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MR. ANGLIN AND THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

"In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen,"—first symbol of Christianity ever enforced by law in the House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada. To the accident of having a Catholic Speaker we owe the happy augury of the "sign of the Cross" preceding prayers in the Parliament of the Dominion. Mr. Anglin is a man with the courage of his conviction, and when the House decided that business should commence with prayer, as a Catholic Speaker, he simply followed the dictates of his conscience in making the "sign of the Cross." All Catholics commence prayer by making the symbol of man's redemption, and Mr. Anglin could not as a consistent Catholic, shrink the responsibility of the situation. Nor should Protestants object to the formula when a Catholic Speaker presides over the debates. When a French Canadian, or an English Protestant sits in the Speaker's chair, they too will follow the custom to which they have become familiar, and obey the form which conscience tells them is in harmony with their belief. We shall not object when a Protestant opens the business of the Session, or of the day, by repeating the form of prayer which the House has decided to adopt. We shall not expect him to make the sign of the Cross, nor to depart from the manner of Protestant formula. We expect no man to abandon the worship in which he conscientiously believes, for the conscious apostate, be he Catholic or Protestant, is the least reliable, and the most objectionable of men. Let, then, our Protestant fellow-citizens generously bear with us for a while; their day will come round, and we shall not grudge them the observance of Protestant formula; while, however, we shall endeavor to advance the success of our own.

THE PRESIDENCY.

A movement is on foot to provide for President Grant by making him president of a new banking firm to be started in New York. Meanwhile the question of who will be the next President is drawing to a settlement. It is expected that the Court will be finished to-morrow. What Hayes thinks about it may be gathered from a speech he made at Cincinnati the other day, and when he said that in another week.

"The business which has engaged the attention of the country for eight months would be over. He hoped the people would acquiesce quietly whoever might be the person declared elected. He believed the country desired peace and security, and thought this idea should be the expression of the people to their representatives at Washington. Realizing his lack of special fitness for the duties which he might be called on to perform, he placed his trust in Almighty God, who rules the destinies of nations."

THE O'MAHONEY DEMONSTRATION.

By cablegram we hear that the remains of Colonel O'Mahoney arrived in Dublin on the 26th ult. O'Sullivan, M. P. for Limerick, is said to be the only M. P., present when the remains arrived at Cork, and that there was no excitement. Here is the news now to hand:—

"Dublin, February 26.—The remains of O'Mahoney arrived here this morning. The funeral committee received the corpse at the railway terminus. The coffin, placed in a hearse, was escorted through the streets by a torchlight procession, in which 8,000 persons took part. On the railway between Cork and Dublin people flocked to the station to witness the passage of the train with the remains, and a large assembly at Charlesville Junction; 500 persons awaited the arrival at King's bridge. The procession, however, was deferred till dark. A disorderly crowd blocked the road to the terminus. The procession, with several bands playing dirges, began to move at 8 p.m., and marched along the quays. One account says there were 200,000 spectators. The remains were taken to the Mechanics' Institute, in the hall of which they lie in state until Sunday. Despite the efforts of the committee, thousands forced their way into the buildings after the remains were deposited therein."

DISSATISFACTION IN SCOTLAND.

Day by day evidences of dissatisfaction are being noted in Scotland. Scotchmen are beginning to find out that their interests are being neglected in the British House of Commons. The plain fact is that the Imperial Parliament has not the time, even if it had the will of attending to the work of each Session. Gladstone admits it, and the Government confesses it by leaving undone many of those things which

ought to be done during each Session. Our contemporary the United Irishman informs us that:—

"Scotland is drifting rapidly into a Home Rule agitation. Dissatisfied, and justly so, with the total neglect of Scottish business last session in Parliament, a large meeting of representative Scotchmen was held in Edinburgh on Tuesday to protest against the continuance of this neglect. The first resolution was proposed by Sir Robert Anstruther M.P., and ran 'This meeting being of opinion that Scottish legislation has not in recent years, obtained its fair share of time and attention in Parliament remonstrates against the continuance of such neglect, and resolves to memorialise the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Advocate, and the other members of Government, with the object of securing for Scotland that just share of Parliamentary attention to which the country is entitled.' As Irishmen we can speak feelingly on the subject and may tell our Scotch friends that their 'memorialising' will be of little use. Matters are evidently coming to a crisis in Scotch politics and we confidently look for the unfurling of the Home Rule banner in Scotland."

TENANT RIGHT.

The tenant farmers of Ireland are working on in the cause of Tenant Right. The leading members of the association took advantage of the presence of the Home Rule M.P.'s in Dublin, and they were invited to a conference by the Parliamentary Committee of the Tenant Right Association. Of the last conference however we hear that it was attended:—

"By a considerable number of representative men from all parts of the country. Several members of Parliament who were absent sent letters of apology, some of them promising concurrence in whatever course of action might be adopted. That course was to amend Mr. Butt's bill in certain particulars, and then to resolve to bring it into the House of Commons at the earliest possible period in the present session. The harmonious manner in which the proceedings were conducted is an earnest of thorough unity in the popular ranks when the hour of battle shall have arrived."

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

The Indian famine is becoming appalling in its magnitude. The regal festivities at Delhi contrast with the misery of the people. A contemporary draws a parallel between the Indian famine and the scourge that decimated Ireland:—

"The accounts" says the Catholic Times "of famine in India read like those once told of famine in Ireland. As yet they are not darkened by the tidings of plague and death; on the contrary we are assured that the Indian administration is taking every precaution to prevent any of the sufferers from falling victims to sheer hunger. Herein, then, the cases of India and Ireland are very different; but we have no guarantee how long they will so remain. The destitution spreads apace, and the Exchequer is even now seriously strained by the pressure. Reading these facts, we cannot help looking back to the gorgeous glitter of the Imperial proclamation pageant, and the enormous waste of money that then took place. If no more opportune time could have been chosen for the ceremonial, it might, in deference to the gaunt spectre striding over the land, have been carried out a little more modestly."

SUNDAY CLOSING IN IRELAND.

At last the advocates of Sunday closing in Ireland have had a substantial victory in the Imperial Parliament. The almost unanimous voice of the Irish people could no longer be constitutionally resisted. Ireland united carried victory in its wake. The Nation tells us now:

"The advocates of Sunday closing have scored another victory in the House of Commons. On Monday night, Professor Smyth, by the aid of the Government, brought forward this measure out of its order, and, after several Irish members had spoken Sir Michael Hicks Beach formally surrendered, declaring that he would not further oppose a trial of the 'experiment.' The Government, however, were, he said, desirous that the experiment should be safely tried, and therefore proposed that the bill should be referred to a select committee with a view to determining what exactly should be done in the five largest centres of population in Ireland—Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford, and Limerick. There was some hesitation about accepting this offer, seeing that the large towns are precisely those places in which Sunday closing might be expected to do most good. But eventually it was accepted by Professor Smyth, and the second reading was carried 194 votes to 23. Of this latter number, it is important to add, only five were contributed by Irish members."

THE LATE SIR JOHN GRAY.

Sir John Gray is to have a monument erected to his memory in Dublin. The monument is either to cost £2,000 or £4,000. At a recent meeting held in Dublin, it was explained that:—

"The memorial is designed as a pyramid group in connection with a fountain, a colossal statue of Sir John Gray being the principal feature. The accompanying colossal figures are so designed as to be equally effective when viewed from the side pathways as when seen in front. They represent Patriotism and Erin. Patriotism, or love of one's country, is represented dressed in armour, to indicate that the patriot fears no danger when engaged in his country's cause; and that his courage surmounts every difficulty. The crown of laurel

which she holds alludes to the distinction conferred on Sir John Gray for eminent public services, while the dove which forms the crest of the helmet denotes the peaceful nature of his labours. Erin is represented holding a cornucopia of fruit and crushing beneath her feet the chains of tyrannical power, to indicate restrictions removed and blessings conferred by his labours and works of public utility. The height of the principal statue to be 10 feet; the accompanying figures to be of heroic size—8 feet; the entire height 25 feet by 18 feet. The material used in the entire work, statues, pedestal, and basin, to be of Campanile marble; the steps underneath to be of granite. The cost to be £4,000, including all expenses of erection, &c.

A RIFT IN THE CLOUDS.

When a Lord Mayor assumes the official robes, and enters the official Mansion in Dublin—he gives an inaugural dinner after the fashion of his caste. In Dublin these official dinners have been too often used to proclaim the "prosperity of Ireland" cry, and the evasion of national sentiment was a marked feature in the entertainments. A rift has however come in the cloud. We hear that at the last inaugural banquet given by the new Lord Mayor:

"The prosperity-mongers and the admirers of the connection with England were not allowed to have things all their own way. The only hearty and genuine ovation accorded during the evening took place in honour of the Home Rule leader, and afterwards, when Mr. Butt, in response to the toast of the House of Commons, referred to the old Irish parliament, and 'sat upon' the Lord Lieutenant for his 'prosperity' delirvances, there were frequent bursts of loud and continued cheering. Almost equally emphatic was the hostile demonstration which Lord Lifford provoked by his eulogy of the British Parliament. Altogether, the demonstration was significant and gratifying in the highest degree, and, if the Lord Lieutenant and his superiors be wise, it will be a token to them of the temper of the great body of the Irish people at the present day."

When we remember that Mr. Butt spoke in the presence of the new Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Marlborough, and after the Duke had made his "prosperity" speech the importance of the incident will be more fully realized. It is all good work, we must box our corner where, when, and how best we can.

AN ENGLISH M.P., ON HOME RULE.

Mr. Joseph Cowan, M.P., for Newcastle-on-Tyne, is a well known supporter of the Home Rule Cause. He is too a consistent supporter of every Irish measure which is for the popular good. He is in favour of Irish laws being made by Irish men. He is perhaps one of the ablest men in the House of Commons, and what he says carries with it considerable weight all over England. His views of the situation may be understood from what he recently said when speaking at Newcastle-on-Tyne. He referred to the Home Rule M.P.'s, as being composed of:—

"Radicals, some Liberals, and some Conservatives, yet before they were either Radicals, Whigs, or Conservatives, these Home Rulers were Irishmen. They put the Home Rule question pre-eminently in front, and if there was an Irish question at issue, or supposed to be at issue, they ignored all considerations of Imperial politics. They held the balance between Whig and Tory. He had no fault to find with it, but he would point out that as long as that party existed and followed that course of procedure the Liberals had little prospect of returning to office. For this reason. Since the Reform Bill there had never been in England, but once, an absolute majority of Liberals. There had been a majority of Liberal representatives from English boroughs, but the members from counties always outweighed and outnumbered them. Take England altogether since the Reform Bill, the majority of members had been Conservatives. It had been different in Wales and Scotland. In these two portions of the United Kingdom Liberals were in the majority, not only amongst the people but amongst the national representatives. With respect to Ireland it was somewhat different. Irish Liberals were formerly recognised as members of the party, but since the Home Rule organisation was constituted they had stood a distinct party, and occupied an independent position. Irishmen were acting clearly within their rights. And so long as they followed their present course it would unquestionably be a source of weakness to the Liberal party."

ITALY THROWS OFF THE MASK.

At last the Government of Italy has fairly thrown off the mask, and openly avowed itself the bitter foe of the Catholic Church. The world is prepared for this development. The Tablet in reviewing the situation reminds us:—

In 1870 Victor Emmanuel affected to venerate the Holy Father, and previous to dethroning him addressed him 'with the affection of a son and with the faith of a Catholic.' His Minister, Signor Visconti Venosta, assured the English Government, in a document dated September 6, 1870, that the Pope had 'nothing to fear from Italy, either as regards his security, his independence, or his dignity.' His Majesty himself, in his letter of September 8, 1870, hoped that 'the Chief of Catholicism, surrounded by the devotion of the Italian peoples, would preserve upon the banks of

the Tiber a seat glorious and independent of all human sovereignty.' The very Ministers who introduced the bill for suppressing the Religious Orders pretended a zeal for religion, and, in the preamble to that Bill, used this language: 'To respond to the confidence of Europe and to the expectation of the Catholic world the safest and easiest way is that of giving to the Church that full liberty which, in the celebrated formula put forth by Count Cavour, finds its counter-part in civil liberty, of which it forms the completion and the seal.' From the moment this Bill against the supposed clerical abuses receives the Royal assent, the Government of the King will be the supreme arbiter in all disputes touching the performance of Divine worship and the administration of the Sacraments. King Victor Emmanuel will be, in effect, although not in title, the supreme head of the Church in Italy, and His Majesty's Courts of Assize will be the actual tribunal for regulating ecclesiastical affairs."

IRISH MUSIC.

Sylvester Giraldu, commonly called "Geraldus Cambrensis" has left on record his testimony of the excellence of Irish Music. He tells us that the Kings of Scotland and of Wales came thence to Ireland to look for harpers and minstrels to take back with them. We are induced to think of this historical event when we read of the Annual meeting of the Irish Academy of Music, which took place in Dublin some time ago, and at which:

"Lord O'Hagan contrasted the neglect of the musical art in Ireland with the attention bestowed on it abroad. In this country, said he, the cultivation of music is not encouraged; yet it is 'a unique possession which we should cherish tenderly and proudly. It has been the subject of admiration to other countries since the early days when teachers were brought from the Abbey of Bangor to teach the students of France in Irish psalmody. It compelled the praises of Cambrensis and of Bacon, and drew from Handel the declaration that he had rather be the author of one Irish air than of all the compositions that had won his reputation.' His lordship, says the Irishman, told his audience how the world is filled with the fame of Irish music since the great composers of other lands have made its melodies familiar to every civilized nation. Lord O'Hagan could not understand why our native music should command so little love and sympathy at home. Could not he understand the reason why it is so coldly neglected? Yes, we do believe he could explain the cause as briefly and as accurately as any man in Ireland. With all this well deserved praise of Irish music, the pupils of the so-called Irish Academy, when they came forward to exhibit their proficiency before the distinguished audience, did not play an Irish air, nor sing a single Irish song. 'Sognal' and 'La dove,' and 'Flow on, oh Silver Rhine,' were rendered, but 'Eileen Atoon,' or 'Savourneen Dhoelish,' or 'The Last Rose of Summer'—where were they? Their absence was a commentary on the speeches."

GREAT HOME RULE MEETING IN DUBLIN.

A Great Home Rule meeting was held at the commencement of the month in the Rotunda, Dublin. There were about twenty M.P.'s present as well as many of the leading citizens. Twenty six new members were elected including Captain O'Beirne, M.P. The room was crowded and an enthusiastic audience proclaimed their adherence to the principles of Ireland's right to Legislative Independence. The renegade O'Keefe was held up to the contempt of his countrymen, and was publicly expelled the organisation. The following are the resolutions passed at the meeting:—

"Resolved—That Mr. John O'Keefe, M.P., a member of the Home Rule League, having publicly assisted and supported the anti-Home Rule candidate, Mr. Lehmann, in the late county Waterford contest, against Mr. Delahunty, the Home Rule candidate, adopted by the League, it is expedient that Mr. John O'Keefe should cease to be a member of the League. That this resolution be submitted for approval to the next meeting of the League."

This is good work, when such political apostates are scoured out, honest men may come by their own. But the good cause moves onward in spite of renegades. The next resolution proclaimed the determination of the Home Rule party to continue the work, and it appeals to the "Irishmen abroad" as well as those at home to assist in the struggle:

"Resolved—That we desire once more to record our unalterable conviction that it is not possible to secure peace or prosperity to Ireland save by the restoration of our native Parliament, and we confidently rely on our countrymen at home and abroad to continue to the Home Rule League and the Home Rule parliamentary party the cordial and unflinching support which they have hitherto afforded to them in their struggle to obtain that all-important object."

The last resolution carried was:— "Resolved—That the recent memorable victories won for the Home Rule cause in the large and important counties of Sligo and Waterford furnish convincing proof that time is only strengthening the determination of the Irish people to remain constant to the principles laid down at the Home Rule Conference and affirmed by the country at the last general election."

There is no doubt about it. Meanwhile we in Canada should do something to help the

men in the gap. Ireland requires the services of all her sons, in this struggle for National autonomy.

THE POPE.

Our latest news from Rome tells us that the Holy Father has recovered from his temporary indisposition, which caused the suspension of the public reception for a time. Other items of news from the Vatican inform us that:—

"On the 28th of January the Holy Father received in audience a deputation from one of the Catholic Associations of Naples—that, namely, for the collection of Peter's Pence.—It was introduced by Cardinal D'Avanzo, and the address was read by Duke Raimondo del Balzo, Cameriere Segreto to his Holiness. The Pope replied in a speech in which he exhorted the Catholics of Naples to persevere in well-doing and to set a good example by virtue and piety. The deputation brought an offering of 7,000 lire. Fourteen Cardinals and many of the prelates of the Court were present, and many distinguished Romans and foreigners. The Pope, on this occasion, gave with his own hand to the master of the Sistine chapel, Domenico Mustafa, a magnificent gold snuff box, produced in the mines of California, and a gold medal, of beautiful workmanship. On the 29th of January, M. Rouher, formerly Prime Minister to Napoleon III., was admitted to private audience by his Holiness. On the 30th of January, a deputation consisting of persons belonging to Grottaferrata, of both sexes was admitted to audience. On Friday, the 2nd of February, the Besancon pilgrims, to the number of 200, had audience of the Holy Father in one of the Loggie of the Vatican. Mgr. Paulinier, Archbishop of Besancon read the address. The sum of 150,000 francs was presented as Peter's Pence. The reply of the Pope to the address was given in the happiest manner and with very clear and distinct utterance. The Besancon pilgrims were entertained on the evening of Sunday, February 4, in the Palazzo Attems by the Roman Society for Catholic interests. The Earl and Countess of Kenmore and Lord Castlerosse had a private audience with the Pope, on Saturday, the 3rd of February, and on Sunday, the 4th, received Holy Communion from the hands of the Holy Father. The Pope received on Friday, February 2, the customary visits from the heads of the Religious Orders and of the Colleges in Rome.

NEW CARDINALS.—It is rumored that among the new Cardinals to be created in Consistory in March will be the Archbishop of Vienna, Mgr. Kutschker; Mgr. Eder, Archbishop of Salzburg; and the Archbishop of Rheims, Mgr. Langenieux.

LATEST FROM THE VATICAN.

We rejoice to know that the health of the Holy Father is much improved. The latest news from the Vatican inform us that:—

"A Brazilian pilgrimage, numbering one hundred souls, will leave Rio Janeiro, for Rome, on the 5th of April next, under the direction of Monsignore de Lacerda, Lord Bishop of St. Sebastiao di Rio Janeiro. It may here be observed that the difficulties between the Brazilian Government and the hierarchy are about to form the subject of consideration in the Sacred Congregation.

"The unique cabinet, or bookcase, presented by French Catholics to the Pope, has arrived at the Vatican. It is a masterpiece in design and detail. The bull promulgating the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, is written out in over 300 different languages, and each language has a separate volume. The books are marvels of high art, and the bookcase is worthy of its contents. It is lofty, massive, and beautifully carved of precious woods, inlaid with precious metals, and surmounted by a miniature statue of the Sacred Heart, in silver. Genius conceived the whole gift, the most perfect skill was called in to realise the conception, and the world was laid under contribution for materials.

"His Holiness delivered an address to the Lent preachers on the 8th ult. His theme was suggested by the present condition of Rome. A few years have made a sad change in the city—a change which must be intensely painful to all who deplore the march of irreligion. What were the guides of the people to do? His Holiness furnished the reply unhesitatingly. The new laws had deprived them of almost all power of raising their voices; nevertheless it was their duty to speak, that all might hear. They must fight against the emissaries of Satan. They must teach that Christ was the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and especially the Truth in His threats; and to point out the alternatives offered to all men.

"Assurances have been received from Constantinople that no changes of Government there up to the present have had the slightest influence on the relations between the Porte and the Vatican."

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The news from the East is still conflicting. Diplomats are manœuvring, the armies are still mobilizing, and the people are uneasy. Russia has asked the Powers if they will remain passive, if the troops of the Czar cross the Pruth. If they do Russia measures weapons with Turkey at once:

A despatch from St. Petersburg says Prince Gortschakoff urges a reply to the Russian circular as to whether England will remain passive in case of coercion against Turkey. If so Russia will cross the Pruth; if otherwise Russia demobilises. A Russian council is sitting to-day, and a decision is imminent.

FRANCE TREATY SIGNED.—A Constantinople despatch says the treaty of peace between Turkey and Servia was signed to-day.

DEMobilIZATION OF RUSSIAN TROOPS.—London, Feb. 27.—A despatch from St. Petersburg to-day announces that the Council of Ministers has resolved to demobilize the troops immediately.