

# The Catholic Register.

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

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## Register of the Week.

News in Canada is unimportant and presents few items of general interest. The religious conferences have closed their sessions, but could not conclude without aiming a blow at the Jesuits. D. Douglas repeated at St. Catharines what he had already said at Owen Sound. Professing to care nothing personally for politics, his sole anxiety is for the political welfare of his church, to which he devotes a good deal of bigoted energy every year.

So dull are politics becoming that even Mr. Dalton McCarthy, the last rose of summer that was left blooming alone by the Conservatives, is beginning to fade. He has been making a tour in the western part of the country, but he has as yet not disturbed the party balance to any great extent.

A deplorable action is taking place in the courts at Montreal, in which a newspaper, the *Canada Revue*, is dragging the venerable Archbishop of that city before the civil tribunal, and suing his Grace for damages. Archbishop Fabre has filed the following plea: After a general denial of the allegations of the declaration except those specifically admitted, it reads that it is specially false that the defendant caused the text of the circular mentioned in the declaration to be published by the Montreal press. That the defendant, in addressing said circular to the clergy of his diocese, acted in the legitimate exercise of his functions, and within the limits of his rights and powers as a Roman Catholic Archbishop and first pastor of the diocese. That the said circular was published under circumstances that rendered it a privileged communication. That it was addressed to the Roman Catholic clergy of the diocese, and was read and published at the meetings of the faithful, submitted to the jurisdiction of the Archbishop upon the order of the latter, whose duty it is to protect his diocesans against the reading of books, periodicals and publications which he holds to contain doctrines or to have tendencies opposed to the discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and that in such matters his jurisdiction is exclusive and independent of the civil courts. That the matter contained and mentioned in the said circular was of purely religious and ecclesiastical domain. That the defendant performed his above-mentioned duty without malice and with the moderation allowed by the circumstances and the interest of his diocese. That if the plaintiff suffered damages on account of the said circular, which the defendant denies, the latter is in no way responsible therefor. The conclusions are that the action is not well founded, and should consequently be dismissed.

In the English House of Commons the Home Rule Bill is making no

greater progress than before. An amendment forbidding the Dublin Legislature to interfere in proceedings for the extradition of criminals was accepted, as was also an amendment which proposes to prevent the Irish Legislature from dealing with the question of immigration and the rights of aliens, and from exercising the right to expel aliens from the country. The position of the Government upon this latter amendment called forth strong protests from the Irish Nationalists, who, with many Liberals, voted against the Ministry, while all the Liberal Unionists and Conservatives supported it, so that the vote stood 818 to 139. But this so called Irish revolt meant nothing, as between them and Mr. Gladstone no real difference exists which is likely to promise harm to the cause.

The greatest danger lies in the health of the Grand Old Man, upon whom years and bitter political warfare are telling. He fences with his old time dexterity, and his opponents shrink back from him, fearing his power and awe-stricken at his aged form. The correspondent of the *New York Times* writes that: "The story goes that he (Mr. Gladstone) fears he will not last to witness the third reading and regards as a sacred charge the duty of piloting the bill as far as he can during his lifetime."

The reports of a very interesting ceremony at Longford in Ireland are contained in several of our old country exchanges. The Cathedral of St. Mel was solemnly consecrated on Tuesday, May 19th. There were twenty-one prelates, amongst whom were Cardinal Logue and Archbishop Flood of Trinidad. The others were: The Bishop of Meath, the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, the Bishop of Clogher, the Bishop of Elphin, the Bishop of Galway, the Bishop of Nottingham, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Down and Connor, the Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, the Bishop of Achonry, the Bishop of Derry, the Bishop of Ossory, the Bishop of Killybegs, the Bishop of Kilmore, the Bishop of Canea, the Bishop of Middlesbrough, the Coadjutor Bishop of Clonfert, the Bishop of Lime ick, and the Bishop of Dromore.

The foundation stone had been laid May 19, 1840, by the then Bishop of Longford, the Rt. Rev. Dr. O'Higgins, who in a pastoral in 1841, summarised the architectural features of the edifice. He said: "The Cathedral, which is already in a state of great forwardness, will be of the purest Grecian architecture and entirely built of the finest Portland stone, joined throughout with sheets of lead. Its front will exhibit six magnificent Ionic columns enclosing a spacious portico. The tower (nearly two hundred feet high) will be

partly composed of alternate tiers of Corinthian pillars. The interior will be divided into three aisles, will contain seven marble altars, and the roof will be supported by twenty-six lofty Ionic columns of polished variegated marble. It will be dedicated in honour of St. Mel, first Bishop of that ancient see, and nephew of St. Patrick, by whom at the very commencement of his Apostleship he was consecrated in the same parish where the Cathedral now stands."

Within five miles of this stately edifice stand the remains of the original Cathedral built in 494 by St. Mel. "It is," says the *Weekly Register*, "a small church, not more than forty feet by fifteen, a simple quadrangle with a low primitive door, cyclopean-shaped. Most of the stones of this little building are eight feet long. It is stated, and by most authorities now accepted as proved, that it was in this little church, of which the doorway alone is now perfect, that St. Brigid was professed a Nun by St. Mel, the then Bishop of Ardagh. St. Mel appears to have been at the head of a Community of Monks, for he was Abbot as well as Bishop of Ardagh. St. Mel's mother, Darerka, St. Patrick's sister, had a unique fate; she was the mother of seventeen Bishops. The religious history of Longford dates from the time of St. Idus, one of St. Patrick's disciples, who founded here an Abbey and became its first Abbot. At the beginning of the fifteenth century the Dominicans were introduced into the town by O'Ferrall, Prince of Annally, as successors to the Franciscans. In the time of Elizabeth the Monastery was suppressed and its possessions confiscated."

The Pope's Jubilee has been remarkable for the number of saints canonized. On May 14th, for the sixth time since the beginning of the jubilee celebrations, the solemn services of beatification took place. Five Dominicans, all natives of Spain, and all martyrs for the faith in the East, were raised to the beatified honors of the altar. Their names were: Peter, Martyr Sanz, titular Bishop-elect of Manricastro and Vicar-Apostolic of the Province of Fu-Kien; Francis Serrano, titular Bishop-elect of Tipasa and Vicar-Apostolic of the same province; Joachim Royo, John Alcober and Francis Diaz, missionary priests. They all received the palm in China during the last century.

It had been decided at Rome that the pilgrimages should continue till the end of June, and shall be suspended during July, August and September, after which they are to be resumed. A later circular announced that they should close with the month of May. The reason is, that fear is entertained

for the health of pilgrims coming from northern countries, the climate of Rome being very hot at this time of year. One of the latest pilgrimages was that of Malta, amongst whom were admitted a venerable old couple from the Diocese of Tours in France. The husband is 80 years of age, and his wife 71. It is the twenty-first pilgrimage they have made to the Eternal City on foot after having visited the sanctuaries of France and Italy. The Holy Father had the old couple brought to him and spoke to them words of encouragement, while they were crying with emotion.

The press of Europe comments upon the power of the Pope, as manifested through the pilgrimages, and the beauty of the spectacle offered by their great numbers and spontaneous generosity. The many allocutions delivered by the venerable Head of the Church are the most wonderful and assuring evidence of the grasp of mind and heart possessed by Leo XIII. Endowed with a prodigious memory he is alive to all that is passing in the various nations of Christendom. He speaks to his spiritual children of the wants of the Church in their own country, and imparts encouragement in the fulfilment of their duty, and never fails to produce a deep and lasting impression upon all who listen to his voice or receive his words of heavenly wisdom.

The Golden Rose is to be sent to the Queen of the Belgians. This year has been selected, as the Holy Father wished to signalize the fiftieth year since his appointment to the Nunciature at Brussels. The Queen is the daughter of the Archduke Joseph, Palatine of Hungary, where her childhood was spent in great simplicity. Maria Henriette was no more than seventeen when she was given in marriage to the heir of the Belgian throne. One of her earlier acts of devotion was the careful nursing of Leopold I. on his death-bed. She is a model wife and queen, and her favourite maxim is: "The mercy of kings is merely to be just; but the justice of queens is merely to be merciful."

A strange rumour was reported lately by the *Paris Figaro* to the effect that the well known Pere Hyacinthe was making a retreat at the monastery of the Grande Chartreuse. Unfortunately, so far from being true the deluded ex-Carmelite still hopes for the conversion of the Catholic Church. In an interview with a journalist, he says that his friends are not ignorant that he has proclaimed the necessity of reforming the Church, and that he has pursued this ideal without hatred towards Rome. Alas, poor human pride!