

The Catholic Register.

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

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Register of the Week.

Gen. Herbert, commander of the Canadian militia, was in Montreal recently, and while there made a brief address in French to the 65th Regiment. He made a passing reference to the Pontifical Zouaves, some of whom were his auditors. He said they were justly named the crusaders of the nineteenth century, and that they had performed a religious and military duty on the battlefields of Mentana, of Monte Rotundo, and at the gates of the eternal city. He went on to advise his auditors to go forward and manifest the same military qualities that had distinguished these, as well as the hereditary devotion to the country for which the French people have always been noted. Nothing very shocking or disloyal in such remarks as these; is there? Well, a certain class of newspapers in Canada are making a great row over it, alleging that such opinions of the Zouaves are little short of rank treason in the mouth of a British officer. The whole trouble, however, is that Gen. Herbert is a devout Catholic, and his appointment did not meet with the approval of those journals which are now attacking him. He is a competent military officer, and as such, he could not be assailed. Had this not been the case, he would not have held office six months. It is somewhat humiliating, from their point of view, for such men as Major Sam Hughes, and Col. O'Brien, both M.P.'s, and also members of the "Noble 13," of anti-Catholic fame in the House of Commons, to be compelled to bow before the Catholic General in all military matters. That is the secret of this uncalled for attack on Gen. Herbert, the most efficient officer Canada has had for many years.

A cablegram dated London, May 10, says that Miss Dawson has been chosen to represent the Hastings district at the coming Wesleyan conference. She is the first woman chosen to be a member of such a body, and it is doubtful that she will be admitted. The Wesleyans are no doubt afraid that the natural penetration which is so characteristic of the sex, might bring some of their doctrines into question with unsatisfactory results.

Thursday of last week was an exciting day in the British House of Commons. The Rosebery Government was believed to be on the point of defeat, and the division which was taken later in the day showed that it was indeed wavering on the brink. The Budget bill was carried by the very slim majority of 14, the Parnellites voting with the Opposition. Mr. John J. Clancy, speaking on behalf of the Parnellites, said that they would

vote against the Government on the ground that Ireland had been shamefully treated in respect to the financial changes. According to the official estimate he said Ireland's proper share of the Imperial deficit should be £87,000, but under the budget more than that would be derived from the estate duties and income tax alone. Every other penny taken from Ireland under the spirit and beer duties would be sheer plunder, and he went on to show that Ireland's proportion under these duties would treble that paid by Great Britain. The McCarthyite members voted solidly with the Government, thus averting its overthrow.

The advisability of an immediate dissolution of the British House of Commons is being seriously discussed. The slim majority of 14 on the budget renders the Government's position a most critical one. Some of the clauses in the budget could not, it is feared, be carried in committee, and a defeat in the House would almost surely be followed by a defeat at the polls. Many of the Government's supporters think the better policy is to appeal to the country before everything is lost in the House. The McCarthyites are getting great praise for the manner in which they stood by the Ministry. The Parnellites, however, have committed themselves to a policy of opposition.

General Coxey and his army of tramps that threatened Washington May 1, have been forced to retreat from the city, the much-talked-of movement ending in a farce. The United States is remarkable for such movements, which start up like a whirlwind and blow themselves out in a puff. Coxey was nothing more nor less than a crank, and the men who followed him were of the long-eared variety, who loaf around on one leg, waiting for an opportunity to bray in the train of some master ass. Canada is happily free from that boasted liberty that gives rein to madmen.

A press despatch from Ottawa states that some of the Quebec members of Parliament are now engaged on a fresh gerrymander for that province, or at least for a portion of it. This statement was made once before and denied, but it is now asserted that there were good grounds for the rumor in the first instance, and that the bill is actually under preparation and will shortly be introduced into the Commons. Until there is something more official, the statement can scarcely be credited. Sir John Thompson is too able a politician to permit such suicidal work to go on in the party.

Mr. Coatsworth, M.P., has given notice of a very stringent amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada, de-

signed to suppress pool rooms and prohibit betting and wagering. The amendment makes it a criminal offence to hold stakes in connection with any betting transaction. As far as it goes this is very good, but it scarcely covers the pool room business, which, as I understand it, does not consist in the holding of stakes, but in the "transmission of money to be placed in a foreign country on a foreign sporting event," the pool room proprietors merely charging a commission to cover the cost of telegraphic services, and of their own time in attending to the business. These pool rooms are an entirely new form of gambling, and some law ought to be framed that will meet them directly. A case in point is soon to come up in Toronto, and the accused have confidence of success. These betting houses—for, no matter what name they may assume, they are nothing more—are very demoralizing, and should be put down. Gambling and drunkenness are kindred vices, the victims in both cases being the helpless wives and children of the sinners.

A recent census bulletin issued in Washington shows that there are at present 120,966 divorced persons in the United States. This does not give more than a faint idea of the vast number of persons who have availed themselves of the lax laws of the Republic to break the sacred bond of matrimony; for the vast majority of those who shake themselves free from one marriage do so in order that they may contract another, and therefore they come under the head of "married" in the bulletin referred to. The ease with which marriages can be made and unmade across the line is a standing reproach to that country.

That a member of the P.P.A. is not to be arrested on a criminal charge, is evidenced by the case of a Parkhill man recently taken into custody on the charge of setting fire to his house. Many men, and innocent ones at that, have been arrested on the same charge and nothing was heard about it; but this man happens to be a member of the P.P.A., and immediately a cry is raised that Protestantism is in danger, because an advanced Protestant is in jail. Such tactics are not designed to inspire respect for the P.P.A. If the order feels the loss of one of its members, whom the authorities have found it necessary to take into custody, so seriously, all we can say is that it must be in a very bad way indeed.

The Mormons are hard at work in Europe. At Sagan, Prussian Silesia, recently, many disorders arose out of the proselyting endeavors of Mormon evangelists. As a result the people have risen against them, and have taken steps to expel all Mormon

agents from the town. We have a colony of these people in our North-West, of whom little has been heard recently. It is said, however, that they are living up to the marriage laws of the country, and have renounced their former practices in that regard. They are worth watching, however, for it would appear from the above that the old system is not yet dead.

An International Conference of the Bi-metallic League was held last week at the Mansion House, London. About 400 delegates were present at the opening session, among whom were some of the most prominent financiers of the world. The object of the Bi-metallic League "is to urge upon the British Government the necessity of co-operating with other leading nations for the establishment of the free coinage of gold and silver at a fixed ratio. Among letters of regret at being unable to attend was one from Archbishop Walsh of Dublin. The Archbishop said: "He was especially glad to see the conference discuss the aspect of the case in which Ireland was most deeply concerned, namely, the ruinous effects of the present artificially created dearth of money upon husbandry and its interests. The practical failure of the recent experimental tampering with the currency of India ought surely to be sufficient to finally check any further development of the disastrous doctrinal policy which has long held ground in England."

Roman correspondents say that King Humbert is attacked with cancer of the larynx, the same as afflicted, and carried off, the late Emperor of Germany. If true, this will create considerable uneasiness in the political situation of Italy, both at home and abroad, owing to the dictatorial attitude assumed by Premier Crispi, who seems bent upon attaining supreme power for himself.

Our European exchanges refer briefly to the celebration in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, in thanksgiving for the introduction of the Beatification of Joan of Arc, which took place on the 22nd ult. The Archbishop of Paris officiated. The building was crowded with a vast congregation of ten thousand people, including Generals Mercier and Sausier, the Papal Nuncio, the Ambassadors of Austria and Russia and the leading members of Paris society. One great feature in the ceremony was the laying at the feet of the statue of Notre Dame de Paris a fac-simile of the banner carried by the Maid of Orleans in her victorious progress. It is deposited on the very spot on which, according to tradition, the mother of Joan of Arc when on November 7th, 1415, she pleaded her daughter's cause before the delegates of the Papal Court, and demanded that justice should be done to her memory.