

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 question of common school education is attracting a good deal of attention in the Province of Quebec. Education there is under the control of the council of public instruction, consisting of (1) the bishops of the Roman Catholic dioceses; (2) an equal number of Catholic laymen appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in council; (3) the same number of Protestant members appointed in the same way. The council is divided into two committees, the one consisting of the Roman Catholic members; the other of the Protestant members. Each committee has exclusive jurisdiction over its own schools. And the present discussion which originated in the Quebec Legislature is not between the two sets of schools. It is one in which Catholics themselves are alone concerned. The tone of the discussion seems to have been that, while classical education was on a fair footing, commercial studies are not satisfactory. The *Globe* quotes also *La Verite* upon the subject: "We have not to defend our system of primary schools," says *La Verite*, "because, as our readers know, it is not our ideal. But it is not just to hold this system responsible for all the regrettable features we meet. For almost half a century the State has concerned itself too intimately with our school system. The results obtained do not give satisfaction. Would it not be time to adopt a new plan? Would it not be necessary to return little by little, without too many shocks, to the true principles which govern the matter? The education of children is the concern of the family under the direction, for Catholics, of the church. Education ought to be a parochial work. If we had not spoiled our people by making them believe that they ought to rely on the State for the maintenance and direction of the school, the education of youths would to-day be a parochial work, inferior in no respect to other parochial works. Our people provide largely for the needs of worship. In this point of view our parishes leave nothing to be desired. It would be the same with elementary education if we had taught our people to consider it as their own affair, and not as the affair of the State."

How G. W. Smalley, the London correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, spends his Sundays, is nobody's business; but if one might judge by the long despatch with which he fills a couple of columns every Monday, we might suspect that his Sunday sermon or dinner did not agree with him. He crowds into one before the venom of a week, looks as if he were with the eye of jaundice, and rebolders the opposite way as the robe

force of flunkeyism. Lord Salisbury's arguments are insuperable, and Gladstonian silence is cowardice. In his last despatch the climax was reached when he considered that, there was but one safeguard, force; and one ultimate security, the reconquest of Ireland. Concerning Lord Salisbury's visit to Belfast he remarks that "there was in the reception given the premier the serious purpose, the evident readiness for all extremities rather than subjection to the tyranny of priests and political adventurers; the settled resolution not to submit to a Dublin Parliament. The more clearly this is seen the less likely is it that their enemies will persevere in the attempt to coerce them."

When America asserted its autonomy individual families left and settled in British territory—why will not the English-loving Ulsterites do the same? Perhaps G. W. S. is a U. E. L. living in London, rubbing up against aristocracy, bitter against a country seeking the same rights as his fellow-citizens enjoy in the United States, bitter against liberty when it is for others, but bitterest of all against the land and the people that are demanding Home Rule.

Politics in England display the same stubborn opposition on the one hand and the same perseverance and determination on the other. The House of Commons met after the Whitsuntide recess, and resumed the debate upon the third clause of the Home Rule Bill. An amendment forbidding the Dublin Legislature to discuss subjects on which they are not allowed to make laws, received very proper treatment from the Premier, who objected that it was useless to insert provisions which could not be enforced. This excited the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Balfour. He thought that Mr. Gladstone's conduct upon this question indicated the motive of the whole bill. But such amendments are nonsensical—they might just as well forbid the Dublin Legislature to discuss the Behring Sea Arbitration. If that body passes an Act which is beyond its powers there is ample protection. The amendment was rejected, as was also the next, that the Irish Legislature should not be empowered to grant votes in supply respecting matters upon which they were forbidden to legislate.

An amendment proposing that the right to interfere in hostilities between foreign countries be excepted from the powers of the Irish Parliament was adopted. Another amendment debarring the Dublin Legislature from permitting the use of fire-arms for military purposes was consented to by Chief-Secretary Morley.

The list of Birthday Titles by Her Majesty the Queen is published. The Canadians honored are the Hon. J.

Carling, who has been made a Knight of the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, Chief Justice Strong, who is Knighted, Hon. James Robert Gowan, LL.D., Senator, and Mr. Collingwood Schreiber, Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, are made companions of St. Michael and St. George.

The following is the reply made by the Holy Father to a large body of German pilgrims: "It is with great satisfaction that we welcome lastly the magnificent testimony of devotion from those of your fellow-citizens who, consecrating their talents to the work of the daily press, labor every day with the pen for Catholic interests and for society, which they serve most excellently. Our joy is no less to-day at the sight which you present to us, in whose persons you form a deputation for thousands of Germans. You continue this long procession of pilgrims who, from all parts of Europe, hasten to us for many months with eagerness and sentiments which cannot be misunderstood. This movement, as we have remarked on other occasions, gives our soul great joy and raises within us bright hopes for the future. In the midst of the most deplorable errors of the age it seems that a large number of souls are giving themselves up to holy doctrine. Notwithstanding the detestable attempts of those who strive to sow impiety we see that in the intelligence and heart of the people respect for divine faith is deeply rooted. Disgusted at the state of affairs they are likewise turning with haste and confidence towards the Holy Roman See of divine institution, from which especially the salvation of society can be expected."

In the death of Cardinal Zigliara the Sacred College has suffered a severe loss, although, on account of his long illness, the event was not unexpected. Thomas Zigliara was born at Bonifacio in the Island of Corsica on Oct. 29th, 1838. At the early age of fifteen he entered the novitiate of the Dominican Fathers at Rome and there continued a most brilliant career as a student. After completing his course and receiving holy orders he was made professor of philosophy and theology in the Dominican College of St. Mary *Sopra Minerva* at Rome. His eminent talent as a teacher not only crowded his lectures with students, but it attracted the attention of the Holy Father, who entrusted to him the publication of the complete works of St. Thomas and named him one of the presidents of St. Thomas Publication Society. At the consistory of May 13th, 1878, Leo XIII. appointed Father Zigliara Cardinal of the Roman Church, and in the beginning of this year named him Bishop of Frosinone.

Showing the mind of the Holy Father upon the question of possible disarmament, the *Conservatore Romano* publishes, with the approval of his Holiness, an article upon the subject. "We are perfectly convinced," it says, "that a disarmament is not only an economical necessity, but is

vested with all the character of an urgent social want. But it is not enough to think of a military disarmament—a moral and popular disarmament—must be effected. The differences that exist between Governments on the ground of political interests must be stopped, because it is before these that discord and hate arise between people not only on points of sentiment, political and national, but also on those Christian and human." The article also shows the necessity for the abolition of secret societies. It does not think that the disarmament of the army and navy is possible before the atheistic, unbelieving, Masonic congregations are put an end to. "Civil war must be suppressed before a great military war can be impeded. Internal domestic strifes, and strifes between citizens must end before it is possible to feel safe from the danger of an international war. A religious peace must also be established if a European peace is to be considered." This article foreshadows an Encyclical which the Holy Father is preparing, and which is expected to be a continuation of the one which was issued some eighteen months ago upon the labor question.

Germany continues to develop very marked and serious signs of political discord. The division in the Centrist party keeps growing, anti-Prussian feeling expresses itself more boldly, and it was even reported that the Emperor threatened to resign the commandship of the army if the Bill was not passed. This arose out of a paragraph in a semi-official paper stating that the Emperor might desire to rid himself of responsibility for the efficiency of the army in the case of the rejection of the bill. A good deal of the excitement is of a political campaign character; but the Fatherland, strong as it may be in a military view, is weak in true governmental strength and harmony.

The most depressing accounts come from Australia, where a great financial crisis threatens general ruin. Thirteen banks have suspended payment, with liabilities amounting to nearly one hundred millions of pounds. The premiers of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia had lately a conference to devise the best means of abating the present troubles and preventing their recurrence. The result of this consultation is a memorandum recommending the adoption by all the colonies of uniform banking laws. They believe that State banks are not generally needed, although they advise that banks of issue be inspected by State examiners and be restricted by such laws as are in force in the United States. There is a consoling feature on the commercial situation in Australia which is reassuring. Nothing like a panic has occurred so far, although things cannot last much longer as they are. What could have caused such heavy failures, which are unparalleled for magnitude of indebtedness and rapidity of succession, is hard to say. Unless it be general extravagance in all classes of society (such as is only too common nowadays throughout the civilized world) it is an unevolved problem how it was brought about; for reckless financing and the single example of malfeasance are not enough to account for the present troubles.