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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1894.

Calendar for the Week.

Sept. 21—St. Matthew.
22—St. Thomas.
23—St. Linus.
24—Our Lady of Mercy.
25—St. Eustachius.
26—St. Eucibus.
27—Sts. Cosmas and Damian.

Irish Affairs.

While Mr. John Dillon is advising the people of Ireland to show the House of Lords the necessity of agreeing to the Evicted Tenants Bill and the Home Rule Bill, events are going on within the ranks of the Parliamentary party which may tend either to strengthen or weaken its effectiveness. In a short time the Paris fund will be delivered into the hands of the management. Of this the committee will retain £40,000 and £20,000 will be handed over to Mr. Redmond and his followers. To this compromise Mr. Healy appears to have been opposed. A few weeks ago word came that Lord Tweedmouth had sent the treasurer his own cheque for £100, accompanied by a donation from Mr. Gladstone for a similar amount. This brought out a letter from Mr. Healy in which he takes a position that will be endorsed by people from both sides of the present divided forces.

In the first place he recognizes the immensity of Mr. Gladstone's real services to the cause of Home Rule by saying that instead of accepting money from him the party should rather have acknowledged those services in some substantial fashion. Secondly, he sounds the true note when he says that the Irish party is not in need of assistance from its English allies. If there is any one policy which above all others has been thought essential to every Irish Parliamentary representation ever since 1842, it is that of standing absolutely free of all obligation to the English parties. This was the lesson taught by Young Ireland; it was the lesson learned and practised by Mr. Parnell. It is the policy that brought Mr. Gladstone to his senses, that made Home Rule the rallying cry of the Liberals. It is of a piece with the threat of the volunteers in the last century when Grattan forced freedom from hands unwilling; with the demand that won Wellington and Peel over to Catholic Emancipation in the beginning of this century. At the time when Mr. Parnell was in quarrel with the other members of the party a writer to some of the American press referred to Mr. Healy in terms of eulogy, saying that when the time came for the whole story to be written, it would be known that Ireland owed more to him than to any other of her

representatives. He then denied that the alliance was anything more than a coalition entered into for the sole purpose so far as he and his friends were concerned of securing the triumph of measures for the relief of Ireland. His present position surely confirms his statements.

What goes to make risky any conclusions that might be drawn at this distance from the scene of action is the fact that Mr. Davitt, in whom the Irish people have always had unswerving confidence, does not agree with Mr. Healy as to the acceptance of Mr. Gladstone's cheque, sarcastically remarking that Mr. Healy ought to join Mr. Redmond, a speech which a witty contemporary thinks equivalent to consigning him to perdition. That Mr. Davitt, of all men, should have decided to throw in his lot with the English and Scotch Liberals to risk all for Ireland upon the success and favor of that party does not seem probable. O'Connell's alliance with the Whigs constitutes a warning which no one having the good of Ireland at heart can afford to overlook.

After all, politics is a matter of getting not so much what we would like as what we can. Even Mr. Parnell, who generally got what he went for, very frequently ordered a right about-face. Mr. Parnell always declined to take office under Government, and at that time no one would have defended his course more vigorously than Mr. Sexton, who has recently, it is said, accepted a position in the Education Department. It must be borne in mind that the Catholics of Ireland have practically entrusted to Mr. Sexton the task of guarding their interests in the House. Only last month he was obliged to intervene on behalf of the Christian Brothers. He is probably more familiar than any other member of the party with the facts of the country's social and economic position. Precisely what power he will be able to exercise over the school system does not appear from the despatches, but in view of the number of complaints recently made about appointments of unacceptable persons to petty offices in the gift of the Government, this move will doubtless be looked upon as a practical step toward placing the administration of the country in the hands of Irishmen, in other words, to this extent applying the principle of Home Rule, notwithstanding the dissent of the Lords.

There is considerable dissent from the position taken by the Irish leaders, notably Mr. William O'Brien and Dr. Tanner in the opposition to the House of Lords. The question arises whether it is wise for them to assume the burden of the work necessary to be done in the agitation which after all is essentially not their quarrel. Mr. O'Brien says they need not be mended nor ended, but bended, in which he goes the full length of Irish requirement. Irish claims, Irish demands for justice stand in the way of effective work by either Liberal or Conservative in other matters. If the House of Lords present a fresh complication, that is a matter for the parties to deal with. This is the stand taken by the *Irish Catholic and Nation*, a journal which advises the adherence of the

Irish party to a strictly Irish national policy.

In the meantime there are rumors that Mr. Justin McCarthy desires to withdraw from the chairmanship. There need not be too much attention given to the report as it is one which crops up regularly. Even were this to prove correct, it is probable that it would not give rise to trouble. The governing committee is composed of a number of men of great ability. It is true that occasions arise when all do not agree as to the best course of action, and this is always pointed out by their opponents as a weakness. We are not of that opinion. Where there is a dictator whose sagacity can be trusted to the extent Mr. Parnell's was, conformity is wisdom; but in the present case disagreement in detail only proves the men to be of strong individuality. On the whole it seems probable that good will be the outcome of the situation.

Advice and Application.

Of all the men who have been at one time or other leaders of the public thought of the Dominion, there is none whose speeches will so well repay careful study as will those of Mr. Blake. He spoke at all times the language not of the politician but of the statesman. His utterances were of a character which rendered them, like the deliverances of Burke, of less practical effectiveness in the day they were spoken than afterwards when men had time by study to accord their mature judgment to these marvellous displays of foresight.

One extract from a speech made by Mr. Blake has become a classic. It is this:

"I freely render to my Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, first, full religious freedom, and next their stipulated rights; but more, I say that, being strong, we ought to be what the strong should always be—generous to the weak. Measure full, heaped up and running over, is the measure to be given by the strong to the weak, and by so acting we will exemplify true Christian principles; we will exemplify true Liberal principles; we will do our best for the promotion of true Christianity and for the spread of the Gospel. Let us then remove that cause for mistrust which is provoked by the exhibition of the infernal spirit, for such I call it, which has been exhibited for the last few months."

Liberals as a whole are proud of the man who uttered these sentiments. The bulk of the Canadian people give in a tacit adherence to the principles so magnanimously expressed. But what is the essence of the practice toward which we must look for their embodiment. Take the case of the Manitoba Schools. Is the measure full, heaped up and flowing over? Far from it. No one supposes that the measures adopted four years ago were the outcome of generosity to Catholics. With all deference to the educative perfection of those outside, the Church is capable of forming opinions as to what is best for her children. It is surely not excessive generosity that asks, nay compels, Catholics who have their own schools paid for to assume pecuniary liability for other schools, shoulder a part of their debt already incurred, when those Catholics can not even use the schools. Neither is it excessive generosity to place the Catholic minority to the necessity of paying taxes for a set of schools they do not use and at the same time main-

tain their own schools. A strict morality would apply an unpleasant explosive to such an act. From the opprobrium that would attach to the confiscation of the Catholic school property, this generous majority have been saved against their intention.

It does not cover the multitude of transgressions to say that the secularization of schools is for the best. At the utmost it is only best for those who agree in it. They have no right to decide for those who do not agree. But that is detailing the application to an extent too remote from the advice.

A Catholic Congress.

The end of last month witnessed the forty-first assemblage of the Catholics of Germany in Congress to discuss the gravest affairs of state. One of the most noticeable characteristics of the gathering was the perfect unanimity between priests and people. In Germany as in Ireland the priests and people have been struggling together for their political and religious rights and this co-operation has done much to cause an approach in Germany to those conditions which have made Ireland unique even among Catholic countries. The chief work of the congress this year consisted in bringing the views of the delegates into the form of a manifesto, which deals for the most part with those questions of Labor and Capital and other social aspects which have been of late years of burning interest in the densely populated European countries. The unanimous judgment was in favor of following the course advocated by the Holy Father in his Encyclical on Labor, and of encouraging the study and spread of the views therein contained. That the Christian spirit of mutual consideration can be exercised in these matters is indicated by the fact that representatives of both Capital and Labor joined freely in the endeavor to devise means to alleviate the condition of the people. One of the most notable speeches on the labor question was made by Herr Bogen, a mill owner of Aix-la-Chapelle. Dr. Orter declared amidst loud cheers that the Centre, or Catholic party, would insist on the adjustment of the school question, the equality of Catholics and Protestants before the law, and the recall of the Jesuits. The secular press comments favorably upon the spectacle afforded by the congress, the *Berliner Tageblatt* observing: "Every difference and dissension disappeared and were completely rooted out. Truly there is in this outward harmony and consciousness of unity of the Clericals much from which we may learn lessons and much that we should imitate." Thus do Catholics in asserting their claim to justice receive the respect of even their opponents.

The *Western Watchman*, of St. Louis is just now engaged in the delectable task of publishing a list of the names of members of A.P.A. lodges. While this is going on more subscribers than ever before complain that their papers have not been delivered, and the editor has a suspicion that there are some members in the postal service.