



CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

The offices of the TRUE WITNESS are about to be removed to 662 1/2 CRAIG ST., Montreal.

CORRECTION.

Owing to a printer's error we last week made to say that the appointment of Official Assignees was an "honorary one." This is a mistake. The paragraph should have read, "the appointment is not an honorary one."

THE HEALTH OF THE POPE.

It is odd how that old man at the Vatican disturbs the Governments of Europe just now. His movements are watched with more inquisitiveness than any monarch in Europe. Her Majesty, it is said, is anxious to secure the elevation of Cardinal Howard to the Pontifical Chair, when the Pope shall have passed away. Meanwhile we learn from the Roman correspondent of the Times, in a telegram, dated April 4th:—

"That the Pope is almost now constantly carried where, months ago, he used to walk, may indicate a serious decline in strength, but I am told that carrying is more a precaution than necessity. One of the Pope's brothers died in consequence of an accidental fall, and the fainting fits to which Pius is liable may easily result in a similar catastrophe. His Holiness may live to see his Episcopal Jubilee, but certainly never before was the anticipation of approaching danger as evident as now. To be prepared against any emergency, Cardinal Simeoni is about to move into the apartments on the upper floor of the Vatican, formerly occupied by Cardinal Antonelli, in order that the room on the lower floor, where many of the arrangements for the conclave of 1875 are still existing, may be prepared so that the election of the next Pope may be held without a moment's unnecessary delay. It is remembered that a majority of conclaves have been obliged to assemble during the summer."

AUSTRIA.

While Austria looks anxiously around at the hostile forces which are gathering near her frontier—while Hungary expresses her sympathy with Turkey, and the Slavs of the Empire proclaim for Russia—the Catholics of the Empire are looking after their own interests, and are forming a new party to defend the Church against un-Christian legislation:—

"Austria is now to have a Catholic party, the object of which will be to protect Catholic interests and prevent un-Christian legislation. The promoters have received a brief from the Holy Father approving of their object. They have also secured the aid of the Prince-Archbishop of Vienna and other prelates, and they have now issued an address to the Catholics of all the territories subject to the Austrian crown, inviting them to meet in conference in Vienna on the 10th of next month. When the aggressive tactics of the infidel faction in Austria, as elsewhere, is called to mind, it will be seen that the new party has not been formed a day too soon."

OUTRAGES IN TURKEY.

The Turks are not learning wisdom in their generation. Europe cannot tolerate persistent persecution of the Christian subjects of the Porte, and yet we hear that this persecution is rampant still. We learn from the correspondent of *Les Missions Catholiques* that:—

"In Roumelia and Anatolia there is a renewal of vexatious persecution against the Christians. It is sufficient that the person injured be a Christian in order that the aggressive Mussulman may enjoy complete impunity. The guilty are summoned by the communities—by the Patriarch—but they are set free by the Mussulman authorities. In the district of Moneh (Armenia) a Gregorian priest has been assassinated by the Mussulmans; neither the reclamations of the Christians of the district nor the repeated applications of their Patriarch to the Sublime Porte had any success in obtaining justice. Impudently by impunity, other Mussulmans of the same district brought a little dog into a church, placed him on the altar, and compelled a Gregorian priest to baptize and confirm him."

ORANGEISM IN ULSTER.

It is well known that the Catholics of Ulster are more numerous than the Protestants, and yet most of the Government appointments and positions of trust are in the hands of the Protestant minority. But Orangeism in Ulster is less powerful than it was; the Catholics are working to the front in localities in which they were sometime ago unheard of. Meanwhile we learn that:—

"Mr. Fay, the patriotic M.P., for Cavan, is soon to call the attention of the House of Commons to the injustice of continuing to appoint Orange magistrates in Ireland. Mr. Fay, the member for Cavan, is about to undertake that honourable duty. It is, indeed, most anomalous that in a country in which the vast majority of the population is Catholic, the magisterial bench should be largely occupied by men who belong to a society of which the fundamental principle is deep hatred to the Catholic religion—a society, too, whose members plotted to keep Queen Victoria from the throne because she was educated by the Duke of Sussex, the friend of Catholic Emancipation!"

BISMARCK.

Bismarck has left Berlin! So says the latest telegrams. He has in fact fallen from his high estate, and he "retires" under a cloud. When Bismarck goes, the destiny of Germany may be changed, and, of a surety, the Church will have its own again:—

"The fall of Bismarck is undoubtedly the event of the week. 'The man of blood and iron,' who humiliated Denmark, Austria and France, persecuted the Church after the relentless fashion of a Roman emperor, made his master an emperor and himself a prince, has been at last obliged to let go the reins of power. On Easter Sunday—his birthday—he answered the felicitations of William I. by a request for permission to retire from his twofold office of Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Empire, and although he may still nominally hold these posts—a supposition not at all to be taken for granted—he is, in reality no longer despot of Germany."

HOME RULE IN ALSACE AND LORRAINE.

Germany tried a few years of terrorism in Alsace and Lorraine, and discovered that that kind of rule was only calculated to widen the gap between the Government and the people. Germany then tried a little conciliation with little better effect. Now Germany is about to make a step in advance, and Home Rule for Alsace and Lorraine is likely to be an accomplished fact. A contemporary says:—

"Since the war of 1870, or rather the peace of 1871, Alsace and Lorraine had been treated by Germany somewhat after the fashion in which Ireland was treated by Cromwell. Military dictatorship has prevailed there all the time. Now the German Government have laid a bill before the Reichstag by which the whole legislative power in matters concerning Alsace and Lorraine is to be vested in the legislature of the province. The Catholic member, Herr Von Schorlemer-Alst, rather deprecates the new arrangement and says:—

"Apart from the motions of the prospect party I see in all the proposals before us nothing but a strengthening of the dictatorship in the worst direction, that is to say, by surrounding it with constitutional ornaments."

"But still, from a Home Ruler's point of view, it cannot but be applauded, calculated, as it is, to give the new provinces within a comparatively short time all that Ireland has been striving for in vain since the day when the union was established."

BIGGAR AND PARNELL.

The policy of obstruction pursued by Messrs Biggar and Parnell in the Imperial House of Commons is causing tribulation. They are snubbed and denounced and scouted at, but they fight bravely on the whole. The *Nation* says:—

"The question of the Irish policy has come very prominently to the front this week. The tactics of Messrs. Parnell and Biggar in the House of Commons on Monday night week have evoked a regular *ullalane* from the British press. *Mayfair* produced the members for Meath and Cavan have produced a deadlock in Parliament. An individual who signs himself "M.P." makes his moan about the "obstructionists" in the *Times*, and the leading journal replies by making an *ad misericordiam* appeal to Mr. Butt."

"Last week it was rumored that the Irish party had passed a vote of censure on Messrs. Parnell and Biggar. This report turned out to be without foundation. At the same time, it would appear that the majority of the Home Rule members, including Mr. Butt, disapprove of a policy of obstruction. Yesterday a resolution, dealing with this important matter, was to be considered by the Council of the League, and if that body followed the advice of the various branches of the Confederation in Great Britain, its decision must have been emphatically in favour of vigorous measures. Talking of the Home Rule party, it may be as well to note here that Captain Nolan has resigned his post as one of its 'Whips,' and has been succeeded by Lord Francis Conyngham. We are sure the latter will discharge his new duties efficiently and zealously, but he cannot hope to surpass his predecessor in either efficiency or zeal."

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

France is herself again. Her army is equal to that of Germany, and she can look her foe defiantly in the face. She cannot indeed invade Germany—that is, we fear, hopeless so long as the contest is left between them—but Germany can no longer invade France. There will be no "panics" such as we witnessed a short time ago. The *Dublin Nation* thus writes of the situation:—

"A writer in *Blackwood*, who has just completed his third article on the growth and prosperity of the French army, sums up its actual force in these words: 'France cannot attack Germany; France, if invaded, can now most certainly defend herself.' When we speak of the French army, we have to divide it into three sections—the active, the reserved, and the territorial; and it is of each of these sections that thoroughly competent judges pronounce a highly favourable opinion. So, too, of the French military material it may be asserted that it is entirely reconstructed, the fortresses and entrenched camps are almost finished; the more important of the Paris forts are completed, and most of them are armed and also garrisoned. It may be mentioned that during the last half-dozen years a

sum of one hundred and sixty millions sterling has been expended on the organizing of the army, of which seventy millions have been specially devoted to what may be called material and defences. And it is especially remarkable that the new *reglement des manoeuvres* is considered to be the most efficient in Europe. If we return, just for one moment, to the main point of interest—namely, the numerical fighting force of France—we conclude it may be stated in this way: the total active army, 1,500,000; territorial army, 500,000; forest and coast guards, 25,000; total, 1,825,000. Deduct 250,000, who, having never served at all, must be regarded as soldiers on paper; deduct 300,000 who have been drilled for six months, but who cannot be regarded as efficient; deduct further half-a-million from the accepted active army, as having been not yet worked up to a high standard; and there would still remain eight hundred thousand of perfectly reliable troops"

CUBA.

The war in Cuba drags itself slowly along. General Martinez Campos promised great things when he entered upon the Campaign, but like all his predecessors, he has so far calculated without his host. The troops cannot stand the climate, and conscripts look upon it as almost certain and inglorious death, to be ordered to Cuba. The Insurgents possess a country which has been described as almost inaccessible to Spanish soldiery, although we are slow to believe where one man, can go, that another cannot follow. However we learn from Havana that:—

"General Martinez Campos has commenced a forward movement in the central department; he is reported to be at Puerto Principe, but the bulk of his troops are not there yet. A military camp and settlement called Dominquez, on the Foocha line, caught fire and was entirely destroyed; it contained military provision warehouses, barracks for wounded men, bakeries, telegraphic station, and cavalry stables. The loss is said to be \$2,000,000. A large provision train is reported to have been captured by Maximo Gomez in the neighbourhood of Remedios."

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF NEW YORK.

The progress of the Church has been in no part of the world more noticeable than it has been of late years in America. We take the following significant account of the progress of the Church at Brooklyn from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. But as it is at Brooklyn, so it is all over the world—Catholicism is progressing everywhere:—

"Sixty years ago there was not a Catholic place of worship in this city; now there are forty-five. Sixty years ago, what few Catholics there were in Brooklyn were compelled to cross to St. Peter's Church, in Barclay Street, New York, to attend divine service. St. Peter's was the first and for a long time the only Catholic Church in New York. Brooklyn was formed into a diocese by the Holy See in the year 1853, and the Very Rev. John Loughlin, then Vicar-General of New York, was appointed Bishop. He was consecrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on October 3, 1853, by the Most Rev. Cajetan Bedini, Archbishop of Thebes, then *nuncio* from the Pope, and subsequently Cardinal. Bishop Loughlin made St. James's Church his cathedral. Watching with pride the rapid growth of his church he determined to build a cathedral which would be as fine as any on this continent, and on June 21, 1868, the corner-stone of the new building was laid. Situated on the block bounded by Gates, Lafayette, Vanderbilt, and Clermont Avenues, the church is but partly completed, work having been shut down on it nearly two years ago. Cardinal McCloskey, then archbishop, delivered an address at the laying of the corner-stone, in which he spoke of the time when a boy he crossed the East River in a small boat, to attend St. Peter's Church, New York."

"Attached to nearly all the Catholic churches are both male and female schools, some of them having nearly 2,000 scholars. Besides, the Catholics own a college, several hospitals, and orphan asylums, as well as a home for aged persons."

MR. BUTT'S LAND BILL.

In Ulster the tenant farmers have a "custom" which secures for them all the advantages of tenant right. This "custom" recognises fixity of tenure, and the right of the tenant, to sell his interest in his holding. One of the provisions of Mr. Butt's Land Bill is to legalize the Ulster custom, and to extend it to the whole of Ireland. This would simply fix the "custom" as a law, and secure the tenants in the possession of the land. Another part of Mr. Butt's Land Bill is to remedy certain defects in the Land Act of 1870; and a third part of the bill confers perpetuity of tenure. We give underneath the opinion of the *London Standard*, a paper hostile to any popular movement in Ireland, and it is encouraging to notice that there is a good chance of Mr. Butt's Land Bill becoming law at no distant date:—

"As regards the former object," says the *Standard*, "there can be no doubt that sooner or later it will be attained. If the Ulster custom is good for one province it cannot be bad for the other three. And

every one will admit that the intention of the Legislature should not be allowed to be defeated by mere defects of language. It has been ruled, for example, that if a tenant surrenders his holding to obtain a lease, he thereby forfeits his right to compensation for improvements. It is certain that this was not the intention of Parliament; and it is obvious that the ruling must operate as a bar against leases, which it ought to be our endeavour to encourage. The two first parts of Mr. Butt's bill, then seem reasonable and expedient in themselves. The third, we (says the *Ulster Examiner*) may add, it objects to. But we may further remark that there is a large number of the tenant advocates of Ireland who would be quite satisfied if the Ulster Tenant Right, which, the *Standard* indicates will sooner or later be obtained, were extended to the whole of Ireland. Without, for our own part, holding that such a move would be a complete settlement of the question in the sense of fixity of tenure, yet we must own we should think its accomplishment would be an enormous gain."

CATHOLIC MISSION AMONG THE NEGROES.

The Mission work among the negroes in the Southern States is going bravely on. We learn that in South Carolina alone.

"When, about two years ago the mission was undertaken, there were scarcely twenty colored Catholics in Charleston who could be induced to attend at church. But the statistics furnished by Father Vigneron, who is in charge of the mission, show that in the first eleven months, that is, from February, 1875, to December 31st of the same year, there were 47 infant and 43 adult baptisms; while during the year 1876 the baptisms amounted to 45 infants and 62 adults; besides, at the beginning of 1877 there were 10 persons under instruction for baptism. During the same period about 100 until then indifferent, were gathered in, instructed, made their First Communion, and are now practical Catholics. This is as yet the only mission opened in South Carolina; still the State has a negro population of some 400,000, many of whom might be brought into 'the one fold' if laborers could be supplied to work among them. The harvest is indeed great; but, alas! of laborers there are scarcely any. From the other missions (Baltimore, Upper Marlborough and Louisville) no statistics have yet reached us; but the accounts coming from them are most cheering."

THE FIRE AT THE SOUTHERN HOTEL, ST. LOUIS, MO.

It is rumored that nearly 150 lives have been lost at the burning of the Southern Hotel, St. Louis. The scenes are described as something like those that occurred at the burning of the Brooklyn Theatre. The Hotel cost \$500,000, and a few thousand more would have provided the means of escape. A contemporary is of opinion that:—

"It is evident that much of the loss of life by the burning of the Southern Hotel is due to the fact that the floors of the structure were pierced by elevator shafts. The fire originated in the basement. The roof was in flames thirty minutes afterward; and in another half hour the walls began to fall in. This was rapid work; and when we consider that the immense building was filled with people who were accustomed only to use the elevators, we must look for a large destruction of human life. As the fire began in the lowest part of the house, the smoke soon filled all the floors, and the flames rapidly mounted the flues and shafts. Panic-stricken people, chiefly strangers in the hotel, blinded by smoke, could not possibly find their way through the maze of passages with which the St. Louis caravansary, like most of its class, abounded. It is a melancholy reflection that no precaution, no good advice, can prevent many deaths when a fire breaks out in a crowded building. Nevertheless, in this case, as in numerous others, the mortality may be largely charged to faulty construction."

THE CELTIC TONGUE.

We rejoice to notice that a vigorous effort is being made in Dublin to revive the Celtic language. Dr. MacHale has already translated into Irish verse the *Melodies of Moore*, and the *Iliad of Homer*, and he has introduced the language into schools in his diocese. In Dublin the new society is progressing favorably, and the *Catholic Times* thus hails the prospect of success:—

"We hail with sincere pleasure the movement in progress to arrest the decay of the Irish language. For twenty years it has been fading with painful rapidity. Wales clings to the younger sister of the Irish Erse, and Scotland has declared that the Gaelic shall not perish. It was the language of Oliver Plunkett, and of St. Lawrence O'Toole. The Four Masters bequeathed a priceless treasure in the Erse. It enshrined the grand old Breton laws, which are even now models of ancient jurisprudence. The monk in his cell, whose learning was once the admiration of Europe, gave his homilies to posterity in the Celtic language. It was Celtic skill that carved the Tara Brooch, and Celtic genius that conceived and created the unsurpassable Book of Kells. The priest who offered up the Sacrifice at the Mass rock, in the dreadful penal era, delivered his exhortations to virtue and patience in the same speech. A few—a very few—have striven, at much sacrifice, to discharge the obligations resting on an entire people. O'Curry, O'Donovan, Petrie, Madden, MacHale, Bourke, and O'Looney, have been almost the only saviours. Some of the Young Ireland leaders studied the Erse with a passionate devotion, and Thomas Davis and Clarence Mangan, have left some beautiful translations in verse. With two distinguished ex-

ceptions, however, the modern Irish scholars have done but half their task. They have simply re-dressed the Irish literature in English garments. The exceptions are the great Archbishop of Tuam, and the erudite Canon Ulick Bourke."

PURCHASING TENANTS.

The following extract from the *Freeman* relates to an important subject:—

"A second return shows in effect the working of Part III. of the Land Act, by declaring the cases in which 'charging orders' have been made in favour of the Board of Works in respect of advances to tenants for the purchase of their holdings. It may be said at once that up to the close of 1875, 372 tenant-farmers had secured those advances, and in part or whole bought in their holdings. Of these many Ulster claims no less than 258; Munster, 61; Leitster, 43; and in Connaught only 9. Sixty-nine of the purchases covered a hundred acres or over; 75 were purchases of between 50 and 100 acres; 78 between 30 and 50 acres; and so on in lessening numbers to 43 lots under ten acres. Charging orders, however, have not been made in all cases of purchase under the Land Act; and as to other transactions the return is silent."

ST. PATRICK NOT A SCOTCHMAN.

The attempt to prove St. Patrick a Scotchman, has neither been successful nor encouraging to its supporters. During a recent visit to Scotland, Father Burke, the illustrious Dominican, gave a lecture on Christian Ireland, and is reported as follows:—

"Father Burke, the illustrious Dominican, delivered in Glasgow, under Archbishop Eyr's presidency, one of his most eloquent lectures on 'The first Easter Sunday of Christian Ireland.' In Scotland, he said, he felt as if he were addressing his countrymen at home. They were almost within sight of that holy, ancient isle from which they and their fathers had sprung. (Cheers.) Then they were in the land of Celtic people like themselves. That must be some mitigation to their exile. (Cheers.) He had chosen the first Easter Sunday of Christian Ireland as the subject of his lecture, because it recalled to Irishmen wherever they were the Easter morning that saw Patrick, the Bishop, stand upon the hill of Tara, and all Ireland grouped round him to hear for the first time in the Irish language the glorious name of Jesus Christ. (Cheers.) Fourteen hundred and forty-five years ago, when Patrick landed in Ireland for the second time, history revealed to them that Ireland had a well developed and material life, although England was but a desert land. But Ireland had no spiritual life until her Apostle came from heaven and from Rome with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Cheers.) He held that there was no man living under the sun who had such reason to be proud of himself and his people as an Irishman, for who could trace a nobler pedigree, illustrated with nobler virtues, and defaced with fewer crimes than the Irishman? With all his love for Scotland, he would not admit that St. Patrick was a Scotchman. (Cheers.) He believed the youth was dragged from his father's home from the northern coast of Brittany or France. St. Patrick was the only man who converted a whole nation and a whole people to the truth of God, whose preaching never cost him an hour's sorrow, a tear of grief, nor a drop of blood. Whatever persecutions the Irish people had to encounter in the future as in the past, they would be true to the faith, the eternal blessing of Ireland—Catholicity."

A vote of thanks to Father Burke and the chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD.

The clouds thicken in the East. War is now more than likely—it is almost certain. Where or how it will end, no one can predict. Nearly all the powers are restive, because nearly all have great interests at stake. Our latest telegrams tell us that:—

VIENNA, April 16.—The Grand Duke Nicholas reviewed the army of the Pruth yesterday. Nine new Russian army corps are en route to join the southern army.

LONDON, April 16.—England and Austria are offering mediation on the Eastern question under promise of a review of the treaty of Paris. Negotiations upon this basis may last throughout the present month.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—A telegram received at the Navy Department yesterday from the Lieut. Commander of the steamer "Gettysburg" at Constantinople, reports war imminent. The Russian Embassy was to leave Constantinople to-day.

LONDON, April 16.—A Peith despatch says it is expected war will be declared at Kischeneff, April the 21st.

VIENNA, April 16.—The Turkish ambassador here remarked vaguely that there would be no war.

VIENNA, April 16.—It is rumored that the Porte shows an inclination to offer voluntarily to cede Austria certain districts in the Herzegovina, which will increase the strategic importance of Dalmatia. Bosnian refugees now in Austrian territory number, 110,962, who cost their entertainers 300,000 florins per month; if in consequence of the insurrection, this number should be doubled, Austria might be compelled to cross the frontier with an armed force, to localize the insurrection. With this view, Count Szapary has received orders to make every preparation at the frontier for such necessity.

LONDON, April 16.—A Vienna correspondent says the Czar is expected to stay at Kischeneff for ten days. Extensive floods prevail throughout Unghehni and Jassy. The Pruth is much swollen. The railway from Unghehni to Kischeneff, on which the army depends, is in a very insecure state, and engineers apprehend great difficulties in keeping up service during the passage of the troops.