signed by so many of the most distinguished and representative citizens of Boston, and deeply touched by the manifestation of your interest in the cause with which I am, however humbly, identified, and by your too generous appreciation of my trifling service and of your kindly recollection of our meeting last year.

"It gives me hearty pleasure to accept your invitation and to agree, under your high auspices, to meet the people of Boston on the evening of Wednesday, 31st inst., and discuss with them the home rule situation at this crisis of its fate. I have the honor to remain, faithfully yours, Edward Blake."

This does not look as if the Bostonians were receiving the representative of the Home Rule Party with indifference.

There is a society in Dublin, which has not been long established, for the preservation of the Irish language,

and seems to be in a most flourishing condition. "The weekly meetings at No. 1 College Green," a Dublin correspondent of one of our American exchanges writes, "are swelling to such dimensions as will necessitate a change of quarters at an early date. The league holds a meeting here every Wednesday evening, at which papers are read in Irish, speeches are delivered in Irish by men who have spoken it from the cradle, and Irish is taught *in toto*, and it is intended to have a series of addresses delivered in that language in the Irish speaking districts throughout Ireland in order to encourage the people who yet speak the old tongue to continue to use it, and encourage their children to use it."

On Monday evening of last week the alarm was given in Chicago that the Casino building which was one end of the beautiful Peristyle, was in flames. By the time the firemen arrived, the flames had made such rapid progress that the whole building was one burning mass. The material of these beautiful structures was such that a fire seems to take the greatest delight in. It swept on the whole length of the peristyle, until it reached the great Music Hall in which Theodore Thomas had given so much delight to the music-loving visitors of the World's Fair. And on it went until it caught in its merciless grasp the large building which had held the greatest and grandest display the world had ever seen of Manufactures and Liberal Arts. "This building cost nearly two million dollars," says the *New World*, "and more lumber was used in its erection than would be manufactured in a year in the largest saw-mill in America. It contained fourteen million pounds of steel and iron, and the glass in its roof alone filled forty-eight freight cars." In the Manufacturers' building were many of the foreign exhibits, which were all packed ready to be sent away, but were delayed on account of the Custom House, these were all consumed in the flames, or destroyed by water. The German exhibit alone is said to be worth a million dollars, and the other exhibits were also very valuable. The *New World* further says: "At the time of writing, it was not known whether the great library of Catholic authors, most of which were imported from Europe, and which had been sent in response to requests of Bishop Spalding and Brother Maurelian have been saved or suffered." If the Art building were to burn the loss would be untold, as there are two thousand cases of pictures stored in it of incalculable value.

On Tuesday evening Sir Oliver Mowat, addressing the Young Men's Liberal Club of this city, devoted a portion of his speech to the P. P. A.

He claimed that, in the judgment of men who were willing to be convinced, his Government has displayed no Catholic proclivities, that the allegations of this Association are altogether unfounded nay, farther, that the official list of appointees shows that in number of appointments the Roman Catholics had less than might be deemed their share according to their proportion of population, and that the aggregate salaries of the Roman Catholic appointees are very considerably less than that proportion. That acknowledgement is poor comfort to Catholic electors, but it speaks volumes for the liberality of the great Protestant majority. They never did, and they never will, act fairly by us.

Another point touched upon by the Premier was the ecclesiastical dictation in passing laws, open voting for trustees and the supposed solid Catholic vote. On the one hand the P.P.A. insist that Catholics should have the ballot in voting for Separate School Trustees in order that they may be free from clerical influence, while, on the other hand, they are as much bound to the hierarchy with the ballot for the legislative elections.

He thereupon drifts away into religious advice of a very mild character, and thinks that "Reasoning which does not unnecessarily antagonize may do something with them, and kindness. Let us reason with them, then, as we will or can. Let us be kind and considerate in our bearing towards them. Let them see that we recognize their rights, whatever these may be."

Mayor Kennedy, in his inaugural on Monday, announced his policy in language similar to that used on the night of his election: "The Mayoralty of Toronto cannot be regarded as merely an office of honor; it is an office of heavy responsibility also. Keeping in mind this twofold character of the chief magistracy, namely, high honor and heavy responsibility, my earnest efforts will be directed towards the maintenance of the dignity of the office, and the promotion of the best interests of the whole body of the citizens, without regard to distinctions of class, creed or origin, as far as these interests are affected by our municipal government."

The Rome correspondent of the *Central News* says: "The Pope on January 8th received a deputation of Roman Aristocrats. In speaking with them, the Holy Father repudiated indignantly the suggestion that he was aware of the alleged French intrigues in Sicily. 'I was born in Italy,' he said, 'and I love my fatherland. The man that does not love his fatherland is unworthy of God's blessing.'"