# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MAYNOOTH UNION

cal graduates of old Maynooth organ- out the evolution of the laborer, from ized what is known as the "Maynooth | slave to serf, then to tenant or work-Union," and the 4th annual assemb- man, till we see what we see all over ly of the members of that body took | the world to-day. Father Finlay place at the end of June last. The | touched on the effect of the French long columns to a report of the pro- boring classes, on the rise of machinceedings and an appreciation of the ery, on the remedies proposed by the institution. We would gladly, had we space, reproduce the whole account of the workingman, on other suggested that important and impressive event; remedies, profit-sharing, as in M but we are obliged to confine our- Harmel's factories, and co-operation selves to a few extracts, and still fewer comments.

We have no need to tell our readers that Maynooth has been, for long sures which the lecturer wished to regenerations, the training school of commend. As a result of the little the Irish priesthood, and any body of which its former students that might be convened could not but constitute the "Freeman" :--

"The objects of the Union, accordlong separated, might be brought together; where the generation of ecclesiastics that is passing away should ling Anglo-Saxon race." mingle with those in their prime as well as with those who are just beginning to appear, and all should iod of life to which they have attained, when worldly thoughts and cares might be broken off for a little while, the brightest and happiest period of one's life.

"The Union was intended also as a centre of education-on a small scale it is true; but still not without importance. It is a portion of the rules that each meeting opens with a High Mass, and it was hoped that, as in the College, this ceremony would be conducted, both as to ritual and music, in strict accordance with ecclesiastical ideals and requirements, it could not fail to make an impression for good on missionary priests, who, by the very nature of their office, are removed, as a rule, from personal experience of what may be done in this respect. Anyone can supply himself with theory out of a book; it is by seeing and hearing that vivid impresgions are made. This is true in art. above all things; and ritual and music are some of the highest forms of art."

Then comes a statement, in general, s the proceedings prior to an elaborate report of the sermons, addresses and various papers read.

"After the High Mass come the academic proceedings, and here it was good that difficulties would be explained and some light might be given; that the students would share the fruits of their reflections with neighbors who might not have had equalapportunities, and might receive from others equally blessed with themselves, either pleasant instruction or the comforting hope of progress in the near or distant future. And it was suggested that there should be free speech for all-a freedom limited only by the bounds of Christian courtesy. of true motherly love and filial re-

We will have to skip, very reluctantly, the column of explanations and descriptions that follows, and come to a synopsis of some of the speeches and papers. Even outside Maynooth circles these cannot fail to interest deeply the Catholic clergy of the world-especially the Irish priests. at home and abroad. The writer says:

verence for the authority of the

Church."

"A most interesting item of the day's proceedings took place immediately before the first paper was read. Father Nagle, one of the Dunboyne students, rose to thank the Union, in the name of the students, for the gift of books in English literature made last year to the Divisional libraries. I hope the address is fully reported; to the present writer it was the most touching thing he ever heard at any meeting of the Union. In the words of Father Nagle: "If the members of the Union had realized how crying was the need they contributed to relieve. and how eager was the students' desire to have it removed, they would not wonder at our being effusive in our thanks. . . . . . As the result of the donation a great need has been partially, supplied; and it would be difficult to over-estimate the benefits that follow to the Irish priesthood of the future." The need is but "partially" removed as yet; may the day soon dawn when it will completely disap-

Then comes a report that shows the great latitude permitted in the broaching or the discussion of subjects :---

"Next came Father Finlay's paper

Some four years ago the ecclesiasti- | the Church." Its scope was to point "Weekly Freeman" devotes eight Revolution on the condition of the la-Socialists for the evils thus caused to as developed in Italy, Germany, Belgium, England, and here at home. We were thus brought to the precise meahas accomplished 2400.000

been placed in the pockets one of the most enlightened, sacred of the Irish workmen; English capitaland patriotic assemblies in the land, lists have cast grudging eyes on this In order to better understand the source of profit; if we do not take up "Union," we take the following from the movement they will. Nay, they are already doing it. And the result must be a total loss o' our industrial ing to the intention of its founders, independence, without which it is were principally two. It was meant, vain to struggle over the preservaperhaps, primarily, as a centre of so- tion of Irish Nationality. If we lose cial intercourse, where old friends, the direction of our own industries we shall never more be anything but veriest drudges, working for the cul-

"Father Finlay's paper called forth three very serious criticisms- from communicate to one another some of the Bishop of Clonfert, the Bishop of the spirit that characterises the per- Raphoe, and Cunon O'Mahony. The points made were chiefly these. The co-operative movement distracts the nation just now from what should be and one might grow young again, its principal aim, the distribution of were it but for half a day, by revisit- rich tracts of land among the inhabing the scenes in which were passed itants of congested districts, and the rooting of the farmers in the soil by a measure of compulsory sale of the landlord's interest. Moreover, it is to be feared that increased profits on the farmers' part would be made the occasion of varying the rent; and, further, it was argued that the cooperative purchase of supplies meant a serious loss to the local shopkeepers, a loss which we could not contemplate unmoved.

"Father Delany, S.J., and later Fa-

ther Finlay himself, replied to those criticisms. Father Finlay was understood to say that the Co-operative Society have made up their minds that co-operative stores could not be made a success. They had failed in England, and must fail here as well-As for the claims of the congested distriets and land purchase generally,he not unfairly argued that the leaders of his movement were quite in symparty with the endeavors of others who are devoting themselves to these questions. Why should not both movements on on simultaneously. As for the pent difficulty. Father Finlay Showed that not in it, but the remuching in prices, as the real source of the tenant's distress. It is easy to pay rent when produce is plentiful and prices high. This is the aim of the leaders of the co-operative movement Moreover, products thus obtained are due to farmers' own skill and capital, and have a right in law to be exempted from rent. He did not add, what seems to the present writer not unreasonable, that landlords have a right that the opportunities supplied by land should not be neglected. If. therefore, the co-operative movement is a reasonable means of raising the value of land in Ireland - reasonable within the capacity of Irish tenants- it might seem not so very unjust for a landlord to complain that he derived no benefit from this source of fertility. He has a right to complain of a tenant who spends his time in idleness. May we all not be idle in Ireland, if we do not adopt the means of production and of exchange which have been so efficacious in other coun-

At the afternoon session an experiment was tried for the first time at these meetings, the audience dividing itself into three sections, at each of which important papers were read. The present writer remained in the Aula Maxima to hear Dr. O'Riordan and Father Yorke, so that he could testify to, or discuss what took place at the other sections, when Dr. Coghlan read his paper on the "Origin of Man's Body," and Father R. Walsh, O.P., his paper on "The Universality of the Deluge."

"Dr. O'Riordan's paper calls for no comment, though it promises to be the source of a powerful organization. It resulted in the formation of the nucleus of a committee for the promotion of a body which might do for Ireland what has been done for England by the Catholic Truth Society. It appeared to be the unanimous feeling of the audience that the new body should be independent of any such organization already existing; but that we should be able to make liberal use, by purchase, of the publications of these societies, supplying from our own resources material and intellectour local wants. The new society is as yet but in the very first stage of its existence. It hids fair to grow and flourish and cover the land. May it go on and prosper."

"Next came Father Yorke, on "Certain Aspects of Clerical Education, The primary idea of the paper was, that, whereas, the Irish people have been the most important factor in modern times for the propagation of the faith, their influence has been exerted almost entirely by weight of numbers and the money obey have contributed so liberally for the purpose of the Church. In the intellectual order the influence of our voice has been very small. Why? The Penal laws have had much to do with the marter also the want of a Cathonic University; but it seemed to the speaker that there must be something more-something connected with the system, according to which the education of priests is conducted, not in Ardand only, but in all Diglish-speaking

"Father Yorke then went on to say

that Dr. O'Riordan had anthemate much of what he had got to discuss Some things still remain to be said He referred to the want of communed higher education in the Ascient 95 well as the English Classics, He advocated a course of instruction in the method of communicating theological and philosophical science. He did not wish to be understood as reterring to a course of sacred elequence; but rather to an exposition of the ways and means adopted by the great writers on these subjects in the English latiguage. In this connection he gave, a glowing description of the beauty of theological science and its influence in forming the world. He would foster the system of specialization, so that all men should be forced through the same theological groove- a system, which has already to some extent been adopted, and applied by the trustees. The lecture was full of wonderful flashes of eloquence, which were received with rounds of anplause. It wound up with a touching reference to the past of Ireland and its future prospects, and to the lotwith which the Irish abroad 1990s across the ocean to their kindred to Ireland for aid in the struggle with the enemies of both.

"In criticising the paper, targette Mahony expressed has opinion that as regards both Englishliterature and specialization, so much has need the c of recent years in the tellege that the lecturer gave expression to tears that are at present without techniques None would be more thankful fer to development than Father Yorke . . . one would be more shown as a hopes that the new spirit track provement there has been no barre but if must also be admirted. much remains also to be once

What we have thus quoted to exsuffice to give an idea of the Two. proceedings - which are to est month-as well as of the scope are methods, and mamerse majoritores the Maynooth Union.

When winter comes the vital forces of nature are low, and the tree stands like



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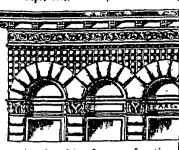
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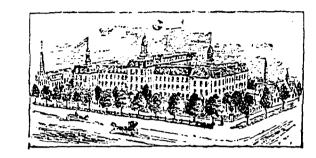
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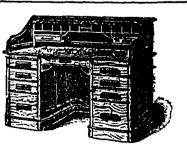
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