

Blessing of an Abbot.

The recent benediction of the abbot of Buckfast Abbey, England, was a memorable ceremony. It recalled the previous ceremony of which the old tower of this abbey was a witness.

So great was the concourse that the stalls of the choir were given up by the monks to their ecclesiastical visitors, the community betaking themselves to the organ gallery.

At eleven, Tierce was sung in choir, and Bishop Graham commenced the Pontifical Mass. Since Bishop Vesey of Exeter (to whose spiritual jurisdiction over the Western counties, though not to the tide of his see, the Bishop of Plymouth has succeeded) gave the abbatial benediction to Abbot John Rede, His Lordship is the first to invest and enthrone an abbot of Buckfast.

The sermon was preached after the Gospel by the Right Rev. Mgr. Croke Robinson. Looking on the great event of the day as a landmark in the history of Catholic England and a signal evidence of the indestructibility of the Catholic Church, the preacher passed in brief review the succession of her triumphs following on periods of persecution, as at the conversion of Constantine, and the epochs of St. Gregory the Great, Charlemagne, and the close of the Western Schism.

day. The highest advance is marked by this day's festival. Glastonbury, Fountains, Furness, and Rievaulx, still lie in desolation, but Buckfast was dead and had risen again; was lost and is found. To-day is the anniversary of that day of sadness when the old monastic community, 365 years ago, came to an end, by the instrumentality of a traitor abbot; and the sub-deacon at the altar had just chanted the words of St. Peter, announcing to the infant Church that they were assembled to appoint one to take the traitor's place.

Bishop Bilsborrow.

The death of the Right Rev. Dr. Bilsborrow, Bishop of Salford, England, is announced. The cause of his death was heart failure. The late Bishop Bilsborrow was an active and tireless worker and preacher, though not of robust constitution. He was born at Singleton Lodge, near Kirkham, in the Fylde district of Lancashire, on March 30th, 1836.

Laetare Medallist.

The Hon. Charles J. Bonaparte, lawyer and philanthropist, of Baltimore, Maryland, is this year the recipient of a gift that carries with it the highest honor which Notre Dame University can confer. This unique expression of esteem is known as the Laetare Medal, and is bestowed annually on some lay Catholic who has rendered special service to religion and humanity.

The Catholic Church uses every means to foster and reward virtue. A long line of illustrious men and women who have lived, fought and died in her defence have their names enshrined in her ritual, and she points to their lives as examples for her living children to follow. Even in this life such servants are not without tokens of her esteem. On her distinguished clerics she is wont to confer marked appreciation for their sanctity, learning, zeal or sacrifice in the cause of religion. Nor does she fail to give public recognition to her lay members whom she seeks to reward in proportion to their merit.

The granting of the Laetare Medal by the trustees of Notre Dame University was inspired, no doubt, by this practice of the Sovereign Pontiffs. For the last twenty years it has been most judiciously awarded, and has always been regarded by the Catholic laity as the highest appreciation of religious and civic worth. The medal receives its name from the day on which it is bestowed, Laetare Sunday, when the Church, conscious of the weakness of her children who have passed through the first half of the penitential season, cheers them with a foregleam of the Resurrection and urges them to persevere on their journey.

Charles J. Bonaparte, the second son of Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte and Susan May Williams, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, June 9th, 1851. Besides the degrees conferred by Harvard, he is a Doctor of Laws of St. Mary's College and Harvard College. In September, 1874, he was admitted to the Bar of Maryland in the Circuit Court of Howard County. He was married September 1, 1875, to Ellen Channing Day, daughter of Thomas Day of Hartford, Connecticut, and has since resided in Baltimore city where he has practised his profession.

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THE STAGE IRISHMAN.

members of the Philo Celtic Society, and furthermore it seems that one of them took no part in the protest, but had simply offered his card to one of the gentlemen who was being ejected, thereby showing a willingness to act in his behalf if necessary as a witness to the ruffianly handling which he was subjected to.

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PARIS APPROVES THE RAIN COAT. The vogue of the Rain Coat has extended to Paris. Not only has the fashionable element approved the garment, but has adopted the English name, Raincoat, as well.

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Christian Names.

An Australian Bishop has made a protest against the apparent unpopularity into which the good old names of Patrick and Bridget have fallen in those colonies. He says he is tired of hearing Irish fathers and mothers asking that their children should be christened "Montmorency," "Glady's," "Clarence" or "Maud."

PUBLIC SPIRIT.

The Holy Name Societies of Brooklyn have adopted resolutions requesting Commissioner Woodbury of the Street Cleaning Department, to give the men under him who work on Sundays an opportunity to attend Mass.

A MEMORIAL.

The statue to the memory of Father Murphy and his followers who fell in the battle of Arklow on June 9, 1798, is now complete, and the committee has fixed Sunday, June 28, next, for the unveiling. The statue is a very fine specimen of Dublin art, and reflects great credit on all concerned.

Ireland's Tribute to Late Sir Charles Gavan Du

NEVER PERHAPS has there been such an demonstration of the pulse indicated than by the public funeral of late Sir Charles Gavan Du. that at many times been given expression to gatherings of citizens on the occasion of the death of notable men, but it may fairly be said that no exaggeration of the tributes to the dead, was in many respects beyond that which our experience can suggest. The close on sixty years elapsed since the demise of the Young Ireland yesterday's sad yet glorious some event of the kind to public observation the ring revival of the spirit around which the day concentrated itself. the personality of the dead whose funeral was the last this new-born year, may be but a name—a thing which fortuitous circumstances afford of old time experience been by time shadowed by of years. Yet still how wonderful is the all-survival of nationality, and to-day ment that breathed through old years to '48' found effective expression in the to the memory of Duffy. again, it may be said that the name and work of Gavan were but as histories, the who gathered around his membered this one fact, a tribute honoring a man who in was one of the best and most of Ireland's sons. To those who either joined in, the wonderful tribute to the yesterday, strangely thoughts must have occurred cortege passed the very men of whom he was the friend—Smith O'Brien, O'Connell, Sir John Gray, the Mathew. Most truly he said of yesterday's demonstration that it was not political, that it may be added that National. In recent years—do say, in the years that do not beyond the Farnell funeral of anniversary which followed it—proach to such a gathering we deal with now can well be The funeral was remarkable alone for the singular impression of itself as a funeral composed those who followed the remains the grave, but it was also able because of the almost equal attention it attracted, the tide who lined the city streets passed, and the extraordinary once paid to the day by the of the metropolis. No breath cord arose in any phase of the function, and surely no tribute could well be said to to any man than the fact that regardless of creed or class, or or sections of differences, he constituted, the funeral form epoch-making incident to be memorable in the annals of To the city man its importance have been suggestive. Hundred people came from the country in the celebration of respect and or. Although half-past one was fixed as the hour at which procession was to leave St. Green, such was the mass of ers, so great were the const elements of the contingents, it was long after that time when more onwards was made. Rept alive in a very great degree said to have been the gate North, South, East, and West land formed worthy representation and when the great body moved towards Glasnevin the route practically packed with people paid at least the tribute of sympathy. A more striking it would have been absolutely able to have found than when hearse containing the remains, which was literally covered wreaths of flowers, and the "48," reached the foot of street, and came into the scene great and famous gathering of Volunteers. The picture was as historical as its more than prototype. All along Dame the thoroughfares were filled,