

The Catholic Register.

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

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MR. BLAKE ON JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

The Liberal Leaders' Subscriptions.

In the course of his New York speech, Mr. Blake said.

You know Mr. Justin McCarthy (loud applause). But you do not know, any one who has not mixed in intimate association with him, who has not seen him, watched him, lived with him, heard him, observed him, as I and some others have for the last two years, can know the virtues of his character. A more unselfish, a more self-abnegating man, a man more mild, more genial, more desirous to promote harmony—a man who along with all those qualities retains a more unwavering grasp of great principles, and a more tenacious determination that good shall be done, if it can be done, for Ireland, than Mr. Justin McCarthy I do not know. (Applause). He has labored and suffered for your cause. He has retained, at enormous personal sacrifice of health, of means, of comfort, of all that a man can wish for, the post of chairman in the interests of the party, and to no man do we as a party owe more than to him. (Cheers).

Well, our Chairman, who happened to be in London alone, supposed that the two subscriptions which were sent to him direct—the subscriptions of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Tweedmouth—were spontaneous; and that the reference contained in Lord Tweedmouth's letter to a circular applied to some notice which he might have seen in some newspaper, and not at all to any application which had been made to him. Our Chairman thought it impossible to refuse Mr. Gladstone's testimonial of good will, and difficult to return Lord Tweedmouth's check, which was sent by Lord Tweedmouth in the letter covering Mr. Gladstone's. I will quote Mr. McCarthy's own words: "I thought it a grateful action on the part of the Grand Old Man, who is now out of public life, and I did not think I could distinguish between the two offerings which came together under the one authority."

Please remember that those subscriptions of one hundred pounds apiece were but a drop in the bucket. Ireland had given about £5,000 at the time, and was still subscribing; and two hundred pounds from these sources did not in the least degree alter the national character of the tribute which was being paid for the members of Parliament. We were at that time, comparatively speaking, flush of money; and more was coming in, and the fund, notwithstanding these subscriptions, was and remained a national fund, an Irish fund, to which these sums made no material pecuniary addition, although the sentiment resulting in their spontaneous offer would be valuable to the cause. (Applause).

Still after full consideration, and when it had become clear that these and other subscriptions had been sent in response to the circular erroneously addressed, the Chairman, looking over the whole situation, thought it better to avoid all risk of misconception by causing all such subscriptions, save that of Mr. Gladstone, to be returned; and this has been done. So that in name and in form and in substance this question remains as it was before that circular was issued. In truth, and I can speak upon this subject

with absolute confidence on evidence by which I shall convince you, there never could have been any idea in the mind of Mr. McCarthy, or, for that matter, as I know and as I shall prove to you, in the mind of Messrs. Sexton, Dillon, O'Brien, or O'Connor, of asking for subscriptions from those quarters for the Parliamentary Party fund.

I give you my proof. Last spring, in our very darkest hour, when the session was going on, when the fate of the Home Rule government and the Home Rule cause depended upon the Irish vote being kept at Westminster, when the Canadian subscriptions were exhausted, when there was nothing from the States, when it was absolutely impossible, for reasons connected with the evicted tenants' fund, which I have described, to make any appeal to Ireland, when we did not know where to turn, when we were within measurable distance of collapse for want of funds, I myself, as a person who was known to have had some little success in collecting funds on this continent, was approached by a generous friend, by a British Liberal, who was a staunch ally of our cause, who had done much for us politically, and who did not want to see it fail in this miserable way. I was approached by him, and he said to me, "I have done a little for this cause. I have labored for it. I don't want it to fail in this way. It ought not so to fail." And being a very wealthy man, he said to me, "I am willing, and I offer as a testimony of my continued interest in the cause, to give you in my own name or anonymously, or any way you please, two thousand pounds sterling, —\$10,000— as a subscription to the Irish Parliamentary Fund. That, gentlemen, was Lord Tweedmouth. (Loud applause). The offer was made in the handsomest spirit. It was made in a spirit of respect for those to whom it was made. I told Lord Tweedmouth that I did not believe it would be possible to accept that offer, but that I was not going, in the circumstances under which we stood, to take on my own shoulders the responsibility of decision. I had some private conversation, not mentioning the name—for this is the first time I have mentioned the name (I have thought it due to Lord Tweedmouth, under the circumstances, that it should now become known, and I make it known to the world to-night. Without mentioning the name I told the offer to some friends, to the gentlemen I have named Messrs. McCarthy, Sexton, T. P. O'Connor, Dillon and O'Brien. They one and all declared to me their opinion that the money could not be accepted (applause), even although a collapse of the movement were inevitable. They said, "Better the movement should fail than that we should put ourselves in the position of accepting such a subscription from a member of the British Government." (Applause).

I felt that the party must have the opportunity of dealing with the offer because the situation was too serious for the assumption of individual responsibility, and I named it at the meeting of the party at which we were considering our financial condition. We had three meetings before we decided to make an appeal to Ireland. I conveyed the offer to the party at the first of these meetings. But the party did not accept the offer; they determined instead to appeal to Ireland;

and I communicated to Lord Tweedmouth that the Irish Parliamentary Party had decided on that course, not availing itself even in that crisis and that emergency, of his handsome proposal. Now, gentlemen, there is only one single man of the Irish Parliamentary Party, whose name, if I should give it, you would hear with great amazement—there is only one single man whom I have at any time heard propose an appeal to members of the British Government for aid.

I think you will agree that this incident, which recent circumstances have induced me to reveal to the whole world is honorable alike to Lord Tweedmouth and the Irish Party, and proves that our independence has remained intact under great trials and difficulties. (Applause).

In truth, there never was a poorer party as to worldly means, than the Irish Parliamentary Party. You could not get a true representation of Ireland, unless it were largely composed of men of the people, and the circumstances of that country as you know have prevented the majority of its people from amassing wealth. But there was never a party acting on such independent principles. What is it to us, whether leaders or followers that British ministers or British parties should rise or fall? (Hear, hear.) We take no offices. We take no salaries. We take no honors. (Cheers). Our sole interest is to put in and to keep in the friends of Ireland, to put out and keep out the foes of Ireland, and our sole subject in putting in the one and keeping out the other, and in mingling in the play of parties, is to advance the sacred cause of self government for Ireland. (Applause). It is to this that we bend our energies; and we count confidently on our people here and elsewhere to help us in our struggle by the exhibition of their sympathy and by their material aid.

I think I have shown you plainly, freely, fully, frankly, first, what our tactics are, and secondly, what are our necessities. I ask you by your voices and by your actions to show that you approve of our tactics, and that you are prepared to do what is necessary to enable us to prosecute this great and sacred cause to a triumphant and, I hope, a speedy issue. (Prolonged applause).

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

A circular letter from his Eminence Cardinal Logue was read in all the churches of the archdiocese of Armagh on Sunday last in reference to the unfinished state of the magnificent Cathedral of the Primate's See of Ireland. The Cardinal Primate appeals in eloquent and feeling terms to the clergy and people of Armagh to complete the interior of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the unfinished state of which is wholly out of keeping with the beautiful outlines and imposing magnificence of its exterior. The appeal of his Eminence is one which should meet with a warm response, not alone from the Catholics of Armagh, but from Irish Catholics wherever they may be found.

There are cases of consumption so far advanced that Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup will not cure, but none so bad that it will not give relief. For coughs, colds and all affections of the throat, lungs and chest, it is a specific which has never been known to fail. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, thereby removing the phlegm, and gives the diseased parts a chance to heal.

A Blasphemous Politician.

The speech made by the member of Parliament, Signor Cavallotti, during a banquet offered to him at the Hotel de Rome on Tuesday last, is the one subject of conversation in Rome ever since. Eloquent and undoubtedly clever as the honourable member is, he has seriously injured his reputation, even amongst his own supporters, because owing to recent evolution in thought, word, and action on the part of former avowed enemies of the Church and religion, it is now considered bad form to insult the belief of so many friends and companions in public life. Cavallotti is one of the most conspicuous leaders of the Italian Radical party, and has won great popularity with the masses, thanks to his independent character and fearless condemnation of all abuses; but he is also a rabid anti-Christian. In his discourse Cavallotti reviewed the condition of Italy, late events, and statesmen. He made Crispi his special target, and his synopsis of that gentleman's character and career was a curious mixture of praise and blame. He drew a word picture of the young rebel, praising him for his "bravery" in outraging the Church, and terminated his retrospection by pitying the aged statesman who has of late shown some semblance of repentance and respect. But all this rhetorical eloquence was expected, and no umbrage would have been taken had not Cavallotti ventured to make use of words insulting to Almighty God. His language, which was intolerable, has caused widespread horror.

Mother House of the Ursuline Nuns.

This magnificent institution (located at Thildonak, and the largest convent school in Belgium), was holding high festival on the feast of the Presentation of Our Lady, 21st November, on which day so large a number as nine of the members made their solemn profession. Out of this number five were choir nuns and four were lay Sisters. The touching ceremony, according to the ancient ritual of the Order, was witnessed by a large and devout congregation in their beautiful church, which has almost the proportions of a cathedral. One of the newly professed was a convert from Anglicanism. She had once been a pupil at Thildonack, and in spite of very deep Protestant prejudices, grace, and the examples of earnest piety she saw around her, at length triumphed over all, and after a year's probation in the world, she obtained the permission of her father, himself a convert, to devote herself irrevocably to God.

The Lord Chief Justice of England was the honoured guest on Friday night at the Middle Temple Hall, the occasion being "Grand Day" of Michaelmas term. As he passing down the ancient hall there was not a barrister or student who did not join in the ovation he received; and so unexpected was the greeting—for this freedom is not indulged in at the other Inns of Court—that he was visibly affected by it.

If you have a troublesome cough, don't keep nibbling sweets, and so ruin your appetite. A dose or two of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral will do you more good than pounds of candy, and assist rather than impair your digestion. Always keep this medicine in your house.