

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest." —BALMEZ.

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TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

Current Topics.

The Queen in recognition and Ireland.

The Queen in recognition of the bravery of the Irish troops, and her Majesty's intended visit to Ireland, coming upon the public view just about the time of the celebration of Ireland's National Festival, evoked a great amount of comment, and has put a new face upon the great Irish Question. Generally speaking, it has been received with respectful consideration by people of the Irish race in every part of the British Empire, it is noted, with that degree of enthusiasm displayed on the occasion by the English people themselves. The opinion prevails that her Majesty's pronounced opinion towards Ireland augurs an ultimate and not far distant settlement of the vexed question that has wrought so much ill-feeling and discussion in the United Kingdom, and in a less degree throughout the Empire; but whether those expectations are over-ambitious or not remains still to be proved. Such an access of good will as has lately been exhibited to the Irish people should surely culminate in the realization of Ireland's aspirations and desires. If it does not, then it were better it had never occurred. Her Majesty's action is susceptible of the interpretation that she is willing and desirous to see justice done to the people of the Emerald Isle; but it is quite another thing, as the past unfortunately proves, to bound the stubborn will of her Majesty's advisers and legislators. Justice at this late hour can be done, and it should be done.

On March 18th Lord Roberts took possession of Bloombontain, and the British flag now floats over the Presidency of the Orange Free State.

On General French's threat to bombard the town, the Mayor, the Secretary of the late Government, the Lord and other officials met Lord Roberts two miles out of the city and presented him with the keys of the public offices. Ex-President Steyn and his fighting men fled northward and will most probably seek refuge in the Transvaal which, it is confidently predicted will soon be made too hot to be comfortable for the rest of the Boers in arms.

Since overtures for peace have been peremptorily refused by the British Government and there seems to be no sign of intervention on the part of any European power, the war will go on and there will be more severe fighting before the British flag waves over the Presidency of the Transvaal; but that it will wave there, may be looked upon as a certainty. When once the will of Great Britain is known, and Lord Salisbury's replies to the Boer Presidents and to the President of the United States admit of no doubt as to their meaning, the responsibility for further bloodshed, it will be claimed, will rest with the Boers, who are now fighting in a hopeless cause. The work of Lord Roberts has been singularly successful whilst the heavy and endurance of the British troops in action have won the regard and admiration of friend and foe alike. In little over a month, Lord Roberts has effected the relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the capture of General Cronje's forces, and the hoisting of the British flag in the capital of the Orange Free State. It is said that Lord Roberts received quite an ovation upon his entry into Bloombontain, which is interpreted as a happy augury for the future of British supremacy in South Africa.

The War in South Africa.

The Future Africa has assumed of the War. It again a very ugly aspect and one that promises to cost much bloodshed before the end is reached.

The Boers of the Transvaal do not seem to be daunted by the disasters which lately befell their brethren of the Orange Free State, and there are stern indications of a determination to carry the struggle to the bitter end. The week has been comparatively quiet in active military operations, but it may only be the lull that comes before the storm.

There seems to be no serious thought of intervention, and Great Britain will be left to deal with her obstinate foe as she can. President Kruger is said to have threatened to retaliate on British prisoners if the Natal and Cape Colony rebels are imprisoned, which has drawn from Lord Salisbury the remark that he will hold Kruger personally responsible for the life of every British prisoner.

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL.

Religious Celebration of St. Patrick's Feast.

The Feast of Ireland's Patron-saint was celebrated at St. Michael's Cathedral with due solemnity and devotion at 9 o'clock on the morning of St. Patrick's Day. Solemn High Mass, "Memento of the Faithful," was celebrated. His Grace the Archbishop was assisted at the throne by the Rev. Fathers Ryan and O'Rourke. The celebrant was the Rev. Dr. Treacy, with Father Gunning Deacon, and Father Healy Subdeacon. There was a large congregation present.

The High Altar was a blaze of light with illuminated designs of the shamrock, and the mitre, surrounded by the cross.

The music of the service began with the chanting of the Introit, "Statuit Dominus dominum suum," "The Lord made to him a covenant of peace, which may be interpreted with a special significance to the occasion now at hand, and would furnish a most appropriate text for those interested in the complete reconciliation of Ireland and England, being a most glorious testimony of the Irish soldiers. The mass sung was the "Missa de Angeli," which was well rendered.

After the Gospel Rev. Father Ryan with his usual eloquence preached a short sermon admirably suitable to the feast, taking his text from Isaiah 57, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings and that preacheth peace; of Him that showeth salvation, that saith Zion, 'Thy God shall reign.'"

Thinking his thoughts from this text the preacher spoke of the apostolate of St. Patrick to the Irish nation and of the apostolate of the Irish people to the nations of the world. Each was an apostolate of peace, of prayer, of self-sacrifice, and of sacrifice, unto salvation, which was the object to say "Zion, thy God shall reign"; that is the Kingdom of Christ should come and the will of the Father be done on earth as is done in heaven.

St. Patrick's apostolate was original in this, that the Saint converted a whole nation without the shedding of one drop of blood. This was the form of conquest that he left as a sacred inheritance to the Irish people, and scarcely was the nation converted when it proved itself worthy of its trust. Millions from Ireland were seen in all the countries of Europe, conquering them, civilizing them, raising them towards God, not with the sword of the flesh, but with the sword of the spirit, which is the sword of God. With this peaceful and non-violent power was Christendom formed.

The word of God indeed came to Ireland and she had her period of suffering and sorrow, but now, thanks to God the sunburst of peace seems again to have arisen as to a bright rainbow in the eyes of the minds by the appearance of Erin's flag on our Legislative building and on our City Hall. This, Rev. Father Ryan considered is a consoling and most hopeful omen. It shows the sons of Ireland that never before have they had a more auspicious and happy omen as to the future of this Canada of ours, where, by following in the footsteps of their apostle and by complying with the wish of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen they may powerfully contribute to social civil and religious harmony.

CONCERT OF THE A. O. H.

Stirring Oration by Mr. J. F. Quinn, Q.C., M.P.

An audience that taxed the seating capacity of Mussey Hall assembled on the evening of the 17th of March to enjoy an excellent programme of Irish patriotic music and to hear Mr. J. F. Quinn, member for Montreal County, whom the Society had invited to voice the spirit of the time and of the occasion.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians are to be congratulated on the success that attended their efforts. The artists taking part in the concert were Miss Theresa Flannigan, Mrs. Martin Murphy, Miss Nellie James, Mr. Rochab Tandy, Master J. Kane and Mr. Bert Harvey (harmonic), who sang a choice selection of the beautiful folk-music of the Green Isle. Miss Theresa McAray gave on the violin a fantasia on Kathleen Mavourneen. All the artists were enthusiastically encouraged.

Besides Mr. Patrick Boyle, the chairman, there were on the platform many prominent citizens, including Rev. Father McBrady, Rev. Father Murray, Rev. Father Walsh, Rev. Father Cline, Rev. Father Nasser, Rev. Dr. Burns, and Messrs. O. J. McCabe, A. T. Heron, J. J. O'Rourke, P. F. Foley, W. Moore, P. L. J. O'Leary, T. Harris, R. Tanley, W. Ryan, and M. J. Ryan.

The Chairman, in introducing the speaker of the evening, said that Bro. Quinn was a distinguished orator, and they were to have the additional treat of his address on the platform. He would take pride in the fact that he was an Irish Canadian, born at Kingston, and educated at Regopolis. Bro. Quinn came here to find what had never been seen in Toronto before, and that was the immortal green lying from every tower and spire of the city, while the Shamrock had been commanded by the Queen to be worn all over the Empire in honor of the Irish soldiers who had been fighting in South Africa.

Mr. Quinn was received with much applause and with warm welcome, while the audience on the minds of his hearers deepened as he proceeded with his splendid and spirited address. After thanking the Order of Hiber-

nia for giving him an opportunity of addressing such a magnificent assembly of his fellow-countrymen in the Queen City of the West, Mr. Quinn said that he had accepted the invitation to attend, simply to have a little talk with them.

He had not an Englishman that day whom he would call Brown. The Englishman, who wore a shamrock, said that he always had sympathy with the Irish, recognized that they had been oppressed, and that for 200 years they had been treated in a way which, if they had not been patient men, would have driven them into rebellion. Things were different now; but, added he, "You Irishmen are never satisfied." He had replied to this Mr. Brown that the English, after having with the utmost ingratitude treated the Irish for centuries, now said "Let us be friends. Your greatest grievances have been removed."

The Irish had suffered, and were they to bow the knee now to those who had oppressed them? He recalled the circumstances of his own family, who had lived in Canada for 80 years, but who came here because they were driven out of the old land. They were refused recognition, and had no legal existence. Sixty-eighths of the population had been obliged to support a church establishment in which they did not believe and which they did not want. They had also to support their emigrants in providing roads for landlords who squandered the money in European capitals. It was not till after years of agitation and injustice that the Catholic emancipation act was passed. Now the church in Ireland was disestablished, and the English expected thanks for this relief. But the reply must be the same, "Why did you not do it before driving us away from our homes?"

Of course Mr. Brown says: "Ah, you are not loyal!" Loyal, indeed! There were no people who recognized more the freedom and the privileges they enjoyed in Canada than the Irish in this country (applause)—and there were no people more ready to defend and maintain them. The English said that all the trouble was caused by the paid agitators of Ireland. He wondered that they could so characterize men who had wrestled so many reforms from the British Government. The same term was applied to one of the greatest statesmen of Great Britain. The English said the rebellion of the United States. The same was said of Henry Grattan because he warned the Government that if they deprived the Irish of their national rights they would have a civil war, and cause a festering sore. And so with Daniel O'Connell, and yet that for which he fought and died was afterwards granted—Catholic emancipation.

The recent action of her Majesty was the most important event in the history of Ireland since 1798. In her country, placed visit to Ireland. Her Majesty has shown that she has heart, and there is no man takes a tip quicker than a politician, so she has given them to understand that it is her wish that in an act of grace she should grant the condition which would not only include Ireland, but would combine all the English-speaking communities in the empire. In conclusion he thanked them for their magnificent reception, and he said to note that the Ancient Order of Hibernians were true to their traditions, and were determined to reduce their countrymen in Canada in the Irish national music and history. (Applause.)

Mr. O'Connell, in moving a vote of thanks to the speaker, said that they wished to bury all feuds and all brothers within the empire. (Applause.) Freedom of opinion was allowed under the British flag, and therefore he could say that he took pride in the gallant fight of the Irish in South Africa, and could appreciate the promise of the Queen to visit Ireland. If he could suggest anything it would be that her Majesty should take with her a large party of home rule for Ireland. (Applause.)

Mr. A. T. Heron seconded the motion, which was carried with much applause.

It was then moved by the Rev. Dr. Burns, seconded by Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, M.P. for Montreal County, and received with the loudest applause, that the speakers should be invited to the Hon. Sir Frank Smith who has been so long prostrated by a painful illness; and that this expression of sorrow be conveyed to him as a token of the profound respect in which he is held by his Irish fellow countrymen.

This resolution was unanimously passed and formed a pleasing and graceful compliment to the distinguished statesman and citizen mentioned so kindly in the resolution.

How can you know what kind of a man your neighbour is when he cannot even tell you himself?

It is the strongest possible argument for our immortality that nine of every ten human beings believe in it.

Every ladder has a top round to it, but the top round is a time as great a step as most of us are equal to taking.

Our characters we make; our reputations are often made for us.

The man who has a good deal to say always says it in a few words.

The Concert of the I. O. B. U. at the Pavilion.

Address of the Hon. F. R. Latchford, Commissioner of Public Works for Ontario.

A large and appreciative audience assembled in the Pavilion on the evening of St. Patrick's Day to do honor to the occasion which was marked by a choice selection of vocal music and recitations and a remarkably able and patriotic address delivered by the Hon. F. R. Latchford, Commissioner of Public Works for Ontario.

The chairman was the Rev. Father Ryan, Rector of St. Michael's Cathedral, supported by the Rev. Father Minohra, Galt House, and on the platform were a semicircle of prominent citizens of Toronto, including Hon. William Mulock, Mr. Speaker Evansford, J. J. Foy, M. P., Ald. Burns, Ald. Cox, Ald. Hubbard, Messrs. L. V. McBrady, D. J. O'Donnoghue, W. T. J. Lee, Mr. Col. Mason, Galt House, Rev. Father Ryan, and Mr. J. J. Foy.

In opening the proceedings of the evening, the Rev. Father Ryan said: "This is a great day for Ireland. We have been waiting for it some time, but everything comes to the man who waits. The Irish are on top to-day—the shamrock is on every man's breast. A popular concert was then rendered, in which the following ladies and gentlemen took part:—Miss Kate Rigney, piano; Maude, Minnie, and S. E. G. Alexander, musical trio; Miss Annie Kelly, Mr. D. Egan, Miss Margaret Milne, Miss Ruth, Misses Margaret and Marie Quinn, reading; St. Paul's Male Quartette; Mr. Chas. M. Bookway and Mr. Eddie Piggott, comic songs.

In introducing the speaker of the evening, Rev. Father Ryan said the present day was perhaps the greatest we had seen for a century or more. For the greatness of the day, which was for England, for Ireland for Canada, and for the whole British Empire, they expressed their gratitude to our gracious Queen. That the shamrock was to day allowed and the welcome warm on that account. The address was listened to with rapid attention and frequent applause.

Mr. Latchford said:—
"Whatever the Celt is to be found—and where he is to be found—the earth that is not filled with our labors—his pulse beats on St. Patrick's Day with a livelier thrill, as he recalls the memories, sweet and sad, and glorious, that cluster round the Emerald Isle in the Atlantic, and that, by a strange, here in Canada, in a new nation, celebrating the old festival of St. Patrick, needs no explanation, no excuse. We are not degrading any land, or any class or race in any land. We revive no bitter memories, though these are many which cling to our hearts, and in our minds, when we think of the land of our fathers. The music, which we have listened to with so much pleasure, and to the enjoyment of which I am sure you will be glad to return, breathes no odour of oppression and torture, nor by any offensive implication does it indicate that any part of the community is to be brought to battle and slaughtered and made to lie down or lie under any particular municipal or municipal government, or to be numbered in any class of civil war, or sectional or racial strife, or rebuke to the loyalty of men, who, faithfully perhaps, but still bravely, fought and bled for an English King who was all unworthy of their devotion. 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