

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

WORK IN IRELAND—THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Proposals and Remarks well Worthy of due Consideration.

[Gleaned by the Philadelphia Catholic Standard].

A very wise and eminently practical suggestion has just been made in the columns of the *Freeman's Journal* which we should be glad to think was likely to meet the approval of the Government. As everybody who knows anything of the condition of the portion of the country with which it was its duty to deal will agree, the action of the Congested Districts Board has been up to the present productive of no practical or permanent service. We do not desire by any means to allege blame to its officials or its members, because it is not their fault if realization of the impossibility of inducing the Treasury to sanction any big or statesmanlike project has impeded its efforts or curtailed its usefulness. We cannot help, however, thinking that despite this something better might be recorded of them than the fact, which has quite recently been brought to our knowledge, that the pastor of one of our Connaught parishes, ruler and adviser of thousands of stalwart peasants pining for the work which their iron muscles and giant frames fitted them to bear, consulting the Board as to what they proposed to do towards the promotion of employment of his people, was gravely advised to have them taught "knitting!" We should be sorry to endeavor to trace out the responsibility for the kind of old-womanish absurdity, but we shall not be much astonished to learn that more than one Western priest can bear witness to the profound grasp of the needs of Ireland which its suggestion shows the Board and its officers to have formed. Then, again, some effort is being made to improve the breed of horses in the congested districts, and much as we would sympathize with such an attempt, it can scarcely be necessary to point out that the excellence of the pedigree or the points of their equine stock is not of extreme moment to a peasantry who are seldom fully fed themselves, and whose horses can never look for careful grooming or luxurious baiting. It will not be remarkable if the shaggy, miserable looking Connemara ponies of to-day hold their own better in wind and rain and privation than the better breed and better looking animals the Congested Districts Board is about to provide. If there is any doubt on this point, or if the matter is worth inquiry at all, it might not be amiss if a member of the Board tried a month or two the life which a Connemara peasant lives. We fancy that the result would be a solemn declaration that to live it successfully it is needful to be to the manner born. A like rule will probably apply in the case of the horses.

One of the proposals made by the correspondent of the *Freeman* is as follows: "The Congested Districts Board should obtain from the Land Judges' Court the rental of all estates for sale in the scheduled districts. Selecting those that appeared suitable, and after consultation with the tenants, the Board should offer the lowest price possible for it, and make their offer public. Creditors and owners would then know what their property was worth in the market. If no other bidder came forward the Land Judge would have an offer before him, and unless the filing of petitions for sale is to remain merely a means to enable lawyers to milk estates dry, and to delude the public into paying official salaries for sham work, the judge would personally feel bound to sell sooner or later.

The author of this proposal, of course, admits that the distribution of the unoccupied land thus acquired among the congested tenants will generally be accompanied by some difficulty. On many estates the unoccupied land will be insufficient to give every one a share, and sometimes a division could not be carried out at once. It is not, however, to be forgotten that many such tracts of land might be utilised at once for the benefit of the adjoining tenants by letting or selling it to them, in common, and that in some cases it might be found desirable to continue permanently such a use of grazing land, which would be

injured by tillage and division. When everything, however, has been taken into account, it would seem as if no insuperable difficulty can exist to prevent an effort of the kind suggested being made.

It would be interesting, too, we think, if somebody were to inquire whether the Board has ever thought of acquiring a few large tracts of waste land and mapping out a scheme for the employment in their reclamation of the people of the congested districts? The erection of the necessary dwellings for the laborers would alone afford a fund of employment of the most useful kind, and when once land had been reclaimed it might easily be let off to those who labor had rendered it arable. We can easily guess what reply would be made to any inquiry of this nature, and we are probably safe in assuming that no such consideration ever dawned on the minds of its members. It is to be hoped that Mr. Morley will undertake a vigorous inquiry into the condition of affairs in the districts with which the Board was appointed to deal, and, having ascertained the state of things for himself, will then proceed to inquire what the Board has really been doing. If he follows such a course as this we believe he will find much which will not only amuse but interest him as being most typical of the system which passes for "statesmanship" at the Castle.—*Irish Catholic*.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES.

[By the Editor of the School and Home Magazine.]

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, M. P.—Born Nov. 22, 1830.—Who that reads English History is not familiar with the name of Justin McCarthy, who, in his *History of our own Times*, has given us a narrative so charming that it has all the fascination of a novel? In the field of politics he is recognized as the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and the world looks upon him as the leader of the Irish people. His character is one we should study, as he presents an admirable example of fidelity and perseverance which should encourage all who wish to succeed in letters or public life. He was born in Cork, Ireland, Nov. 22, 1830, and received most of his early education at a private classical school in his native city, where he had as classmates the John George McCarthy who became famous as a Land Commissioner, who, by the way, was no relative of his, and the late John Pope Hennessy who was one of the most successful Colonial Administrators in the English diplomatic service. At sixteen years of age Justin McCarthy began his career as a journalist in the office of the *Cork Examiner*.

Like many other fervid, gifted Irishmen, Justin McCarthy did not let the years of his early manhood pass without weaving into their story the golden threads of romance; threads that were only sundered when the grave closed above her, who, through all the struggles and vicissitudes of her husband's uphill fight, towards advancement and success, was his constant inspirer and companion. A word or two, as to the circumstances of that episode, may not prove uninteresting, especially, as it may tend to shed a new, and a softer light, on the character and career, of the subject of this narrative.

While a junior reporter on the *Cork Examiner*, Mr. McCarthy received frequent assignments, to report judicial, society, political, or other events in the town of Brandon, some twenty miles from the city of Cork. While engaged on one of these missions the young journalist made the acquaintance of Miss Charlotte Allman, a member of a well known Munster family. Their first meeting led to frequent subsequent ones, but the acquaintance received a sudden and unwelcome check through the action of Miss Allman's family, who sent her to live with relatives in Macclesfield, England, hoping thus to avert what they regarded as a very unsuitable alliance.

Shortly afterwards Mr. McCarthy resigned his position on the *Examiner* and crossed the channel to Liverpool, where he remained for a while working on the staff of the *Northern Times*. Liverpool and Macclesfield are not far apart, and, for reasons best known to himself, many of his "days off" were spent by the young reporter in the Silken City, as it was then called. The result was that in spite of the strong opposition of relatives, Miss Allman and Mr. McCarthy were married in the town of Macclesfield and they went to Liverpool to live. Soon afterwards, owing to the too fierce competition of its rivals, the paper on which he was engaged ceased publication. Declining offers of employment from other Liverpool papers, Mr. McCarthy determined to go to London and tempt fortune in the large arena that the metropolis provided.

His wonderfully successful career since has amply vindicated the wisdom of that move. Fortune has smiled upon his efforts, and success has crowned his literary career, but not before he had endured many a cold rebuff, and endured many a chilling failure, which, however, he had manhood enough to stand up before, and conquer.

In all his difficulties and disappointments, he never lacked the full sympathy and hearty co-operation of his young wife, to whom Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M. P., pays the following touching tribute: "To those who knew Mrs. McCarthy, there is no need to dilate on the resistless charm of her truly beautiful nature. To her husband, she was the mainspring of his life. She never wrote a line, she did not ever pretend to any literary power; but she had the keen intelligence of sympathy; she had faith in her husband, and she had indomitable courage." Sad to say, just as Mr. McCarthy had begun to ride on the crest of the wave of prosperity and success, with nearly all his difficulties conquered with the world of literature clamoring for contributions from his pen, the fond companion who had so cheerfully shared with him the darkness and gloom of earlier days, was called away to her final rest. In 1880 he is seen for the first time in the House of Commons as a reporter for the *Morning Star*, and in 1884 he became chief editor. How little

he thought that one day, thirty years later, in the same Commons, he would be hailed as the leader of a great Irish party which would control the politics of England and win for Ireland the liberties which had been the prayer and ambition of her children for centuries. Justin McCarthy visited America in 1868, and delivered lectures on Literature and History in nearly every State of our vast Union, and his name was a popular one throughout the country. Returning to London 1871, he devoted himself to literary pursuits. In 1878, at a time when Irishism was decidedly unpopular in literary circles in England, Mr. McCarthy at a great pecuniary sacrifice, entered the ranks of the Irish party and was elected to represent Longford in the House of Commons. A boycott was placed upon his books, but this did not deter him in his patriotic purposes, and he has never failed in the loyalty which he then pledged to Ireland. He visited America again as a delegate from the Parliamentary Party, and the clear, statesmanlike declarations which came from one of such recognized prominence in literature made his mission successful, and there is no doubt that he gained an audience such as no other man of his party could have obtained; for the highest culture of American society was anxious to hear him. When the unfortunate quarrel arose in the Irish party, he became the leader of the Anti-Parliamentaries, and when the elections decided in his favor, he was, and is recognized as the Leader of the Irish people. He has written many novels, the best known of which are, *A Fair Saxon* and *Dear Lady Diadain*. His most important historical works are, *A History of Our Own Time*, and *A History of the Four Georges*. He is also a constant contributor to all the Magazines both in England and America, upon the great political questions of the day. As a writer he is accorded the merit of having a complete mastery of his subject matter, and he writes in a clear and lucid way while there is always a crispness and sparkle about his style which is simply delightful. He is brilliant as a novelist, fascinating as a historian, temperate and judicious as a political apologist. He stands for what is best in Irish politics and has the entire confidence of his Party and the people they represent. He is the scholar in politics, and the patriot in literature. He is a devoted Catholic in religion and an ardent advocate of the rights of the Church in education.

SAINTS OF THE MONTH.

[From the Catholic School and Home Magazine.]

ST. MALACHY, Bishop, Nov. 2, 1094-1148.—This illustrious Irish Saint, born in Armagh, Ireland, was remarkable in his childhood for his love of prayer. At the age of twenty-five he was ordained priest and became at once a reformer of Church discipline. He was made Archbishop of Armagh. He made two pilgrimages to Rome. While making the second one he was taken sick at Clairvaux, where St. Bernard was, and died Nov. 2, 1148. St. Bernard says St. Malachy was, in his life, a living rule and a bright glass, or as it were, a book laid open, in which all might learn the true precepts of religious conversation.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, B. C., Nov. 4, 1538-1584.—This great Cardinal of the Church and Reformer was born in 1538, near Milan in Italy, and was a nephew of Pope Pius IV., whom he aided in the affairs of the Holy See, having been made Cardinal in 1560. He was a prominent member of the Council of Trent, and labored for years afterwards in executing its decrees. His reforms were violently opposed, yet he never yielded. Much was done by him in the establishment of seminaries for clerics. During the great plague in Milan he refused to leave the city, but spent his life in serving his people. His sacred remains are now deposited in a rich underground chapel, under the cupola of the great Cathedral of Milan. The altar is of solid silver. Thus is he honored who served God and man so well.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, W., Nov. 9, 1207-1231.—Nov. 10.—This daughter of the pious King of Hungary was noted for her very early years for her great love of God and contempt for earthly vanities. Married in her youth to the Landgrave of Thuringia, she and her husband spent their days in prayer and mortification. He went to Palestine as a crusader and died in 1227. She then devoted her life to the poor and had much persecution to endure until her death in 1231. The roses that grow on many a mountain side in Germany are called "Elizabeth's Flower," because of the bread turned to roses at a time when her husband unjustly suspected her of evil.

ST. STANISLAS KOSTKA, Nov. 10, 1551-1568.—This youthful Saint and model of youth was born in Poland in 1551, and showed such great purity that he was regarded as an angel. At fourteen years of age he entered college in Vienna, where he was shamefully treated by his brother Paul, who disliked his austere life. It was during the illness that followed that by the intercession of St. Barbara, his patroness, he obtained Holy Viaticum from the hands of angels. After his recovery he entered the Jesuits' Novitiate in Rome, where he died after ten months' probation at the age of seventeen years, full of sanctity.

ST. LAURENCE, C., Nov. 14, 1180.—This great patriot saint of Ireland was born near Dublin, and his family, the O'Looles, was one of the most powerful and wealthy in Leinster. At 25 years of age he was chosen Abbot of Glendalough, where he had been educated by the good Bishop. At twenty-five years of age he was chosen to fill the See of Dublin, where he labored zealously to bring the princes and people to virtue. In 1179, he assisted in Rome at the Council of Lateran, and returned to Ireland to execute its decrees, and came in conflict with Henry II., who had usurped authority over Ireland. He went to Normandy, where he died in 1180.

ST. GERTRUDE, Nov. 15, 1221-1292.—This apostle of the Sacred Heart was born in Saxony in 1221, and was educated in a Benedictine Abbey, where her mind was cultivated in the languages and in virtue. Her life was a constant example of the highest virtue, and for forty years she ruled her Abbey with wisdom and love. She had great devotion to the souls in Purgatory, to the Passion and Sacred Heart, and she spoke of Christ with so much affection as to ravish all who heard her. She is one of the great patronesses of the Sacred Heart.

ST. COLUMBAN, C., Nov. 22, 615.—This Irish Saint, regarded as one of the chief patriarchs of the monastic life, was born in Leinster about the middle of the sixth century. He received the religious habit in the famous monastery at Benchor, under St. Comgall, and soon developed great learning and sanctity. With twelve others he set out to travel, and visited Britain and Gaul in 585, preaching everywhere. The King of Burgundy offered him land wherever he wished for a monastery, and he established not one but many, which followed his

rule until the time of Charlemagne, when they all received the rule of St. Benedict. St. Columban entered into the great dispute over Easter. He died in 615.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS, Nov. 22, 397.—This soldier-saint desired as a boy to become a Christian, but his Pagan father to hinder him had him enrolled in the army, and here he met the poor beggar to whom he gave the half of his cloak and for which act he was rewarded by hearing our Lord say that he had clothed him. He became a Christian and founded the first monastery in France. In 372 he became Bishop of Tours, and by his preaching and labors obtained the title of Apostle of Gaul.

ST. CATHERINE, V. M., Nov. 25.—This great patroness of schools and model of Christian philosophers, was one of the richest noblewomen of Alexandria. So excellent was her scholarship that she refuted the ablest heathen philosophers and converted them to the faith. The tyrant Maximian found her an virtuous as learned, and when she resisted his beastly passion she was put on the wheel of torture and finally beheaded.

ST. ANDREW, Apostle, Nov. 30.—This apostle was the first called by Jesus Christ, and was a fisherman of Bethsaida and brother of St. Peter. Venerable Bede calls him the "introducer to Christ," because he is frequently found speaking for others and bringing them to Christ. He preached the Gospel in Scythia and Greece and after a scourging he was bound to a cross and died upon it.

Given Good Appetite.

Gentlemen,—I think your valuable medicine cannot be equalled, because of the benefit I derived from it. After suffering from headache and loss of appetite for nearly three years I tried B. B. with great success. It gave me relief at once, and I now enjoy good health. Mrs. MATTHEW SPROUL, Dungannon, Ont.

That was a characteristic pious and Catholic action of Rev. Rector Kehoe of St. John's Cathedral, Milwaukee, in opening the doors of that edifice, and those of the parochial schools, for the shelter of the people whose houses were destroyed in the big conflagration of last week. The Milwaukee cathedral stands at the corner of Jackson and Ouelida streets, close by the burned area, and its capacity, with that of the parish schools, wherein 700 children are educated, afforded large and commodious shelter to many who might otherwise have been compelled to pass the night in the streets. Father Kehoe and his assistants deserve credit for the prompt and timely assistance they rendered the sufferers by the flames.

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The principal speaker at the Paris "Punch" the other night was a man named Goblet.

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