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Notes.

MICHAEL DAVITT asks for aid, and in a most tender and dignified way says, it is humiliating and degrading the aid given; he points to a sensible way of assisting the poor people in averting what is certainly a very severe period—that is, to sow cabbage, broccoli, etc., where potatoes failed.

The receipts from the first half of the series of the Passion Play at Ober Ammergau amount to 250,000 marks, covering the entire cost of the production, with a fair profit. The second series will thus be fair profit. It is an unprecedented season. Doubtless the money will be devoted to pious purposes. But suppose, says the *N. Y. Freeman's Journal*, the Passion Play degenerates into a mere money-making scheme? The world, in its restless search for sensations, will be to blame for the ruin of this simple and sublime peasant tragedy.

The admirers of the late John Boyle O'Reilly, who are preparing for a public testimonial to his memory, have arranged to hold a mass meeting at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, at an early date. The stage will be adorned with a bust of the poet, and there will be speeches and music. Patrick Gilmore telegraphed to the Committee of Arrangements at the Hoffman House offering his band for the occasion, and the offer was accepted. Delegations will attend the meeting from the Ninth Regiment of Boston and the 69th Regiment, and many Irish societies will be represented.

The proceedings of the Crofter's Commissioners continue to point the harshness of the treatment with which the Irish leaseholders in arrear have been dealt by the Tories. On Friday, Aug 9th, they delivered their decisions in the cases from the estate of Keiss, and the island of Stroma, in Caithness. On Keiss the reduction of rental is about 34 per cent., and about 77 per cent. of the arrears have been wiped out. On Freswick, in Stroma, the rent reductions are about 34 per cent., and 76 per cent. of the arrears have been cancelled. On Mey the rents have been reduced 35 per cent., and the arrears 53 per cent.

It is reported from Boston that Mr. John Boyle O'Reilly's successor as editor of the *Pilot* will undoubtedly be Mr. James Jeffrey Roche. Seven or eight years

ago Mr. Roche was a clerk in Kilby & Page's establishment on Commercial Street. Even at that time several poems from his pen had been published, and these attracted the attention of Mr. O'Reilly, who invited Mr. Roche to a chair on the editorial staff of the *Pilot*. Mr. Roche accepted, and from that time until Mr. O'Reilly passed away, the two men were not only earnest co-workers, but the staunchest of friends. Mr. Roche is the President of the Papyrus Club, of which organization Mr. O'Reilly was a member and is generally admitted to be a man of ability and promise. It is understood that Archbishop Williams will purchase Mr. O'Reilly's interest in the paper, thus giving him the absolute control.

The *Boston Herald*, which, when the foul charges against the character of Father Damien were first brought out, anonymously, in Boston, without inquiry, assumed them to be true, and gave editorial countenance to them, and which has since persistently adhered to the opinion of the anonymous writer, despite the letters of Julius A. Palmer and R. L. Stevenson, and the urgings of the *Boston Republic*, has, in its issue of Monday, Aug. 18th, made full reparation, as follows:—

"The accusations against the leper priest of Molokai have at last been sifted by those who had it in their power to know whether they were true or not, and the bishop of Honolulu has been able to say authoritatively that they have no foundation. Dr. Hyde has practically been obliged to confess that he was mistaken, and the statement of the Roman Catholic prelate who has undertaken to go to the bottom of this matter must be accepted as final. We rejoice that the accusations can be disproved, and that the admiration of Father Damien's work is not limited by reservations concerning him. The leper priest of Molokai will be all the more honored now that the stains which seemed to rest upon his life have been wiped away, and his martyr life is restored to its former place in public thought and feeling."

There is a lugubrious confession of weakness in the speech with which Rev. R. R. Kane regaled his Orange friends on the occasion of the celebration of the bicentenary of the Boyne this year. He had to enter into an explanation of the "comparative weakness of the Orange cause" at the present time. It appears that, despite all the brag and bluster, the merchant traders of the North, the professional classes, and even the landlords hang back from the Orange Lodges. The first mentioned "have to remember that Home Rule money and the money that Home Rulers can cut a channel for, in exchange for their wares, is as good as Unionist money." It does not suit "the professional men" to be too pronounced politicians. Even the landlords are disposed to flirt with Home Rule. If Home Rule menaces the lives and liberties of Ulster Protestants, as Colonel Saunderson pretends, the present indifference of the three great classes mentioned is certainly most wonderful. Dr. Kane says they will wake up yet, and that then we shall have wigs on the green. But they are sleeping rather long, and even the Britons who are not blue-blooded will hardly be frightened by the bogey of their contingent treason. The slumberousness of the threatened Ulstermen is the best answer to the doctor's threats.