

The Lost Mission Of the Irish Gael.

At a recent meeting of the Literary and Debating Society of the Catholic Commercial Club, of Dublin, Dr. Sigerson, F.R.U.I., delivered a lecture on "The Lost Mission of the Irish Gael," the following report which we take from the Dublin Nation. Very Rev. Wm. Delaney, S.J., presided:—

The lecturer said since nations had severally their functions, their faculties, and their fates, might it not be well for them to enquire and learn what were the predominant faculties of the ancient nation to which they belonged in order that they might rightly comprehend the function it had been formed to fulfil, so that they could understand whether it was going on the true lines of its mission. For on this whether it be faithful to its inner, greater, intenser life-energies, or whether it fall off from them and fail, surely depend its future and its fate. He classified the predominant characteristics of the ancient Irish as threefold—spirituality, intellectuality and chivalry. No nation had more clearly shown its possession of a leading characteristic than the Celtic that of spirituality, nor had any been so true to it. When Christianity came to Ireland it came to cultured people, and in a brief time the island took flame, and year after year, sent forth hosts of spiritual champions, admirably equipped to convert the wicked world of Europe. The spiritual descendants of these illustrious envoys were found to-day in every part of the world, and therefore the verdict of the world should be that the nation had been faithful and had not failed. Chivalry unquestionably was a distinguishing character of the ancient race. They delighted in chivalrous warfare, disdaining whatever they deemed unfair or mean. In their old heroic romances innumerable examples may be found the perusal of which should tend to exalt the ideals of generations. He asked if that martial and chivalric spirit which animated this nation in former times disappeared with the generations who exemplified it then. If there could be such an assertion, but there was none, how convincing would be the contradiction given by the great nations of Russia, Austria, Spain, and France, where exiled Irish and their noble descendants upheld the honor of their adopted lands and the memory of their forefathers with heroic fidelity. The new world America, both North and South would hear generous witness, nor could Great Britain be silent when the chief commanders of her armies and navy were Irishmen. As regards the racial characteristic of intellectuality, he said no one could contest its possession by their predecessors. It was the passion and the pride of the ancient nation. So great was the enthusiasm for learning, so high was the honor of literature, that the Irish Universities counted their students by thousands. Their renown over-spread Europe and called visitors to their halls from all the adjoining kingdoms. Ireland was then, in the words of the faith-worthy witnesses, the "New Rome," and the "School of the West."

If they looked for instance, at the publishers' list for any year, saw what multitudes of volumes were poured forth from the Press amongst English countries, and counted the few that came from Irish authors and how fewer still were produced by Irish publishers, the result should call a feeling of painful humiliation. It was a general complaint that the Irish people did not buy books, that Irish authors found a more friendly audience abroad than at home, and that Irish literature, because of its fine qualities, was held in esteem amongst strangers, while it was almost ignored by the nation for the vindication of whose honor it had been earnestly created. His fear was that the eminent mission which inspired ancient Ireland might be a lost mission if the people be not awakened to the presence and effect of paralysing apathy. Other nations had been advancing with rapidity, and theirs, too, might and should advance with all the resilience of an ever-youthful race. But to accomplish this it must persevere its failings and its faults; it must put aside the false standards under which glaring gawds and gilded vulgarity were set before refined metal, and mercenary materialism preferred to the expressions of spiritual and mental life. Self-sacrifice exalted a nation, self-indulgence degraded it; one was the victory of the spirit, the other the triumph of matter. The burden of a nation's heritage, the responsibility of a nation's fate, lay on every generation as it came. It was a heavy burden, a great responsibility; the heavier it was and the greater it was the deeper and more shameful the infamy of that generation which brought down one of the highest nationhoods of the world. Let not that dishonor be theirs.

Mr. O'Leary (Curtis) proposed, and Mr. Keogh seconded a vote of thanks to the lecturer. The proposer said the decadence pointed out by the lecturer was produced by the English insurrection, which they all so much deplored. The Rev. Chairman said that the mission of the Irish race could not be described as lost while so many missionaries remained. Referring to the death in the country at the present day of assiduous readers of good Irish literature, he said this could not be wondered at as the readers of to-day were trained under a system which had divorced them from all that was Irish in spirit. No history found its place in what were called with such irony National schools. What boy ever taught in any of these schools was taught to revere anything that any Irishman could look to with pride or respect. The result was that the garbage referred to by Mr. Curtis was the literary food on which the bulk of their population were to-day fed. There was a serious danger that, fed on that garbage, they might cease to be in any sense Irishmen. What they wanted to remedy in the present state of affairs was that their education should be truly national, teaching them the history of the country, teaching them to know and love it, and to be above all things Irishmen.

Solved the Snow Problem.

A resourceful engineer of a big office building in Philadelphia solved the snow problem for his employers this week, and saved them quite a

sum of money. In the cellar of the building there is a hot well into which empties the greasy drip from all the cylinders of the pumps and engines. The well is sixteen feet deep and five feet in diameter, and from it this waste water, which has a temperature of more than 200 degrees, is pumped into a sewer. The method employed was to empty the snow into the cellar through the archways, and then shovel it into the well. A force of twenty-three men, divided into squads, commenced work at noon on Tuesday, and after 36 hours' labor the snow had practically been removed from around the building. The work went on without interruption as the snow was melted and pumped off as fast as it was emptied and shovelled into the well. In all more than 1,000 loads were removed at an expense of less than \$150. As the cost for removing snow in cart-loads varies from 90 cents to \$1.25, the saving amounted to more than \$800. It is expected to reduce the cost of removal in the future by providing chutes, entailing less labor in handling the snow.—New York Post.

His Holiness as a Patient.

Dr. Lapponi, the papal physician-in-chief, explains as follows the origin of the recent slight indisposition of His Holiness, Leo XIII. has very often sleepless nights, and is in the habit of leaving his bed when he cannot sleep, and spending hours at his writing desk. Of course, the doctor

THE POWER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CLASS.

In a recent article, by William Clarke, on the life of Bismarck and the effects of the Iron Chancellor's policy on Europe, the writer advances the theory that the subjects of his remarks had but one grand object in life, mainly the acquiring for Germany the control of the Continent and for Prussia the control of the Germanic union. In order to attain this end it was necessary, in the elaborate and long-studied system of his statesmanlike plans, to bring about the distinction of the democratic idea in Europe and to establish in as far as possible, the autocratic methods of Government. To aid in this his grand means was "militarism," or the arming for perpetual preparation for resistance of every power in the old world. With the details and ensemble of this very clever article we have, at least for the present, nothing to do; we desire to merely take a short extract from its pages for the purpose of introducing another train of thoughts.

After thus elaborating the history of Bismarck's bigoted prejudices and altogether Machiavellian system of controlling public affairs, the writer says:— An incidental outcome of this policy has been the tightening of the grip of the financier over Europe. The question of whether the financier makes for peace or not has been much discussed. The answer seems to be that he makes for armed peace, for a state of things in which, while war would mean a tremendous risk, yet preparations for war are necessary in order that the power of the international financial class may be sustained.

Here is also a perfect picture, in a few words, of the situation to-day: The Czar with his peace proposals and all those—except the Pope—who participate in his desires for a general peace agreement, seem to desire that it should be an armed peace. While they are talking of peace they are actively preparing for war, and so preparing on a more gigantic scale than ever. The Pope alone, of all the European influential leaders, sincerely wishes to see war replaced by arbitration, and alone is free from the grasp of the money-lenders, the Jewish bankers of the Continent, whose enormous fortunes are more safely built up upon the continued arming for peace, than upon the accidental arming for war. It is, therefore, these financiers that actually govern Europe to-day, that control the destinies of the various powers, and that dictate peace or war to all except the Vatican. And these Jews have the mighty weapon of the press under their direction. To quote from Mr. Clarke:—

"As the newspapers, notably in Vienna and Berlin, are completely in the hands of that financing class, and the newspapers can be easily used to

THE JUDGES' LUNCH.

In the February number of the Windsor Magazine there appears a very interesting account of "A Judge's Actual Life," written by Michael Moscow. Among other things, it appears that judges are able to pay but very scant attention to the wants of the inner man. "Some of the judges go on with the chamber work without even the customary adjournment for luncheon, merely munching a biscuit by the way of sustenance at half-time and while disposing of the list, in order to liberate as speedily as possible the hundreds of busy professional men in attendance. Others

clear the room for ten minutes or so while they discuss a modest meal. One judge who consistently leaned on the side of frugality, was the hero of an incident that has become historic. While he was enjoying a basin of broth in seclusion a young solicitor ran breathlessly to the vigilant janitor outside with the hasty inquiry, "What's the judge on now?" "Pea soup," responsively roared the well-voiced attendant, much to the amusement of my Lord, who ever afterwards lunched on bread and cheese, regardless of the expense."

Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle.

Missions to Non-Catholics.

Eighteen dioceses at present have missionaries engaged in preaching to non-Catholics.—Providence Visitor.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN McCaffrey.

Who Died January, 29th, 1899.

Life's sunshine seems but shadows,
Its brightness naught but gloom,
Since he who was their idol
Has been laid within the tomb.

In the prime of life's fair manhood,
Swiftly came the unwelcome guest
Death's dark Angel here him onward
To his home of final rest.

Vainly will his loved ones listen
For the music of that voice;
Or the soft tread of his footsteps,
That once made their hearts rejoice.

In the twilight's holy calmness,
A lone wife her vigils keeps,
While the tears fall for her husband,
Who now sleeps his long last sleep.

And a small voice whispers, "Father,
Will I see thee nevermore,
Must I watch in vain thy coming,
From that bright celestial shore?"

Will the springtime come with gladness,
Decking earth with fairest flowers?
Yet it cannot chase the sadness,
From this once bright home of ours.

Where every severed wreath is bound
In heaven thou dost dwell,
While loved ones mourn thy still an earth,
A long and last farewell.

—Margaret A. Masam Lapine.

FACTS ABOUT HEALTH

It is Easy to Keep Well if We Know How—Some of the Conditions Necessary to Perfect Health.

The importance of maintaining good health is easily understood, and it is really a simple matter if we take a correct view of the conditions required. In perfect health the stomach promptly digests food, and thus prepares nourishment. The blood is employed to carry this nourishment to the organs, nerves, muscles and tissues which need it. The first great essential for good health, therefore, is pure, rich blood. Now it is certainly a fact that no medicine has such a record of cures as Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is literally true that there are hundreds of people alive and well today who would have been in their graves had they not taken Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is depended upon as a family medicine and general regulator of the system by tens of thousands of people. This is because Hood's Sarsaparilla makes the blood pure. This is the secret of its great success. Keep your system in good health by keeping your blood pure with Hood's Sarsaparilla, which absolutely cures when other medicines fail to do any good whatever.

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