

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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LIMERICK, "The city of the broken treaty," has given an extraordinary reception to James Egan, the liberated prisoner. The mayor of the city presided over the immense meeting with which the demonstration closed. The city was ablaze with bonfires and torchlight processions paraded with bands and banners. Limerick was ever a city of enthusiasm. It was to its town hall that Meagher, Smith O'Brien and McManus were invited when they were out on bail from the Clonmel prison in 1848. The grandest reception ever given to Parnell in the heyday of his popularity, was on the occasion of the presentation of the "liberty of the city" by the mayor and corporation of Limerick. It would seem as if that old treaty stone, outside the Thomond gate, had been the loadstone to attract the hearts that were true as steel to the cause of Ireland. "St. Mary's grey towers with their battlements brown" have flung their shadows on many an enthusiastic scene, while across the lordly Shannon the blue hills of Clare have often re-echoed the voices of patriotic fervor.

CRIME is certainly rampant in the world to-day, and no where more than upon our continent. "The Chicago Tribune has kept track," says the Catholic Review, "of the murders and the suicides that took place in the United States last year." Then a list is given and the Review adds: "And these lists are necessarily incomplete, for the news of every homicide and of every suicide is not sent over the wires. Yet the totals are appalling, and show the nation needs more moral education." In fact a mere glance at the figures should suffice to prove that the lack of Christian training, of moral influence, of higher education, is awe-inspiring.

"The number of murders committed in 1892 reached 6,792, as compared with 5,906 in 1881, 4,290 in 1890 and 3,567 in 1889. The number of suicides in 1892 was 3,860, as compared with 3,331 in 1891, 2,640 in 1890 and 2,224 in 1889. The causes for which the murders were done are classified as follows: Quarrels, 2,937; Liquor, 748; Unknown, 769; Jealousy, 513; By highwaymen, 376; Infanticide, 314; Resisting arrest, 240; Highwaymen killed, 148; Self-defense, 81; Insanity, 111; Outrages, 28; Strikes, 82; Riots, 6."

THE following is a most interesting piece of information coming from that Eternal city of historic relics and sacred memories.

"A discovery has been made in the Church of St. Lorenzo, in Panisperna, which is being restored by the Pope in remembrance of his episcopal consecration there fifty years ago. This find was made the other day in the second chapel to the left, which is dedicated to St. Bridget. Inside the altar which had been taken to pieces was found a marble pagan sarcophagus. It is decorated with bas-reliefs on the sides, but of not very good sculpture. Signor Marucchi, the well-known archaeologist, has decided that it dates from about the end of the second century. The bas-relief on the front of it represents four little figures, the symbols of the four seasons. In the middle is sculptured a half-open door representing the ingress to the sepulchre. On the cornice, running the length of the sarcophagus, are emblems of the worship of Bacchus. This sarcophagus it seems was taken from some pagan tomb in the Campagna many years ago, and was simply an ornament in the garden of the nuns of San Lorenzo. In the year 1818, however, Mgr. Menochio, since dead, put into it some relics in a round wooden box with his name and the date inscribed on it. He then placed the sarcophagus in the chapel of St. Bridget and the altar was built over it. The inscription on the box further says that the relics therein enclosed (part of a shoulder-blade and other smaller bones) belong to the celebrated St. Bridget. This is confirmed in a document that has been found in the

archives of the sacristy of the church. This illustrious woman, who in Rome was famous for her sanctity, used often to visit the Church of San Lorenzo, in Panisperna, as it seems she had great veneration for the saint. In the fourth volume of the Bollandists, where is to be found a long and important account of her life, one reads that she died in Rome in October, 1373, and in a small house near the Church of San Lorenzo. Her body afterwards was taken to Sweden and placed in the celebrated monastery of Valena. This is also mentioned in the decree of canonization granted by Pope Boniface IX, and it further says that several bones of the sacred body were in Rome and in the Church of San Lorenzo, in Panisperna. It seems remarkable that these relics of this saint should have been found (who was devoted even to enthusiasm to the Church and to the Papacy) at a time when preparations are being made to celebrate Leo XIII's jubilee.

THE Liverpool Catholic Times, always so well informed and so attractively written, has a special column of short editorials in which the reader may find nearly every important subject of the week discussed and to the point. In referring to the recent assembly of enthusiasts and excursionists the Times says:

"It is announced that the gentlemen who assembled at Grindewald last summer and demonstrated anew the impossibility of Protestants forming one religious body, are going on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. If the expedition had no other object, it would not be open to criticism; but it is said that the pilgrims will visit, not Rome only, as well as the Holy Land, but Athens, Egypt, and the Pyramids. This suggests a holiday excursion, rather than a true pilgrimage; for it is difficult to see how a journey to the Pyramids can satisfy devotional longings, or stimulate religious fervour. The idea of the promoters seems to be that the travellers should be enabled to study Christianity as it exists under the influence of the Roman Catholic, Greek, and Coptic creeds. But this again would mean a philosophical investigation which could not possibly be made in the space of a few days. Possibly the 'pilgrims' are under the impression that their different forms of faith are not yet sufficiently varied, and that they might be improved by a tincture of Latin, Greek, and Coptic Christianity. In this they may be right; but we fail to see how anything can be gained by a holiday scamper through the East. The result will probably be that the 'pilgrims' will only be confirmed in their impression that any form of Christianity, so long as it is not Catholic, is tolerable, and that is best which leaves its adherents at perfect liberty to believe whatever they choose."

NINETY TWO.

Rev. Father O'Connell's Birthday.

On the evening of the 2nd inst., a very enjoyable event occurred in the dining-room of the lady and gentleman boarders, connected with the Grey Nunnery. One of the boarders, the Revd. Father O'Connell had just completed his ninety-second year. Sixty-three of them having passed since he received Ordination at the hands of Monseigneur Lartigue, first Bishop of Montreal. Hale, hearty, erect in figure, blest with a genial happy disposition, one would place him among the "seventies," instead of "nineties." Many of his friends congratulated him on the attainment of such a golden age. A magnificent four-storied frosted cake, tastefully decorated with flowers bearing amidst the foliage "92" in large gleaming figures, was placed on the Revd. Father's table, the gift of some of the Sisters, who had been his penitents in the far-off past of their happy childhood, and who remember him with reverence as priest and director of Notre Dame de Bonsecours, working conjoining as fellow labourer, with the well remembered and beloved Father Phelan, between old Bonsecours and the Recollect Church. His very presence among the present generation, may be regarded as a blessing, while to the few, who now remain, — and who knew him as their "Soggarth aroon," — he will be indeed "The Link between the past and the present."

Up to the past three weeks, he has said his daily Mass, but his sight, becom-

ing dim; and his friends fearing on account of his great age, that he may overstrain the delicate visual organ, — have counselled, a perfect rest, to the eyes.

CONTRIBUTOR.

MONTREAL, Feb. 6th 1893.

ROMAN NEWS.

(Gleaned from different sources.)

Mgr. Canano, Bishop of Isernia, has been appointed Archbishop of Aquila, and the vicar of Ascoli Satiano has been appointed Bishop of Isernia.

Mgr. Trazzuta, a domestic prelate of the Holy See, and formerly a senator of Uruguay, has been appointed representative of that republic to the Holy See.

The *Ezequatur* is granted to the Bishops of Ventimiglia and Lacedonia. The *Placet* for promotion is given to Father Biraghi, who becomes chief of the Chapter of Milan.

The pilgrimage from Metz, which was to have arrived at Rome this week, has been deferred until the month of April on account of the severity of the weather.

Mgr. Tripepi, the illustrious historiographer of the Papacy, has offered the Holy Father eight splendidly-bound volumes containing his most recent studies on the lives and labours of the Pontiffs.

The Catholics of Italy are petitioning in large numbers against the bill for giving the civil marriage rite precedence over the religious ceremony. The measure was rejected by the Senate in 1880, when a hundred thousand Catholics petitioned against it.

An Indian Prince, the Maharajah of Gwalior, has sent the Holy Father as jubilee presents two magnificent red shawls, embroidered in gold. The presents will be tendered to His Holiness by the prince's aide-de-camp, Mr. Telesse, who is now in Italy.

The Holy Father has lately received in audience Cardinal di Rende, Archbishop of Benevento, and the Bishops-elect of Vicenza, Ternoli, Pontremoli, Telesse, and Cerreto, also the Bishop of Fiesole and the titular Bishop of Epifania.

At the instance of the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, the Holy See has erected the Prefecture Apostolic of British Honduras into a Vicariate Apostolic. Father Salvador Di Pietro, who was Prefect Apostolic, has been appointed Vicar Apostolic with episcopal dignity.

Canon di Favendier has brought out and forwarded to His Holiness on the occasion of his Jubilee a book entitled, "Jubilee Gold: Crowns Turned Towards the Tiara." It is accompanied by a hymn to the Pope by Signor Krassunski. Leo XIII. is very much pleased with it, and has sent a silver medal to the donor.

Amongst other objects that the Pope is sending to the World's Fair at Chicago are four large Mosaic pictures executed in the celebrated Mosaic works of the Vatican. They represent the "Prophet Isaiah," "Theology," a copy of the celebrated picture by Raphael, St. Peter's, and the Roman Forum.

The French Government has decided to send to Rome a complete collection of the engravings of the masterpieces of the Louvre, with the following inscription: "To His Holiness Leo XIII., the French Academy and the French School of Archaeology." This is amongst the most valuable presentations that will be made.

It is reported that Queen Victoria has addressed a letter to the Pope thanking him for the elevation to the Cardinalate of Archbishop Vaughan. We know not how true this is, but if it be true it is very much to the credit of Her Majesty's good sense.

An old sarcophagus containing the remains of St. Bridget has been discovered under the altar dedicated to the saint in the Church of St. Lorenzo in Panisperna during the work of restoration actually going on in that church. It is thought that they have remained here ever since the death of St. Bridget in 525, and were probably placed in the sarcophagus when the church was restored in 1818.

The vicar of the Chapter of Viterbo has sent to the Pope an address recalling to His Holiness the eight years he passed in the college of that city. The Holy Father has benevolently answered, dwelling with pleasure on the days of his youth, and acknowledging the homage from his ancient college with intense gratitude.

IRISH NEWS.

Mr. Isaac Molloy, M. A., has been elected chairman of the Kingstown Township Commissioners.

Mayor William N. Parris, of Roxborough, Longhrea, has been appointed Deputy-Lieutenant for County Galway.

The death occurred on the 8th ult., at Newtownbutler, of the Rev. Hugh Canon Ward, P. P.

The death occurred on Jan. 9, of Sister Mary Alphonsus McLaughlin, of St. Louis' Convent, Middletown, Armagh. She was on the thirty-second year of her age and the fifteenth of her religious life.

Archbishop McEvilly ordained the Revs. Jeremiah O'Toole, Patrick Loftus, Patrick Coyne and Michael Hughes to the priesthood at the Cathedral, Tuam, on Sunday, Jan. 8.

Sergeant William Brennan, late of the D Division of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, has been promoted to the rank and pay of Station Sergeant and transferred to the E Division.

These gentlemen have been chosen members of the board of governors of the Clare Lunatic Asylum: John Calligan, J.P.; Wm. Kenny, J.P.; Patrick O'Brien, C. L. Ryne, and Hugh Tarpey, J.P. The board now numbers nine Protestants and nine Catholics.

There was no criminal case for trial at the Hillary Quarter Sessions Court in Carlow, in recognition of which R. B. Kane, County Court Judge, was given a pair of white gloves by E. L. Jameson, sub-sheriff. At the previous session there had been only one trivial criminal case for trial.

Sister Mary Stanislaus, of the Sacred Heart Convent of Marcy, Conakilly, died in Jan. 3. She was known in the world as Miss Sarah O'Brien, and was the daughter of the late Jeremiah, D. O'Brien, of Dublin. She was fifty years old, and was in the thirty-third year of her religious life.

The following are the new members of the Board of the Mayo Lunatic Asylum for 1893: — Bishop John Conway, D.D., of Ballina; James Faulkner, of Castlebar; C. A. Gallagher, J.P., of Banree, Ballina; Bishop James O'Sullivan, D.D., of Tuam; and Joseph Pratt, of Enniscove, Crossmolina.

Mr. David Hennessey, a cabinet-maker and upholsterer, of Newry, died on Jan. 9, at the ripe old age of 100 years. He went to Newry from Scotland with his father in 1807. Deceased retained all his faculties up to the last, although confined to his house for the last sixteen months.

Her many friends will regret to learn of the death, which occurred on Dec. 29, of Mrs. Catherine Lynch, of Carrick-on-Suir, wife of Mr. J. Lynch, of Kichham Street. She was seventy-three years old, and was the daughter of the late Mr. Richard Doherty, of Portlaw.

Owing to the depression in the cattle trade and the low prices obtained for farm produce this season, the tenants on the Tuckvallen estate, Stewartston, petitioned their landlord, Mr. Keough, for a reduction of this year's rent, which they are unable to pay. For a reply he processed every tenant on the estate for the rent in full.

The board of governors of the Kilkenny District Lunatic Asylum consists of twenty members, six of whom are new appointments, viz.: Messrs. Nicholas Grace, of Gaultstown; Thomas Shelly, of Callan; Edward Walsh, of Knocktopher; Dr. James White, of Kilkenny; Thomas White, of Castlecomer, and the Mayor of Kilkenny. They are all Catholics.

The Chief Secretary has appointed five Catholics in room of five Unionists, as governors of the County Down Lunatic Asylum. The new governors are: The Rev. Richard Marner, D.D., Messrs. Michael McCartan, J.P., Richard McNabb, George Murney, J.P., and James Murray.

The traders of Newry have established steam communication with Dublin by sea. The steamer has been chartered to run on alternate days to carry merchandise to and from the metropolis. This step was taken at a meeting of the traders to the town recently held to consider the revised railway tariffs so far as they affected them. The Dundalk Chamber of Commerce are threatening to take a similar course, and, like the Fawry body, to continue the running of the steamers until the railway tolls are brought back to the old figure.