



## THE IRISH SITUATION.

### BUT LITTLE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE WEEK

Towards Procuring a Settlement—Conflicting Reports as to the Position of Affairs.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—During the past week there has been much discussion and deliberation among the members of the Irish party in Parliament. But they keep their own counsel admirably and positively decline to talk or explain the position of affairs.

The Fall Mail Gazette has quoted Parnell's statement made at Limerick that he is perfectly satisfied with the length he has travelled with Mr. O'Brien, and says that the conflicting accounts of the Boulogne conference furnished by Parnell and Healy, both claiming Mr. O'Brien, are not surprising. The Gazette adds:—The English Liberals are impatient and impatiently shilly-shallying. Mr. O'Brien is doing all he can to destroy Liberal confidence and is himself the greatest obstacle to the successful issue of home rule.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt writes: If the Irish people and the Irish members of Parliament continue to maintain toward the English Liberals the attitude of friendly co-operation, consultation, mutual good will and honorable confidence which existed before Mr. Parnell fell, there is no reason why they should not, with entire respect for each other's independence, work together as hitherto for the same objects and with a spirit of equal assurance towards ultimate success. If their positions towards them is unchanged. Then confidence as ever that the future of home rule is secure, nothing will happen. There are worse prospects if Mr. Parnell succeeds in influencing the Irish passion and sentiment against English sympathizers and persists in poisoning the Irish mind, vilifying Mr. Gladstone and acting and appealing to the hillside men and the Anglo-Irish dynasties, thus convincing the British people that no reliance can be placed in Irish honor, that confidence is violated under cover of personal delinquencies, and that in settling the home rule question the English Liberal cannot participate in the safeguard which surrounds it, but that the matter must be determined simply

### BY THE IRISH LEADERS.

The demands for separation mean hostility to England and not an honorable alliance. If the Irish people ratify such a policy home rule has no chance and ought to have no change.

Mr. Chamberlain writes that he hopes the Harcourt election will finish the work that Bassetlaw so well began. There is a clear issue, he says, before the electors. Mr. Gladstone offers a system of home rule, the nature of which he refuses to disclose, but which assured beforehand the hostility of every section of Irish politicians. On the other hand the Unionists offer the peasantry the opportunity of acquiring land upon favorable terms. This was gratefully accepted. Mr. Gladstone bidding for English support, with the promise to abolish the freehold votes, chiefly created a change which was for the benefit of nobody. The Unionists proposed to relieve the workingmen of school fees.

James Gilhooly, Nationalist member of Parliament for West Cork, offers to resign his seat on condition that Dr. Joseph E. Kenny, M.P., for South Cork, does the same, in order to put to a test the question whether Bantyn favors or does not favor Parnell.

The Freeman's Journal says the statements made in connection with Mr. Parnell's action at the Boulogne conferences are unauthorized. The Journal adds that the conferences at Boulogne are likely to last for some days.

A despatch from Tralee says the National club there has refused to support Parnell. The club also refused to hear Timothy D. Harrington.

As a result of doubts as to who is the legal custodian of the funds held by the central branch of the National League, some of the banks in the south of Ireland on which cheques have been drawn have refused to honor them.

At the meeting of the National League at Dublin Parnell was given

### AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

He was repeatedly greeted with cheers, and reiterated his statement that he had informed Justin McCarthy as to the chief features of his manifesto at least 24 hours before it was published. Mr. Parnell said conspiracy and lying were, next to billingsgate, the prominent feature of his opponents' resources and arguments. He said he had outlined to Mr. McCarthy what are known the four points of his manifesto. Mr. McCarthy twice told him he had consulted with Mr. Gladstone on the points—once when they were alone and once in the presence of John Redmond. According to Parnell Mr. McCarthy said: "All I can say is that I have already told you that Mr. Gladstone intends to deny point blank all your statements." Which, said Mr. Parnell, showed that Mr. Gladstone was aware of the proposed points of the manifesto. Mr. Parnell said that the subscriptions to the National League funds since the last meeting exceeded £5,000, showing that the country is practically with him. Mr. Parnell warmly urged the claims of the evicted tenants, classing them as "soldiers of the war against landlordism."

John Redmond has authorized the Dublin Telegraph to state that: "The night before Mr. Parnell's manifesto was

handed to the press it was read by Mr. McCarthy, in the presence of Mr. Parnell, Mr. Leamy, W. Redmond, Mr. O'Kelly and himself. Mr. McCarthy then informed Mr. Parnell that Mr. Gladstone said that if it was published he would immediately contradict it and dispute Mr. Parnell's memory as to the Harcourt conversation." Mr. Redmond adds, "My recollection of the incident is wholly inconsistent with Mr. McCarthy's denial."

Justin McCarthy, in a communication to the Daily News (Liberal), says: "Messrs. Parnell and Redmond have attempted to contradict me with regard to communications with Mr. Gladstone. On that point I am not merely the best, but the only authority. I had not informed Mr. Gladstone of the contents of Mr. Parnell's manifesto. I was asked to call on Mr. Gladstone with regard to home rule. Mr. Gladstone acquainted me with his opinions and willingness on the subject. From what he told me I was able to express to Mr. Parnell my conviction that if his manifesto was published Mr. Gladstone would be in a position to give certain of its statements a flat contradiction. That's the whole story."

The Express says it is incredible that Gladstone did not know the contents of the Parnell manifesto. Arnold Morley, the Liberal whip, went to Paris recently, where he had an interview with Mr. O'Brien. The subject of the differences in the Irish parliamentary party and the relations of the party with the English Liberals thoroughly discussed, but Mr. Morley found it impossible to bring Mr. O'Brien around to his way of thinking, of looking at the situation and the course to be pursued to bridge the existing difficulties between the Irish factions and the Liberals. It is said the McCarthyites expect that John Dillon on his return from the United States will signify his adherence to the faction of the Irish party which supports Mr. McCarthy. The National League at Belfast had a meeting to-day. After hours of noisy discussion the committee rescinded the vote of confidence in Justin McCarthy adopted some time ago, and adopted a vote of confidence in Parnell. The vote standing 57 to 34.

At a private meeting of the National Committee, Mr. Healy in the chair, it was decided to form

### A NATIONAL FEDERATION

and to invite branches of the National League opposing Mr. Parnell to affiliate themselves and be controlled by a council of sixty-one members. Of these members, seventeen are to be nominated by the McCarthyite party, twelve by the central body and thirty-two by the county organizations. A sub-committee was appointed to give the project definite shape.

Mr. Timothy Harrington has sued the Insuperable for libel, the newspaper having printed that he did not promptly forward funds intended for the relief of evicted tenants.

At Waterford the McCarthyites proposed to hold a meeting in the Town Hall for the purpose of establishing a branch of the National League. The Parnellites got wind of it, and, headed by the Mayor, took possession of the Town Hall and barred out their opponents, who were obliged to hold a meeting elsewhere.

Mr. W. O'Brien writes from Paris: "I am compelled to protest publicly against the unwarrantable use of my name in an expression of opinion tending to perpetuate strife in Ireland. I am responsible for nothing whatever but my own published declarations. I am convinced that the country regards with abhorrence every expression tending to exasperate feeling, and defeating the efforts to bring about the re-union which Mr. Dillon and I are making in the teeth of all sorts of difficulties and discouragements. If all approach the controversy in the spirit of Mr. Morley's speech at Newcastle it is still perfectly possible to save the country from unimaginable horrors of disaster."

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### Notes from the Vatican.

ROME, January 13.—The pope yesterday gave an audience to the Rev. Dr. O'Connell, rector of the American College, during the course of which he eulogized the American Episcopate. The pope has preconized the Bishops of Strasbourg, Posen and Fribourg. During the session of the secret consistory the Pope will deliver an allocution on the efficacy of the Italian Guarantee law and on the position of the Vatican in this connection. It is reported that the cardinals to be created are Mgr. Sepiaca, secretary of the council, and Mgr. Rotelli, the Papal Nuncio at Paris. The Vatican has been confidentially apprised of the renewal of the Triple Alliance.

### New Papal Order.

Another order of chivalry, bearing the name of "Servants of St. Peter," has been created by the Holy Father. This new distinction is intended as a recompense for important services rendered to the Sovereign Pontiff or to the Church. The distinguishing badge of the Order will be a white enamel star with six rays, bearing in its centre a representation of the Holy Trinity; The whole is to be surmounted by a tiara and the pontifical keys in gold.

### "NUNC DIMITTIS."

Now, while life's summer sweetness fills the air,  
With richest fragrance, while the flowers bloom,  
And song birds rob the forest of their gloom,  
And skies are blue and everything is fair,  
Even now, dear Lord, ere yet the glory pale,  
Into that land whose sunshine cannot fail,  
Let me depart!

Now, while the friends of youth prove faithful still,  
And tender eyes speak love to mine again,  
And no harsh discord mars life's sweet refrain;  
Ere friendship yet has felt time's blighting chill,  
E'en now, dear Lord, far, far above the range  
Of doubt, mistrust, of shadows, and of change,  
Let me depart!

Now, while around the social festive board  
I yet may summon all my dear ones—all,  
And no loved voice is silent at the call,  
And on no vacant chair need tears be poured,  
E'en now, dear Lord, far from earth's shadows cold,  
Secure within the gates of pearl and gold,  
Lord, let me go!

Now, even now, I feel thy hand is laid  
In love upon me and thou bidst me go,  
Ere yet my life has lost its morning glow,  
Or I have seen its sweet illusions fade;  
My loved will follow, though I go alone,  
Dear Lord, where grief and sin are all unknown,  
Lord, let me go!

### THE VATICAN.

Its Wonders Described—A Town in Itself—Gardens and Literary Treasures.

To the student of architecture, the Vatican affords endless opportunity. Its form is irregular, and there is an entire absence of any symmetry in its design, for it is the heterogeneous work of all schools of all the known masters. Each period of art has here its impress. There is the martial severity of the Singali, the dexterous elegance of Lyons, the amazing intricacies of Fontana, the classical groupings of Bramante, the bold lines of Raphael, the drawings of Carlo Moderno and the fanciful grotesque of Cervini. The palaces have lights of apartments and whole categories of aisles. There are dozens of temples, hundreds of corridors and 11,000 rooms.

As a mere matter of record it may be of interest to note a few facts about the Vatican. It has 25 chief courts, 8 principal stairways, 200 minor stairways, and 30,000 windows in its 11,000 chambers. The temple of St. Peter is the greatest monument left by the Popes, and by far the largest and most imposing basilica in the world. Measured from the pavement its height is given as 187 metres. It compares as follows with the other large religious edifices of the world: St. Paul's, London, 158 metres, 60 centimetres; Santa Maria de Fiori, Florence, 149.50; the Cathedral of Milan, 135.40; St. Petronio, Bologna, 132.90; St. Paul's, Rome, 127.80; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 109.30. St. Peter's Church is united to the Vatican by wide, handsome corridors, on which the art of the world has been expended.

The Vatican is a town in itself, separated from Rome by the River Tiber. It has even its special climate and temperature. At one period it is overfilled by travelers and pilgrims, beggars, inquirers, tourists and ecclesiastics. At the time of the jubilee, there came about 500,000 pilgrims, and just as many arrived at the death of Pius IX. The vestibule of the entrance was constructed by the architect, Simonetti, under Pius VI, who completed St. Peter's and founded the wonderful museum of the Vatican. Taking the avenue to the right, one enters the Garden of the Pines—memorial and historical. Here is the bronze first placed on the summit of the mausoleum of Adrian, or upon the spire of the rotunda.

The Garden of the Pines was commenced by Nicholas V, and was enlarged and embellished by Julius II under the direction of Bramante. Afterward was added another garden, in which Pius V built a charming villa residence, surrounded by a

### WIDE AND SPACIOUS ROAD.

Here in the midst of roses and richest flowers, parade at sunset the Pope and his cardinals, their dresses made of the most costly silk, and wearing chains of massive gold and rings of gold and rubies. It is a romantic sight to see these blooming gardens and these moving figures in their shining robes, or if the Pope drives through his garden in his sumptuous carriage he is followed by a glittering retinue of guards, lymen, and noblemen of every nation. No words can do justice to such a panorama of gorgeousness. Every choice flower of Italy is there, as well as others from every climate. Every tint of the rainbow is before the spectator, and at every turn of the head some new odor greets his nostril. Grateful green relieves the dazzled eye, here and there, until obscured by the moving procession of sumptuously attired ecclesiastics.

The gardens of the Vatican are not the least wonderful part of it. A word of the population within the walls of this magnificent prison. The Pope has or had until recently, and I presume has yet, his staff, guards, courtiers, gendarmes, the traditional sozzierie Palestrine guards, noble guards hunters, ministers, his tribunals—in fact, a court and a capital within the capital of Italy. Within these walls live nearly five thousand people, who neither give allegiance to the King nor acknowledge his existence.

The Vatican library is incomparable in many respects. Here are penned up, as in silence of the tomb, the secrets of the past ages; here are buried out of human sight the missing links of Roman history—the solution of historical problems—historical secrets which might or might not entirely change the accepted reading of historical characters. The 20,000 manuscripts relate all of them to events of the Middle Ages and more ancient times. The very inception of the Church of Christ, it is believed, is here recorded, as are the steps by which it

reached establishment at Rome. Of these manuscripts 16,000 are in Latin, 5,000 in Greek and 3,000 in Oriental tongues. These are jealously guarded on the Vatican shelves, but the more valuable and historical documents have not seen the light of day for centuries, nor are they likely to. The printed volumes in the library number about 100,000. The home of the Popes as has been said, remains to-day the grandest and most imposing structure in the world. Such a conglomeration of wealth, beauty, art and treasure is only possible in Rome—the home of one religion continuously for centuries.

### A Scientific Proof.

The objection has often been urged by scoffers with more persistency than reason that, in some cases at least, the Resurrection will be a physical impossibility, owing to the disposition that is frequently made of bodies after death. The difficulty is thus met by a paragraph from the pen of Mr. J. M. Ansbach, quoted in Current Literature: "A workman of Faraday, the celebrated chemist, one day by accident knocked a beautiful silver cup into a jar of strong acid. In a little while it disappeared, being dissolved in the acid as sugar in water, and so seemed utterly lost; and the question came up, could it ever be recovered? One said it could, but another replied that, being dissolved and held in solution by the acid, there was no possibility of recovering it. But the great chemist, standing by, put some chemical mixture into the jar, and in a little while every particle of silver was precipitated to the bottom; and he took it out, now a shapeless mass, and sent it to the silversmith, and the cup was restored to the same size and shape as before. If Faraday could so easily precipitate that silver, and restore its scattered and invisible particles into the cup, how easily can Almighty God restore our scattered dust, and change our decayed bodies into the likeness of the glorified body of Christ!"

### A Notable Conversion.

Mr. A. J. Horan, of the Department of Justice, Ottawa, is about to resign his position in the secretary's office and enter the Capuchin order. Mr. Horan, it will be remembered, recently left St. Albans Anglican church, of which he was a leading member, and entered the Roman Catholic communion, connecting himself with the Basilica, where he was baptized, Sir John Thompson being his sponsor, and lately with St. Bridget's, the new Irish Catholic church. He is influenced in joining the Capuchin order by a desire to devote his life wholly to the cause of religion, and will be the first Canadian to enter the order, the monastery here being the first established on this side of the Atlantic. Several other Canadians are to follow in the spring. The Capuchins are a preaching order, and Mr. Horan will have to pass five years of study before he can obtain the priesthood. The first will be spent in complete seclusion, the novices during that time keeping to their own rooms in study and meditation, speaking to no one except the superior. The new monastery on the Richmond road will be ready for occupation in about a month. At present there are twelve members of the order. In the spring there will be about twenty. Mr. Horan formerly preached at various Anglican meetings.

### Our Future.

Chambers' Journal for January has an interesting article on "A Transcontinental Railway," i.e., the Canadian Pacific railway, the concluding sentences of which run thus:—"The energy, the skill, and the science of the white man have aroused Canada from the lethargy in which she has so long been entranced under the rule of her former inhabitants. Commerce and civilization has sprung up in the track of the railroad, like the flowers which arose beneath the tread of the virgin goddess of spring. Even now the vision of Longfellow's ideal Indian warrior seems well on its way towards realization."

All the land was full of people,  
Restless, struggling, toiling, striving,  
Speaking many tongues, yet feeling  
But one heart-beat in their bosoms.  
In the woodlands rang their axes,  
Smoked their towns in all the valleys,  
Over all the lakes and rivers  
Rushed their great canoes of thunder.

Another fifty years of uninterrupted progress and prosperity will bring this vision to a literal fulfillment; and Canada, whether as an independent community or a self-governing dependency of the British Empire, will doubtless play an important part in the future history of the world."

### They Feel Hurt.

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 5.—In the Senate, Mr. Morgan (Democrat) offered a preamble and concurrent resolution on the subject of the recent information or suggestion for a writ of prohibition in the Supreme court in connection with the Behring sea dispute with Great Britain. The resolution declares such proceedings to be without precedent, to be prejudicial to the community of nations and the usual amicable conditions of international relations, and not in rank with the dignity of the Government and people and with the respect due the President of the United States. It was referred to the committee on foreign relations.

### Interesting Discovery.

A remarkable portrait of Columbus by Lorenzo Lotto has lately been discovered. Lotto was a Venetian artist, born about 1400, and ranked by Lanzi among "the first luminaries of the art." His Madonnas, several of which are preserved at Bergamo, are greatly admired. A comparison of the Columbus picture with others admitted by modern critics

as likenesses of the great navigator seems to indicate that the newly-found canvas is the truest portrait—a conclusion strengthened by the vivacity and realism of expression which shows it to have been taken from life.

### Knocking at the Door.

OTTAWA, Jan. 14.—The statement published by the Toronto Mail that the Government had been requested by the Imperial authorities to endeavor to effect a settlement pending the disputes with the United States on the basis of a wide measure of commercial reciprocity is entirely untrue. It is learned, however, on good authority that the United States Government has made approaches to Canada recently with a view to the establishment of closer trade relations between the two countries and that our authorities to take action in the matter.

### Troubles in Brazil.

NEW YORK, January 17.—Brazilian newspapers arriving by the steamer Sequoia, of the United States of Brazil mail line, describe an unsettled condition of affairs which threatens a crisis for the Government. Apparently, the country is beginning to tire of the pressure of a military government and the dictatorship of Da Fonseca, the president of the provisional government. Newspapers, both for and opposed to the Government, have charged President Da Fonseca with seeking to maintain the dictatorship. It is charged that President Da Fonseca has encouraged the governors of several states to "let in a very arbitrary manner, especially towards the opposition press. It is claimed that an exceptionally arbitrary act was the arrest of J. Lucio de A. Mello, editor of the Diara de Noticias of Para, a leading newspaper of North-Brazil. It is charged that Mr. Mello was arrested at the instigation of Mr. Chermont, governor of the state. Mr. Mello, while on his way home early in the morning, was assailed by a soldier, who, it is charged, was a tool of Governor Chermont. The soldier was promoted to the rank of sergeant, while Mr. Mello was arrested, exiled from the state and sent under guard to Rio de Janeiro on the English steamer Juno. The captain of the Juno refused to take Mr. Mello as a prisoner. On reaching Pernambuco Mr. Mello found that an order had been issued by the Government to release him.

### An Eminent Historian Dead.

WASHINGTON, January 17.—George Bancroft, the venerable historian, died at his home in this city at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon. He had been sick only two days and was on the streets but three days ago. On Thursday he took to his bed as a matter of precaution, but was taken seriously ill yesterday. From that time until this afternoon he failed rapidly and all day hovered between life and death. At 3 p.m. the doctor left, thinking that Mr. Bancroft would live through the night, but before the hour was up Mr. Bancroft was dead. His end was quiet and peaceful, and the first cause of death was simply the weakness of old age. His son was at the bedside when the aged historian died. Mr. Bancroft was born in Worcester, Mass., on October 3, 1800.

### Silo on the Farm.

The Hon. L. Bonoubien sends the following letter to the press on the subject of silos. It will be read with interest by the farmers: "As I look upon the silo as one of the principal means of enabling the Canadian farmers to face our long winters, allow me to correct a word or two of the communications sent to your paper by your Quebec correspondent of the 13th instant. We must not scare our farmer with statements that will hinder him from trying this system of ensilage, which is cheap, and should have been invented for Canada specially, if not for other countries. Let your correspondent such good farmers and milkmen as Messrs. James Drummond, of Petite Cote, and Mr. Trenholme, of Blue Bonnets, and ask them if they would now be, if they could now be without silo. The answer of these practical men will be without doubt that the silo is the piece de resistance in Canadian farming. The cost of a cutting machine is not \$150 to the average farmer. If your correspondent goes to Mr. Latimer, McGill street, or Mr. Jeffrey, Petite Cote, or Messrs. Moody, Terrebonne, he can there can buy a cutter for \$45, and the farmer, if he has not the means of purchasing an elevator, will use the basket in filling the silo until the elevator can come. And more, if the farmer cannot buy the cutting machine he can heap the corn fodder if he packs it well longitudinally in his silo and presses it down firmly and puts on weights. Your correspondent is mistaken when he says ensilage won't keep if not cut up. It will keep. Of course when fed to cattle one must use the hay knife, a sharpened spade or an axe to chop the ensilage and detach it from the mass. In this case some of the stalks may not be eaten up clean by the cattle, a thing which does not happen when the cutter is used; but still the loss will be insignificant compared to the general result. One word more. The frost does not injure the contents of the silo and very little of their contents will freeze even if the silo is placed outside under a roof to shed off rain and snow."

Every man has his own particular character, and every character its own particular cast. We have our characteristic weaknesses. Beware of those particular forms of temptation which have already once held you in their power or sapped your better resolutions.

Life is a dew-pearled morning, of which the past has been a rosy dawn, the present a serene light, the future all a dream.

## IN DARKEST AFRICA.

A Feast Day on the Shores of Tanganyika.—A Letter From Mgr. Bridoux.

What a beautiful day has God given to his poor missionaries to reap in part the harvest due to days and nights of trial. How much the more beautiful does it not seem when they have taught the true faith, rejoicing and making glad in their precious acquisition.

It is the vigil of St. Joseph. We have just anointed six old persons who are in danger of death, and our work brings with it a soothing consolation. We have chosen to-morrow for a day of baptism and first communion, after which we will confirm forty-four Christians. On the same feast day, Joseph, a young negro doctor, will be united in marriage to Emma, the daughter of the chief Kaliro. There is joy and love and peace in the little village, and we cannot but be thankful to our Heavenly Father, who watches over us day and night.

All the natives are as thick as bees around the little church to participate in the diverse and solemn ceremonies of the day. The church is far too small to contain them all. They are at the windows, the doors, perched on the pillars to behold the administering of the Sacrament of Baptism. Our ceremonies here are made as grand and imposing as possible and at the same time that they may be the better understood in their general bearing, we have the interrogations and responses translated into the native tongue. With what transports of joy do not these happy elect behold the saving waters of baptism fall upon their foreheads.

At this blissful moment we feel in our inmost hearts that there is but one fold and one shepherd; that there is no distinction between color and color, race or race; we are all the humble children of an all-wise, all-loving Father.

The scene is touching beyond description. We who should be unused to tears feel them trickling down our cheeks, we feel an unknown feeling of trembling in our hands. Who could witness such piety, such love, such adoration, such extorior deportment, such sublime devotion and reverence and not feel the same? The reception of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by that of Confirmation, placed a limit to their joy. The combined ceremonies lasted not less than four hours and a half, and yet during all that time the attention paid by the congregation was most profound. The negro loves the ceremonies of the Church and also loves to indulge other forms of exterior exuberance peculiar to himself. The principal of these is dancing, which we took means to prevent by making the renouncing of it a condition precedent to entrance to the Church. Later in the day the villagers were allowed to spend the time

MERRY-MAKING.  
Before the missionary lodge we had a greased pole erected, at the top of which were placed pen-knives, mirrors, pearls and colored ribbons. The young men in turn made efforts to reach the objects, and the amusement created was heartily relished by all. To discourage as much as possible the intermingling of the men and women, which is much too frequent, we had innocent amusements inaugurated for their benefit apart from those of the men. While the games were going on we were very much surprised, and agreeably so, to find that the newly-baptized natives were spending their time in the chapel at prayer. One of them, a youth of fifteen years, particularly attracted our attention by his deep devotion and angelic piety. Although feeling well then, we had been sick the night before, and we thought he would not be able to take part in the ceremonies the following day. On his baptismal day he felt much better, and entertained us to let him receive the sacraments. That evening he was perfectly well and happy, but the Divine Master wished to give him a place among His elect, and the next morning he was found dead on his little straw mat, his sleeping companions not even having been disturbed.

I had intended, for a long while to give the Christian natives of the village a feast as a reward for their filial obedience. As it was during Lent, we were obliged to choose a Sunday, for our Christians observe Lent in every particular, and to a native meat is the one attraction at a dinner table. With this intention in view we went in a body to Kabua, a property belonging to the missions. Several sheep had been taken from the flock to honor the occasion, but this would be but a sorry mite for five hundred guests. *Quid inter tanto?* Providence came to our aid, if not by doubling our provisions at least by making us masters of the situation.

The day before a neighbor had killed a huge hippopotamus and was so condescending as to present it to us. One piece alone of this monster weighed over two hundred pounds. The negro's appetite for meat, which he so rarely eats, is simply irresistible. The next day after the celebration of Mass the surface of the lake presented an animated appearance, the villagers having unmoored their boats and set out for the place of banquet. The hippopotamus was distributed among twelve hundred persons, who received beside their share a small quantity of salt, of bread and sugar cane. To see how these poor people relished this humble repast was pleasurable in the extreme. When evening approached the banqueters listened to the pious exhortations of the missionaries, always followed by a Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Then they took to their boats, and with their oars kept time with the rhythm of hymns sung in their own language in honor of Mary and Joseph.

### EPHRAIM APOSTOLIC CONGRESS.