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T. GERMAIN.

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REDMOND AND BLAKE

AT THE LONDON BANQUET.

The annual St. Patrick's Day banquet of the Irish Parliamentary Party was held at the Hotel Cecil, London, Eng. There was a large attendance and Mr. John Redmond, M.P., occupied the chair. His opening speech was a magnificent one, as may be realized from a careful perusal of the following summary. Mr. Redmond said:—He felt that he was particularly fortunate in being able in the midst of a time of stress and strain in the House of Commons to take part in that celebration. Those annual functions did a great national service by bringing together Irishmen, and affording a unique opportunity for taking stock of the national movements, and taking counsel together. When last year he presided at the St. Patrick's Day banquet, he was able to congratulate them and Ireland upon the fact that a reunion had taken place in the ranks of the Irish National Party; that the disastrous ten years of civil war through which they had gone had come to a close. But although at that time he himself firmly believed that there were few men in the Irish race who were sanguine enough to believe that the reunion that they proclaimed was a genuine one, and had the elements of permanency in it. Well, since that day last year many events had happened which had raised the spirits of the Irish race throughout the world, and had given to the Irish people new hope and new courage for the future.

The general election which took place in Ireland a few months ago, resulted in Ireland affording to the whole world a spectacle of political unity and brotherhood, such as never had been in either England or in Scotland. People in Great Britain were fond of sneering at Irish dissensions, but he would say in the whole course of British political history there never was such an instance of political unity as the last election showed in Ireland, where they had 85 per cent of the representation of Ireland elected upon the same platform, pledged to the same principles, and embraced in the same party. The party then elected was the most democratic that Ireland had ever sent to the English Parliament—certainly in his own experience there had been no political party elected from Ireland so directly by the people themselves with so little interference, dictation, or even advice from so-called leaders. The present party was the direct result of the free action of the democracy of Ireland. In that party there were a number of new men, and he would detach himself from that party for the moment to speak of it as it seemed to him to work in the House of Commons. Ireland had to-day in the House of Commons a party of able men—of men devoted to a high sense of their duty—a party of men absolutely united in sentiment and in policy. He could speak from intimate personal knowledge when he said that in the party there was an absolute brotherhood of feeling, that there was no trace to-day of the slightest personal rivalry or dissension, and absolutely no difference as to any question of policy. The metal of which that party was composed had already been tested. Parliament had only been in session for a little over a month, but the Irish Party during that time had shown a steady attendance in the House of Commons, and an unselfish devotion to duty, a constant vigilance and readiness of resource and power of initiation, and what was, perhaps, best of all, a courage of action never excelled, and he believed, seldom paralleled in the history of their country. It had to face a Government with a nominal majority of 150, and in the course of four short weeks it had reduced that Government to a position which had never been equalled in so short a time—a position in which the Government was overwhelmed with difficulty, danger, and embarrassment; and though the whole of the time since Parliament met had been spent by the British Parliament in vain effort by revising their rules, by curtailing rights of discussion, to put an end to the freedom of the Irish Party. During the whole of the session the House of Commons, day by day, had been dominated by the Irish question and the Irish Party. That party had, during those weeks, fulfilled the duty of the Opposition, it had been the only Opposition that had ventured to oppose. And he ventured to say that there was practically no limit to the possibilities of achievement by a party of that character. He therefore congratulated them, and he congratulated Ire-

land on this great new weapon that had been forged, and that had been placed in the hands of their country—disunion had disappeared in the ranks of the Parliamentary Party, so it had disappeared amongst the people.

To-day in Ireland the voice of disunion was unheard—the voice of disunion was not raised from one corner of Ireland to the other, and the people were once more banded together in a great, powerful, popular, and democratic organization, which he firmly believed, was yet destined to achieve the final liberties of the country. Therefore, he saw before them a political prospect full of the brightest hopes. With such a party in Parliament, the continued maintenance of English rule, as they knew it in their country, was an impossibility in future. Of course, they knew not when, they knew not how, they knew not from what quarter the settlement of this great national question would come, but what they knew was that they had it in their power to make the Government of Ireland by present methods impossible in Ireland and in the House of Commons. When they had reached that point they were very near indeed to a proposal of settlement. He was fully conscious of the fact that that gathering was something more than a mere party gathering. He believed, at any rate, that such a gathering as that ought to be, in the widest sense of the word, a national gathering, and he, for one, had always recognized that, even outside the beaten paths of political parties; Nationalists had done in the past and might in the future do great service for the cause of Ireland, and, for his part, he heartily rejoiced that with the political movement, to which he had been alluding, there had sprung up in Ireland another movement which had the same goal in view—namely, the regeneration of Ireland, which he desired to obtain what they were striving for—the freedom of their country—but which was not confining itself largely not to political methods, but to others, which was striving to nationalize Irish sentiment, Irish feeling, and Irish thought, to cultivate a knowledge of the glorious past of their country, and to stimulate the Irishman's pride of race.

Of all of the influences that had been working on the side of England in this quarrel with their country, the most deadly has been the spread of the fashion of English modes, of English thoughts in Ireland, and the depreciation by the Irish people themselves of everything that was definitely Irish, more than famine, and the second, more than emigration and coercion, even this gradual Anglicising of their country had militated against their national hopes for freedom. England's work in the denationalizing of Ireland had indeed been systematic. It had been carried out from the very cradle. The ancient language in which the saints and sages and poets and heroes of their race in the past uttered their thoughts came to be regarded as a badge of inferiority amongst large classes of Irish people. If this work had been allowed to go on unchecked, Ireland would finally have sunk into the position of a province. It went on too long, and nothing could estimate the injury which it had done to the cause of national freedom; but, thank God, reaction had come. A great movement had sprung up and had spread throughout the country—a movement for an Irish Ireland. What was necessarily wanting in a purely political movement was supplied by the great Gaelic movement which had spread all through Ireland. One movement was complimentary to the other; they were both strong and vigorous, and both these movements working together would speedily create a situation in which the maintenance of English rule in their country would become an impossibility. Therefore, he said, on this St. Patrick's night, at the commencement of their new century, Irishmen and Irishwomen had reason to lift up their hearts with thanksgiving and joy in the belief that the near future would see an Irish Ireland, concentrated, self-contained, self-reliant, not contaminated by the aping of the fashions and thoughts and modes of feeling of any other nation; an Irish Ireland, proud of its glorious past, confident of its future, and determined to be free.

The Rev. Anthony Dodley then gave the first toast, "Ireland a Na-

tion," and Mr. John Delvin (Bel-fast) responded in an able speech.

The toast of the "United Irish Party" was given by the Rev. Michael Maloney.

Mr. Edward Blake, M.P., in reply, said whatever were their merits or demerits, they were a united party. But they lamented that under the forms of freedom they had the substance of slavery. There was no more loyal part of the Empire than Canada, because they had been allowed to manage their own affairs and concerns according to their own view. This had been imitated elsewhere except in the place where with the greatest advantage it could be imitated. So deaf, so blind and dull were those who ruled them that they seemed to make, with reference to the Conservatives, no headway, and with reference to the Liberals, as a whole, as little. As they were engaged in a constitutional movement, and as they wished to bring the matter within the domain of reason, he gladly recognized the existence of a very considerable body of sentiment favorable to the granting of Home Rule in Ireland still in their country. While he agreed that they had no cause to love the present constitution, yet he maintained that they were perfectly consistent when they said that they were determined not to be reconciled except upon the ground of justice. They were ready, on the common ground of justice being accorded, to shake hands even after the feud of seven hundred years. The end and aim of their action was to manage their own affairs, and that was the aim at which the Irish Parliamentary Constitutional Party must look. What they had to do was to keep their minds steadily upon that objective and nothing parties could do would cause them to give up their claim to the right of a nation to rule herself.

CATHOLIC NOTES

From American Centres.

THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS, Texas, will soon come into possession of a beautiful new Cathedral.

For the past three years the Bishop Dunne has gone North, and through his individual labors in Chicago and elsewhere has collected at least one-half of all the money that so far has been expended in the work of construction. He has more than this, saved the Cathedral thousands of dollars by directly superintending the work himself. He has been, in fact, its architect, contractor and builder. Frequently in the heat of summer did he preach, five and six times in Chicago on Sundays, and leave for Dallas Sunday night to give directions to the workmen, and be again in Chicago the following Sunday to continue his collecting.

So far, beyond the Sacred Heart parish of Dallas no appeal has been made to the Catholics of the diocese, and now in order that the parishes of the diocese may in a most striking manner be identified with the Cathedral work it is proposed that each parish of the diocese place a window in the Cathedral and have the name of the parish on it to forever perpetuate the memory of the gift.

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON.—St. Mary's Church, Charleston, S.C., the oldest in the Carolinas and Georgia, was consecrated last week with imposing ceremonies. Bishop Northrop, was the officiating prelate, assisted by Bishops Monaghan, of Wilmington, Del., Savannah, and Monsignor Quigley and thirteen priests. The sermon was preached by Bishop Kelley, of Savannah, who forcibly presented the claim of the Catholic Church to infallibility. In reference to the Negro problem he said:

"Two non-Catholic religious bodies have practically monopolized the field of church work among the Negroes. Are they any better religiously or morally than they were a quarter of a century ago? Have honesty and personal purity any stronger hold on them now than then? My answer is, unquestionably, no. The reason the Catholic Church could heretofore do nothing for them was that she had few priests and limited means in these States. There is involved in this question a social problem, and on its practical solution depends the well-being of both peoples—depends, maybe, the preservation of our civilization. I have no hesitation in making the assertion that to the Catholic Church must the Negro look for amelioration of his spiritual condition."

CHURCHES ROBBED.—The systematic robbery of the Catholic churches of New Orleans recently, has excited the Catholic population and their indignation found utterance in the strong denunciation of the police department by the Rev. John Brisson, pastor of the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception.

"It is an outrage upon society," he said, "that these robberies can take place in this city of ours. I do not believe they would be tolerated for an instant in any other community in America. That such crimes are repeated with absolute impunity right here in the heart of New Orleans is enough to alarm every thinking person. The robbery of our churches is conclusive proof that the management of the police force of New Orleans is either criminally incompetent or is in league with the law-breakers."

There have been robbed during the month ten churches in the central district of the city. In nearly all cases the churches were broken into at night and ransacked, and that, too, in spite of the fact that several of them are in the densely populated and best guarded part of the city.

The fact that the robberies have been

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The CITY ICE COMPANY, Limited, having completed its harvest more advantageously than was anticipated, has decided to reduce the price to what it was last year, FIVE DOLLARS for TEN POUNDS, orders already received included.

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NOTICE.

The Montreal and Southern Counties Railway Company will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at the present session, for an Act extending the day fixed for the construction of the Railway; granting it the power to connect with other Railways and making arrangements for the use of other Railways lines; to construct, maintain and operate vessels and power vehicles, elevators, warehouses, docks, wharves and other buildings, and power to dispose of same; and for other necessary powers. A. J. CORRIEVEAU, Managing Director. Montreal, 12th February, 1901. 32-9

Teas. 20c up, CEYLON and JAPAN TEAS, finest qualities, the lowest prices. At SCULLION'S, 29 McCord street near St. Ann's Church. Trial order solicited

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EVERY CATHOLIC .. Young Man.. Should possess a copy of "The Catholic Student's Manual of Instructions and Prayers." For all seasons of the Ecclesiastical Year. Compiled by a Religious, under the immediate supervision of Rev. H. Rouzel, P. S. S., Professor of Moral Theology, Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada. It contains Liturgical Prayers, Indulgences, Devotions and Exercises for every occasion, and for all seasons of the Ecclesiastical Year. 118 pages, four full-page illustrations, flexible cloth, round corners. PRICE 75 cents. PUBLISHED BY D. & J. SADLER & CO., 1669, Notre Dame Street, Montreal

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