

IRELAND'S NATIONAL GAMES.

A REVIEW BY "CRUX"—CONTINUED.

Last week I commented upon the first portion of Michael MacDonagh's "In the Bye-ways of Rural Ireland," which appeared in the August number of the "Nineteenth Century." I may have been a little severe in regard to that writer's selections of Irish ballads; but I am confident that my censure will meet with the approval of every lover of genuine Irish literature. I stated that I read this contribution with mingled feelings of approval and disapproval. I have already marked in no uncertain manner the disapproval of the author's method of presenting the English public with some of the most common and vulgar songs that he could select and leaving the impression that these are fair samples of the best that Irish poetic genius could produce. This week I have to mark my appreciation of what the same author has to say regarding games, sports, or athletic exercises in Ireland. I purpose going more fully into details concerning Mr. MacDonagh's statements about olden traditions and lingering superstitions in the land; for the present I will only call attention to his remarks about hurling and other field sports. He says:—

"The outdoor games of a people afford an insight into their national character and temperament. It may be said as a general truth that all attempts to make cricket, the great national game of England, popular in Ireland have signally failed. The youth of Ireland delight in what some would call the manlier, and others the ruder and rougher, games of hurling and football, in which, with throwing weights, wrestling, jumping, leaping, and running—they excel. This, no doubt, is due to the characteristics of the race. Coolness, patience, and calculation, are essential to success in cricket. But with these qualities the Irish race is not largely endowed, and any outdoor game which requires the exercise of them has little chance of success among youths, ardent, excitable, and impulsive, like the youths of Ireland. What they want is a game in which the excitable side of the Celtic temperament finds vent, and they get that in the rough and tumble sport of football, and, above all, in the game of hurling, in the mad excitement of the clash of the camans, or the sticks of the rival hurlers, as they meet together in a flying ball."

"An English writer has called hurling 'the cricket of barbarians.' A game fit only for the nursery? A hurling game for men, one which a sluggish or inferior race could never have thought of?—two opinions which afford an excellent example of how things appear through the mists of national prejudices or predilections. Hurling, anyway, is the pastime of the Irish people, and it is probably the world's oldest outdoor game. In Ireland it has been the national pastime from the remotest years. The frequent allusions to it in the old bardic romances show that it was the great game of the heroic period of Irish history. Cuchullin, that mighty demigod who looms so majestically, if vaguely, through the mists of bardic tradition, was a champion hurler of his age. Finding himself mortally wounded in battle, he bound himself with a girdle to a pillar stone, in order that he might in the face of the enemy die standing. The head of this great hero and hurler was afterwards used as a hurling ball by his enemies—an indignity that led to a long and bloody war, in which the followers of the outraged demigod were ultimately victorious."

"But it is a far cry from a hurling match in the prehistoric time of Cuchullin to a hurling field in a Munster valley at the end of the nineteenth century. The field is laid out for a hurling match. The ground, 180 yards long by 120 yards broad, is marked by boundary lines. At each end of the ground are two goal posts—as in football—twenty-one feet apart, and with a cross-bar ten and a half feet from the ground. There are also two upright posts standing in each goal-line, and twenty-one feet from the goal-posts. The rival teams, not less than seven or more than seventeen players a side in regular matches—are arrayed in cross-barred jerseys, knee-breeches, long stockings, and shoes. Each man has a caman or hurley—a stick, about three feet long, with a bend or curve at the end. The captains of the rival teams toss for the choice of sides, the winner selecting, of course, the side which gives to his men the advantages of sun and wind. The rival hurlers then stand in two lines in the centre of the field, opposite each other, and catch hands, or touch hurleys across, and then separate. The ball, covered with leather, and about five inches in diameter, is thrown by the referee along the ground between the lines of players, and the game begins. The aim of each side is to drive the ball with their hurleys to the goal posts. A goal is won when the ball is sent between the goal posts and under the cross-bar. A point is counted when the ball is sent over the cross-bar. The game lasts an hour, and the players change sides at half-time. The match is decided by the greater number of goals. Where no goals are made, or where the goals are equal, the game goes to the side which has the greater number of points, five of which are equivalent to a goal."

There is a great deal in all this of interest to many of our readers. The days of hurling and football are not over in Ireland, and as to the latter game, it threatens strongly to become the rival of baseball in the United States, and of lacrosse in

Canada. But I notice that Mr. MacDonagh omits a game which was more popular in many parts of Ireland than even the hurling. I refer to hand-ball. In Canada this game seems to be greatly confined to colleges and schools, where they have hand-ball alleys; but the time was in Ireland—and not many years ago—when every little hamlet had its public hand-ball alley, and when village contended with village, townland with townland, city with city, and even province with province for superiority in hand-ball. There are men still living who can recall the time when "Malta" challenged all Ireland, and was victorious upon every hand-ball alley, from Lough Foyle to France, from the mouth of the Liffey to the mouth of the Shannon, until one day he met defeat at the hands of Michael Daum of Carrick-on-Suir.

This reference to Mr. MacDonagh's comments upon Ireland's games has about as little to do with my review as has his pages on this subject to do with the main object of his article. From ball-playing to fairy land is a quick transition; I will take, however, a week to effect the same.

NOTES OF CATHOLIC NEWS.

BISHOP OF COLUMBUS.—The Rt. Rev. Henry Moeller was consecrated Bishop of Columbus at the Cathedral in Cincinnati on Aug. 23. Archbishop Elder and the Bishops of Indianapolis, Atlanta, Covington, Grand Rapids, Nashville and other dioceses, together with about 240 priests, participated in the imposing ceremony. The Very Rev. Louis F. Kearney, provincial of the Dominicans at Zanesville, O., preached an eloquent sermon.

REV. CHARLES SCHMIDT DEAD.—Rev. Charles Schmidt, C.S.S.R., of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, at Avenue A and Third St., New York, died Aug. 28, after a lingering illness. He was born in Hudson City, N.J., in 1849, and was ordained a priest in 1876. Father Schmidt was rector of St. Peter's, Philadelphia, from 1890 to 1893.

A PRIEST SAVES LIVES.—Four firemen owe their lives to Father Smith, one of the chaplains of the New York fire department, who found them unconscious and in danger of drowning on the fourth floor of Nos. 46, 48 and 50 Wooster street during a big fire in that city last week.

The water tower and a dozen or more engine companies were pumping thousands of gallons of water into the building. It was five or six inches deep on the floor where the men had fallen when Father Smith found them. He immediately notified their comrades and they were carried out.

PRIESTS AND LABOR.—At a large enthusiastic meeting of Grain Shovelers in Buffalo, N.Y., a resolution was adopted in grateful remembrance of Bishop Quigley, the Very Rev. M. P. Connelly, Fathers Cronin, Lanigan, McConnell, Bidon and others, thanking them for their assistance in the great dock strikes.

QUEEN CHRISTINA of Spain, though entitled to \$200,000 a year from the Spanish treasury, has, it is said, never taken anything from it, in consideration of Spain's straitened monetary condition.

REV. JOSEPH GOETZ, the oldest priest in the archdiocese of Cincinnati, passed away last week. Father Goetz was born in Strasbourg, in Alsace, in 1827, and was consequently past 72 years at his death. He was educated at Cincinnati and Mt. St. Mary's Emmetsburg. He completed his studies at the seminary of the Holy Spirit, Paris, where he was ordained to the priesthood. He celebrated his first Mass in his native village, coming then to Cincinnati. His first assignment was at Margus, Ohio, now in Columbus diocese, later at Zanesville, and missions in Stark, Tuscarawas, Muskingum and Carroll counties. He was often compelled to make long journeys by horseback and frequently was absent from home for many days on his ministerial trips. For a year he was a professor of French, German and philosophy at Mt. St. Mary's in Cincinnati.

A JESUIT FATHER DEAD.—Rev. D. J. MacGouldrick, of St. Peter's

Cathedral, Scranton, died Wednesday morning in Washington, where he was being treated by a specialist.

He was born in Ireland, April 4, 1847. While yet in his youth he came to Boston to reside, and there his young manhood was spent. There also his parents still live. In 1872 he joined the Jesuit Order and made his novitiate in Montreal. After two years spent there he went to England, where he studied English literature for a year. He then went to Louvain, Belgium, where he remained for three years. There he received minor orders from the Right Rev. Bishop of Ghent. He came back in 1880 and continued his studies at the Jesuit novitiate at Woodstock, Maryland, where, on May 19, 1884, he was ordained a priest by Cardinal Gibbons.

WHAT OUR EXCHANGES SAY.

ABOUT FEDERATION.—The "Irish American" is practical in its remarks on this subject, when it says:—

There has been considerable agitation of the topic of the Federation of Catholic societies, and its necessity for the protection of Catholic interests. In several cities meetings have been held and a semi-organization of forces made looking to the adoption of the scheme outlined in the original programme. It is evident, therefore, that the idea would have more force if some action followed all the talking.

HIS HOLINESS AND LATE KING.

The following important bit of information is taken from the editorial columns of the "Midland Review":—The statement may be of much interest generally that, according to the "Veterinarian" of Vienna, usually considered an able, reliable journal, the Holy Father celebrated no Mass for the repose of the soul of King Humbert when the latter was assassinated. Neither did he send, nor authorize the sending of any message of condolence to the Italian Queen.

With regard to the church-burial in the Pantheon he neither granted permission nor refused, when permission was asked. In other words, he took no notice of it; therefore it took place. The prayer of Queen Margherita was not approved by the Holy See, and was regarded an undue interference of the State with the functions of the Church. It had, therefore, no effect, and was prohibited for Italian Catholics to use it.

And so ends the matter so far as the Vatican authorities are concerned.

ON THE STUMP.—The elections are now on in the neighboring Republic—or at least the preliminaries—and as was to be expected the workingman is a great object of interest to the leaders of all parties. That such is the case one need only follow the American newspapers to fully realize this fact. Here is a sample item clipped from the "Baltimore Sun."

It runs thus:—"Bettions by the gross are being distributed, bearing in the centre the noble device of a laborer's dinner pail bearing the words 'Four years more of the full dinner pail,' and on its outer edge the legend 'McKinley and Roosevelt.' With a promise that his dinner pail shall be filled it is the belief of Mark Hanna & Co. that the workingman is ready to vote for anything and anybody."

The "full dinner pail" is a booming cry. The seat of the workingman's intelligence is not in his stomach. The Republican party's intimation that it is, and that he is nothing more than a broad-and-cheese hunter, a dinner-pail patriot who votes for virtuals only, will be generally and justly resented.

AMERICAN C.M.B.A.—The C.M.B.A., of America, will hold its next convention in Buffalo in October. The "Catholic Mirror and Times" in referring to the event, says:—"Elaborate preparations are being made for the reception and entertainment of delegates to the convention of the Supreme Council of the C.M.B.A. to be held in this city in October. An energetic committee has the matter in charge, and the enthusiasm shown by the membership in general ensures success for the enterprise. Bishop Quigley, himself a member of the association, is interested in the preparations for the convention, and will take a prominent part therein."

TEMPERANCE REFORM.—Touching upon the subject of the consumption of alcohol in France which has been going on for some years, the Dublin "Nation" says, it has roused social reformers in that country to a conception of the vital importance of taking steps to curb the evil practice. A French Anti-Alcohol Society has

sprung into existence, which is carrying on an active campaign against strong drink, with results which are regarded as fully justifying the efforts expended. One of the methods, adopted by the society consists in displaying upon walls and other suitable places in Paris small bills, on which are printed short sentences calculated to give pause to bibulous persons. Some of the dicta thus displayed are both striking and impressive, such, for instance, as "Alcohol now-a-days is responsible for more ravages than pestilence, famine, or war" (Gladstone); "Do you know what that man is drinking from the glass which shakes in his trembling hand? He is drinking the tears, and the blood, and the life of his wife and child" (Lamennais); and many others to the same effect. The terms in which the great men whose utterances we quote couched their opinions of the evils which result from intemperance are certainly quite forcible enough to make an impression on the heart of even the most hardened of drunkards.

ABOUT MONEY LENDERS.

SOME WICKED JEWS.—Under the above strange caption—strange because of the peculiar details that follow—the "Boston Pilot" says:—A clerk in the employ of a Jewish New York business house found himself two years ago in straitened circumstances, so that he was obliged to borrow thirty dollars. A firm of benevolent money-lenders, who were not Jews, accommodated him with a loan, nominally for that amount, but gave them his note payable in thirty days, and received \$25.04, the firm explaining that the remainder was deducted for "investigation" interest, etc. At the end of the month the note was renewed with discounts as before. And so it was renewed twenty times in succession, until he figures out that up to the first of last June he had paid out \$124 and received in actual cash just the above named \$25.04. Then, in his despair, he told the story to his employers, who discovered on inquiry that others of their clerks had been accommodated in the same way and on the same costly terms. One had paid \$173.00, in two years, for a nominal loan of \$30; another had been lent the same amount for a shorter period and had paid only \$119.40. Then the firm took legal action against the benevolent money-lenders, whose active members are the brothers. A third who is silent partner, is described by the "Sun" as "the ossified evangelist who caused a series of riots on the lower East side by his efforts to convert the Jews."

We remember hearing of that ardent evangelist some years ago, when the A. P. A. was flourishing, and wondering why he wasted his talents on the Hebrews when there were Catholics to be inspired and bullied. Indeed, the poor Shylocks of the Hebrew persuasion might well exclaim as Mr. Lauterbach did when he saw his brother lawyer, Gentle Joseph Choate, draw from a bully the shaver thus:—This is not all as difficult a problem as some people imagine. We live in a glorious country where any man with a hard heart can pile up money by trading on the troubles of those who find themselves financially straitened. Take the case of the late Isaac Gordon. He came to England not many years ago a poor man. He had no poetic dreams; did not give much thought to such things as the Zeux of Phidias. His soul's ambition was to make money, and for doing that he found England to be a happy land. He lent money under various aliases, and at enormous rates of interest. At one place he was known as the farmer's friend, and at another as the Catholic Mirror and Times. In referring to the event, says:—"Elaborate preparations are being made for the reception and entertainment of delegates to the convention of the Supreme Council of the C.M.B.A. to be held in this city in October. An energetic committee has the matter in charge, and the enthusiasm shown by the membership in general ensures success for the enterprise. Bishop Quigley, himself a member of the association, is interested in the preparations for the convention, and will take a prominent part therein."

HOW TO BECOME RICH.—Under this heading the Liverpool "Catholic Times" refers to the methods of the note shaver thus:—This is not at all as difficult a problem as some people imagine. We live in a glorious country where any man with a hard heart can pile up money by trading on the troubles of those who find themselves financially straitened. Take the case of the late Isaac Gordon. He came to England not many years ago a poor man. He had no poetic dreams; did not give much thought to such things as the Zeux of Phidias. His soul's ambition was to make money, and for doing that he found England to be a happy land. He lent money under various aliases, and at enormous rates of interest. At one place he was known as the farmer's friend, and at another as the Catholic Mirror and Times. In referring to the event, says:—"Elaborate preparations are being made for the reception and entertainment of delegates to the convention of the Supreme Council of the C.M.B.A. to be held in this city in October. An energetic committee has the matter in charge, and the enthusiasm shown by the membership in general ensures success for the enterprise. Bishop Quigley, himself a member of the association, is interested in the preparations for the convention, and will take a prominent part therein."

At the drawing of August 29th, of the Society of Arts of Canada, Mr. B. Smith, 645 Sherbrooke street, won a painting worth \$1,500.

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by the administrator of Gordon's estate against a farmer for money lent over the lines and has since operated them. The first year's report of municipal operation shows that 6,500,000 more passengers were carried than under private ownership. Fares reduced to 1 cent, wages are raised, hours of labor reduced, and the net earnings are actually greater than under the corporations. Encouraged by this experience, the county council has served notice on the corporation of a few which no fewer companies in three parishes requiring them to surrender their franchises. Announcement is made that street railway properties shall be taken over by the county council as fast as the grants expire, the latest being in 1910. "Public ownership of traction utilities," says the vice chairman of the highway committee of the county council, "is no longer a debatable question in London. The council is firm on one point—never to consider giving another franchise to private interest."

LONDON STREET RAILWAYS.

Municipal ownership and operation of transit facilities are a success in London. A year ago the city took over the lines and has since operated them. The first year's report of municipal operation shows that 6,500,000 more passengers were carried than under private ownership. Fares reduced to 1 cent, wages are raised, hours of labor reduced, and the net earnings are actually greater than under the corporations. Encouraged by this experience, the county council has served notice on the corporation of a few which no fewer companies in three parishes requiring them to surrender their franchises. Announcement is made that street railway properties shall be taken over by the county council as fast as the grants expire, the latest being in 1910. "Public ownership of traction utilities," says the vice chairman of the highway committee of the county council, "is no longer a debatable question in London. The council is firm on one point—never to consider giving another franchise to private interest."

CAPITAL PRIZE.

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Mark—I saw that little boy of yours to-day.

Burroughs—Did you? Think he's like me?

Mark—Very much.

Burroughs—Do you really?

Mark—Yes; he asked me for some money.—Philadelphia Press.

WALTER KENNEDY,

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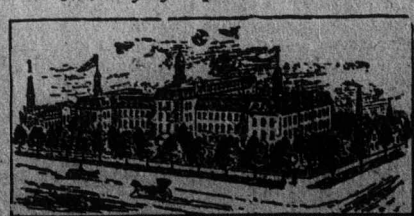
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