The Catholic Register.

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

VOL. VIII.—No. 28. TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1900. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

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Current Topics.

Chinese War. The greatest uncertainty exists in official quarters as to the state of affairs in China. It is known that Pekin is in a state of civil war with Prince Tuan, who has seized the throne as leader of the anti foreign troops and the Boxers, and Prince Ching who has 10,000 well-trained Chinese troops under him, defending the legations. Japan will have landed 20,000 men at the end of next week, while England will disembark 10,000 native Indian soldiers, who are now on the way, at about the same time. There is a hope that the Legations may be safe, but nothing certain is known. At Tien Tsin the Boxers were driven back last Wednesday, after a fight lasting from dawn till late in the day. Non-combatants are leaving Tien-Tsin, and it may not be long before the military may be forced to follow their example. It is estimated that a million and a quarter Chinese soldiers will be the force that the allies will be obliged to face with a mere pittance of some hundred thousand if Russia brings down her force of 40,000 from the north, which seems highly improbable. England, France, and Germany have given their word to Japan that they will support her in taking a free hand with the Boxers. As a result, Japan will have some 30,000 soldiers in China in a week or two; Germany is preparing to send 30,000. England will have 15,000 there this week or early next, and Russia and France will not be behindhand, while the United States is hurrying forward troops from the Philippines. Meanwhile, the only hope for the Legations in Pekin rests on Prince Ching, the leader of the counter-revolution in the city. More than 50,000 Chinese anti-foreign troops are quartered in and about Pekin. There are only 20,000 troops in China at present writing.

The Boer War. There is a general stampeding of Boers in South Africa. Eight hundred British prisoners of Yeomanry and Derbyshires have been liberated, a good sign that the Boers are short of supplies. The retreating Boers are losing no opportunity of ambushing the British, and are taking advantage of every defile and pass. On Thursday last eighteen of the Strathcona Horse while watering their horses were attacked by one hundred Boers who had concealed themselves in the grass. Three Canadian horses were killed, but reinforcements coming up with a Maxim drove off the attacking party and emptied several saddles. On July 6 thirty-four of the Strathcona Horse withstood and finally drove off an attack of two hundred Boers. Lieut. Anderson was in command of the Canadian force. Lord Roberts' despatches are filled with praise for the gallant conduct of the Canadians. Secretary Blegriant, State Attorney Dickson, and Vaulander and Kuppewerger, members of the Free State Council, have all surrendered. Major Hutton was attacked on Sunday last by a greatly superior force of 5,000, and drove it off with heavy loss to it. The following Canadians were wounded on July 7:—Mortally: H. B. White, Waterville, N.S.; slightly: Captain Nelles, Toronto; T. H. Marriott, Winnipeg; H. Palmer, "B" Squadron R. C. D.; S. J. McGregor, Brandon; B. R. Armstrong, Canadian Artillery.

Ashanti War. The Colonial Office has received the following despatch from Colonel Willcox, dated Fumshu, Ashanti:—"Three companies of troops joined Col. Burrough's regiment at Eompoossi at the exact hour appointed, thus upsetting the plans of the enemy, who offered no resistance. Burroughs attacked Kokofu July 3, but failed to take the town. Lieut. Brown Lee, of the West Indian Regiment, and five soldiers were killed and eighty-two were wounded, including several officers slightly wounded. Proceed to Bekwai to-morrow. About 80,000 Ashantis are awaiting our approach at Kumasai."

Canada's Finances. The statement of the public debt and the revenue and expenditure just issued is probably one of the most satisfactory in the Dominion's history. It shows that the total net debt on the 30th of June was $258,128,297, as compared with $260,045,078 at the same time last year, giving a decrease of $1,916,778. As compared with May the net debt for June shows a decrease of $1,299,269. The revenue for the year indicates a most satisfactory advance compared with 1899, the increase being $4,868,442. The total for the twelve months ending June 30 was $49,034 597, as against $44,698 155 for the previous fiscal year. The chief item of increase is Customs, which shows a betterment of $3,191,009 for the whole year, and $207,951 over the month of May last. The revenue from public works and railways reveals an increase of $804,790 for the twelve months, and $75,131 for the past month. The post-office revenue for the month of June was $57,783 larger than for May. For the whole year it fell short of 1899 by $61,407, but in view of the reductions in the domestic postal rate and Imperial and interpostage, this is not to be wondered at. Comparing the revenue and expenditure on account of consolidated fund for the last fiscal year with the revenue and expenditure for 1899, the facts are that while there was an increase of $1,127,808 in the expenditure, the revenue gained by no less than $4,886,442, showing a net gain in revenue of $3,208,634. This showing might be still further improved by adding the reduction in capital expenditure, which amounted in the last fiscal year to $518,714. The total expenditure on consolidated account last year was $34,326,400 as compared with $33 698,592 in the previous twelve months. The total capital expenditure was $7,799,469, as against $8,318,181 in 1897. The largest items of capital expenditure were $5,828,908 for public works, railways and canals, and $1,372,707 on account of the South Africa contingents. The latter item, added to an expenditure of $197,324 last year, makes the total expenditure to date for the purpose of the contingents of $1,570 031.

Filipino War. The past week's scouting in Luzon resulted in eleven Americans being killed and sixteen wounded. One hundred and sixty Filipinos were killed during the week, and eight Americans who had been prisoners in the hands of the rebels were surrendered and a hundred rifles were turned over to the United States officials.

The enemy ambushed a wagon train between Indang and Naic. The Third Infantry lost nine men while on an expedition to punish the Ladrones in the delta of the Rio Grande.

In the Antogiah province a running fight of three hours' duration resulted in the killing or wounding of seventy of the enemy. There were no casualties among the Americans. The insurgents are slowly accepting the amnesty provisions. In some instances the Americans are suspending operations in order to give the rebels an opportunity to take advantage of the decree.

Manitoba Schools. In reply to Mr. La Riviere, M.P., on the question of the Manitoba Catholics' memorial to the Government, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "The memorial which has been read by my hon. friend, Mr. Laltiviere, was received by the Government some weeks ago, and the receipt of it has been acknowledged. The Government has done nothing more, because the matter is now in the hands of the Provincial authorities. It is of public notoriety that some weeks ago the Roman Catholics of the City of Winnipeg approached the civic authorities, with a view of having their schools taken over and made public schools under the Act of 1897. I am informed that these negotiations have not succeeded for the time being. I am also informed that it is yet possible that the Roman Catholics and the civic authorities of that city may come to an understanding to have their schools taken over, in the same way as some eighty schools, and, perhaps, one hundred have been taken over by the municipalities in different parts of the Province. The Roman Catholic schools, to the number of about one hundred, have been taken over by the civic authorities in the different municipalities. There is hope to believe that the same thing will be done in this case. If, after these steps have been exhausted, the Catholics do not get the relief to which they believe they are entitled, they can address themselves, as they have done before, to the local Legislature. I recall that at a banquet in the City of Montreal on December 8, 1896, Mr. Greenway, then Premier of the Province of Monitoba, speaking of the legislation of the province, stated that if at any time the legislation was found to be insufficient, if experience showed that it should be remedied, he would be prepared to consider the representations made in that behalf, and I would suppose the present Government and Legislature of Monitoba would be disposed to carry out the same promise."

Separate Schools. Bishop McEvay visited Tecumseh Sunday to lay the corner-stone of the Sisters' residence there. In the course of his remarks the Bishop took a strong stand for Separate schools. After administering confirmation in a class of sixty, the Bishop made an address to a very large congregation in St. Anne's church. In his address he said: "You, my good Catholics, are taking a step in the right direction. I hope you will unite in changing your school and then everything will be all right. There must be a Catholic school here. You cannot smuggle religion into the Public schools. I won't have it. If you do not make the change I shall build a school. It is my duty and I shall do my duty." If there is no opposition the Public school will be converted into a Separate school on January 1st next. Three teachers will be dismissed and the work will be done by Sisters from the Ursuline Convent, Chatham.

A Fenian Scare. The Kingston Whig says the Fenians are active, and there is an alleged plot to liberate the Welland Canal Dynamiters, Nolan, Walsh and Dullman. The local paper, speaking of the affair, says; "Apparently the friends of the three convicts are not satisfied to have them pinned behind Penitentiary walls, as the department of justice has been made acquainted with a plot, having for its object the forcible release of the trio of invincibles. It is not exactly known what form the attempt at rescue will take, but the use of dynamite is feared, and every precaution is being taken to prevent another outrage."

English Trade with Canada. The English trade returns for June show the following increases in Canadian imports:—Wheat, £12,000; peas, £3,000; bacon, £66,000; hams, £23,000; cheese, £189,000; fish, £20,000; pulp, £6,000; horses, £1,000. The decreases were:—Cattle, £7,000; sheep, £3,000; flour, £29,000; corn, £19,000; butter, £16,000, timber, £67,000; lumber, £224,000. In exports to Canada worsteds and iron show considerable decreases, but other lines show for the most part good increases.

New Companies. The development in mining in this province is reflected in the new companies announced in the Ontario Gazette. The Atikokan Iron Company (limited), with capital of $1,000,000, head office Fort William, will have the following provisional directors:—Ronald McLaurin Hunter, Duluth, Minn.; Peter McKellar, Fort William, and Francis A. Keefer, Port Arthur. The Wendigo Mines of Ontario (limited), capital $1,000,000, head office Toronto, has the following provisional directors:—Charles H. Goodeham, Wm. H. Garvey, Clarkson Jones, Robert K. Sproule, Alexander D. Cartwright, Toronto; Frank P. Jones, Montreal, and Matthew T. Hunter, Rat Portage. The following companies are also incorporated:—G. V. Oberholtzer Compan, Berlin, $150,000; Acetylene Manufacturing Company of London, $500,000; Delaney & Pettit Company, Toronto, $50,000; Hamilton Motor Company of Peterborough, $50,000. The White Fish River Improvement Company has increased its capital from $15,000 to $20,000.

Desecrator Sentenced. Louis Eumene, the young man who was found guilty of stealing the chalices and consecrated hosts from the church at St. Lambert, Que., was sent to the penitentiary for six years by Judge Choquet. The accused pleaded that he was innocent of the charge. In pronouncing sentence, Judge Choquet said:—"You have been found guilty of robbery in a church. Unfortunately the complaint was made under a section of the code which only imposes a maximum imprisonment of seven years, while, if made under another section, you might have been imprisoned for life. There is no doubt that you have participated in this theft, and your story about having met two men on the wharf who asked you to go and hide the chalice and hosts and afterwards go to Father Rabeau is false. The very fact that you did not denounce them makes you equally guilty with them, as you are an accomplice. I am convinced of the fact that the theft you have committed is not an ordinary one. There has not been such a theft for years in this place. You went into a church and broke open the tabernacle, the most sacred thing for a Catholic. It is a most odious crime and an outrage on society. You evidently committed the theft to extort money and relied on the sentiments of the religious authorities of St. Lambert to get the money from them. You knew that the priest was bound by oath and you speculated upon his sentiments.

One thing in your favor is that you helped the police to find the stolen property, and that is why I shall only send you to prison for six years. But I must tell you that you are not only a thief but very dangerous to society.

Yacht Fatality. The schooner yacht Idler was lost in a terrific storm sixteen miles off Cleveland, Ohio, on Saturday with six persons, all members of the family of James Corrigan, a wealthy vessel-owner of Cleveland, aboard. The dead are: Mrs. James Corrigan, wife of the owner of the yacht; Mrs. Charles Reily, aged 23, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Corrigan; Miss Jane Corrigan, aged 20 years; Miss Ida May Corrigan, aged 15 years; Miss Ettia Corrigan, aged 13, and Baby Reily, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Corrigan. Mrs. John Corrigan was the only passenger who was saved. C. H. Holmes, the captain, and Samuel Biggan, the mate, four sailors, two cooks and the ship carpenter were also saved. The yacht left Port Huron with the family of Mr. Corrigan aboard, bound for Cleveland. Mr. Corrigan was ill and left by train. At two o'clock the storm came up, and inside of five minutes the yacht sank.

Trolley Car Accident. A bad accident occurred at Tacoma, Wash. A crowded electric car left the track and plunged down a gulch fully 100 feet below the roadway. Over 100 people were on the car. They were coming from Edison, a suburb to Tacoma, to spend the day. The car was going down a steep hill at the time. It is supposed the motorman did not apply his brakes in time and near the bottom, while crossing a bridge over a gulley, it jumped the track, crashed through the railway bridge, a wooden one, and was hurled to the rocky bed of the chasm, where over 50 lives were dashed out. Everyone of the passengers were so badly injured that they are in the various hospitals. A number will die. The big car was smashed into kindling wood.

Fatalities on the Fourth. The Chicago Tribune says:—"As a result of the celebration of Independence Day with firearms, toy cannon, giant crackers and other forms of explosives, thirty persons were killed and 1,825 injured, according to reports from 125 cities. The toy pistol and the toy cannon are shown to have done as deadly execution as sometimes has been done in war by those loaded with bullets and cannister and aimed to kill. Skyrockets, anvil and powder explosions and the premature discharge of 4th of July cannon help to complete the list of mishaps. In several instances persons were killed through runaway accidents due directly to fireworks. A fire loss of $123,825 was caused by fireworks.'

India Boxers. Hon. Justice Taschereau, of the Supreme Court, who spent the winter of 1896 and 1897 travelling in India, was asked yesterday whether he thought Boxers existed in India. Mr. Justice Taschereau said: "There is undoubtedly a great anti-foreign movement in India, similar to that of the Boxers in China. Britain holds her power in India by a very slender thread. The British have taken precautions to prevent an outbreak of another mutiny. They don't give the natives artillery, which was so useful to the mutineers in 1857. Every British regiment in India goes to church armed with twenty rounds of ball cartridge. That is another result of the mutiny, as the natives in 1857 took advantage of a Sunday in Murat, when the British were in church, to break out. The British officers who are in India admit that the feeling against Britain is general among the people, but it is no cure to admit it. The feeling is not decreasing, and the situation is not improving. Three hundred million people are being kept down by a slender force, and among them are not 100,000 really loyal; Ghourkas and Sikhs are supposed to be loyal, but they are partly officered by English and there is no sympathy between the English officer and the native non-commissioned officer."

DUBLIN CASTLE.

The Famous Seat of Alien Rule in Ireland Impartially Reviewed.

Viewed from an historical, political and social standpoint the historic Castle in Dublin, the seat of British rule in Ireland, ranks among the famous establishments of the world. If its archieves, its penal law records, and other State documents could be published to the world they would reveal an appalling list of barbarous enactments which were originated and shaped in the English Parliament for the coercion and extermination of the Irish peasantry, but which Imperial edicts had to pass through the officials in Dublin Castle in order to get the finishing touch—legalized touches—before they could be made instruments of infliction and oppression to the hunted and helpless Catholic inhabitants of Ireland. Histories of British occupation and rule in Erin may be written, Blue Books may be issued, and various State papers printed and published, but the long files of secret enactments, which were designed for the quenching of the faith and the dispersion of the Celtic race, are hardly likely to ever see the light of day on this side of the judgment day. But, from the nature of the events that transpired in Ireland during the reign of the Penal Laws the minds can readily conceive what must have been the nature and substance of the precious documents handled by the lords-lieutenant and their legal advisers during the centuries when religious persecution, oppression, extermination and slaughter obtained in the land. It were well, perhaps, that such coercive and inhuman codes and writs should remain as silent as the grave, for their appearance in any age of tolerance and Christian civilization would cause a shock to the feelings of humanity, no matter of what creed, race or nationality.

The world knows that Dublin Castle has for long centuries been the Vice-Regal seat of the British power in Ireland, whence issued the executive commands, orders and prospective Acts of Parliament which meant death on the gallows or on the block to some, transportation and exile to others, and injustice to three-fourths, if not four-fifths, of the entire inhabits of the country.

The Castle, too, has always been the political headquarters of the alien landlords; inside its sympathetic walls the worst oppressors of the poor tenants always were always welcomed, aided and protected. Whether they made a pretence of residing in Ireland or not they were always regarded as the props and upholders of the English garrison in Erin, and, as such, the smile of favor and fortune was reserved for them in the notorious Dublin Castle. With such a record it was no wonder that the famous institution became an object of rank hatred to all the native peasantry and struggling tillers of the soil, whose very existence almost depended upon the smile of favor or the frown of anger bestowed on their traditional task-masters and oppressors. Of course the Castle authorities could not be justly hold responsible for all the heinous enactments entrusted to their hands for execution and fulfillment, because the originals were created and shaped in London, but it generally happened that the governing power picked out officials who were only too ready to obey their British masters in carrying out to the letter the cruelest of their laws, and, perchance, too willing to add more gall to the bitter cup sent over from England. Still it would be ungenerous and unfair to say that all the occupying viceroys of Dublin Castle were cruel rulers. In the generations long past there were such incumbents as the celebrated Lord Chesterfield, a humane ruler, who deplored the severity of the enactments put into his hands for execution, and tried to soften them by moderating their galling edges. There were also viceroys like Lord Cornwallis, who rather sympathized with the and lot of the Irish-Catholic peasantry, and, I think, was recalled for his over-leniency.

In recent years the Castle was occupied by the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, considerate, charitable and kind-hearted rulers who, not only strove to blunt the keen edges of the laws that operated harshly against the Irish peasantry, but sought to establish relief works and manufacturing industries to help the peasant girls and people of Donegal, Connaught, and all the poorer districts in Ireland.

The Countess, the noble-hearted woman that she is, pleaded the cause of the distressed Irish upon the public platforms, and, in co-operation with Mrs. Ernest Hart, of London, spent time and money in firmly organizing knitting factories and embroidering stations as a practical means of relieving distress.

Small wonder that the Countess and her noble husband on their departure from Dublin were followed by the blessings and tears of hundreds of thousands of the Irish people.

At a still later period an appointee of Mr. Gladstone's acted fairly towards all creeds and classes in Ireland. He had such instructions from Mr. Gladstone, the premier of Great Britain, and, besides, he was a fair-minded man himself who sought to rule according to the dictates of equality and justice. He appointed many Catholic magistrates throughout the country, and insisted upon the strict rule of justice to all sections of the population.

This did not please the old-time ascendancy magistrates, landed gentry and aristocrats, whose sensibilities were rudly shocked and offended, and who boycotted the Castle and literally turned their backs upon the time-honored resort of the aristocratic gentry and landlords of Ireland. There being no cohesive link of sympathy between the peasantry and aristocracy, fair play to the former meant slight and offence to the latter; hence the friction between the proverbial upholders of the Castle and its generous-minded occupant.

Those quotations are made to show that the historic Dublin Castle has not always been tenanted with viceroys of cruel and perverted nature, but rather to prove that, in all ages and among different types of humanity, men of noble impulse and feeling natures are produced, who, by their nobility of character, redeem mankind.

The noble examples quoted above do not, however, relieve the British garrison headquarters in Ireland of the stigma of cruelty, and injustice, and oppression, which has clung to it for hundreds of years, and will still cling to it as long as it stands as the embodiment of foreign dominion and oppression to the bulk of the people of Ireland. Tradition is all powerful among a sensitive and quick-witted people like the Irish, so that tales and records handed down from father to son can never be forgotten, and the blackest chapters in the history of Ireland's Catholic peasantry are indelibly interwoven with the outrageous cruelties and extortions connected with the Castle rule, so fixed in the minds and hearts of the people as never to be obliterated as long as a shred of foreign domination remains or a stone of the great political institution stands to remind present generations of the humiliations and privations their ancestors suffered at the hands of the alien rulers who held sway in the abhorred establishment.

In the event of Home Rule being conceded the objectionable Castle would have to be got rid of by some means. Re naming might be tried, as is done in case of unpopular or condemned ships; whitewashings or disinfectants might be resorted to, but, to satisfy outraged memories of the past, I think, the obnoxious walls must needs be razed to the ground, and some institution of a benevolent and directly opposite tendency raised on its ruins, otherwise the hideous form of that instrument of torture, rapine, prejudice, persecution and injustice would haunt the minds of the native Irish people and be to them a constant and painful reminder of what their ancestors suffered in defence of faith and fatherland.

WILLIAM ELLISON.

Catholic Progress.

More than four thousand members of the Roman Catholic Society of the Knights of Columbus gathered at Vespers in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, New York, during their recent convention in that city.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Alexander P. Doyle, C. S. P. Father Doyle, in speaking of the growth of the Catholic Church in this country in 100 years, said:

"In 1800 there were forty priests and a Catholic population of less than 100,000; in 1890 there were 11,000 priests and a population of 12,000,000. While this external growth indicated by numerical strength is remarkable, the internal growth indicated by evidences of maturing organization as well as by signs of increasing spirituality is none the less remarkable. The Catholic Church has been and is to-day preeminently the Church of the common people of the land. In the teeming cities she has placed her strongholds and her coaxing, restraining, uplifting and spiritualizing power among the masses of our population, is a tremendous civilizing force, inculcating reverence for authority and obedience and the sacredness of the rights of property.

"The pathway to the Catholic Church into its present position has not been without its difficulties. During the past fifty years its work has been principally the reception of the vast crowds of immigrants who have come to this land of liberty to make a home for themselves. With the sturdier classes there have come a vast horde of the depraved and the lawless. To dead these into shape, to mould the finer statute out of such rude material, to develop the higher type of civil and spiritual manhood out of such degradation requires a force stronger than a policeman's club and keener than the most cunningly devised law. It needed a Church that could command the confidence of the people.

"When the Church found the liquor traffic a ravisher of the people's hearts as well as their purse, it boldly hurled its thunderbolts against its strongholds, denouncing the saloon as a disreputable business. It has always stood for the saving of the Sunday against the assaults of irreligion and avarice. It protects the home by vigorously denouncing the divorce evil. To-day she is an intellectual and social force that is to be counted upon.

"Romanism and republicanism are not radically opposed, but are twin sisters born of the same mother and at the same time. In the history of the world each has fostered the other; both have been united against the same enemies, barbarism and slavery; both have been inspired by the same purpose, the elevation of mankind."

Over 60,000 persons received tickets for the canonizations at St. Peter's, Rome. There were more than 150,000 applications.

In the year 1899, 40,760 emigrants left Ireland, an increase of 9,995 over the year previous. The returns state that since 1851 the population of Ireland has been depleted by 8,796,131 emigrants.