



THE DREYFUS CASE.

The world is alive to-day with topics of great interest, but none of them approach the famous case of Dreyfus. Last week we briefly referred to the trial now taking place at Rennes, in France, and we expressed our opinion, in general terms, concerning the whole question. Each day since then has brought to light new facts, has unfolded fresh situations, has developed unexpected combinations, until it has become a matter of the greatest uncertainty, how the case will terminate. That there are extremists, and dangerous men on both sides, no person can deny; that the press reports are not entirely to be relied upon that is certain; that the majority of outsiders—strangers to France—are in favor of Dreyfus, and that the majority of Frenchmen are against him is also apparent; but all this does not place us in a position to form an opinion.

As to the present trial, the ordinary reader is surprised at the latitude given to witnesses, the want of apparent order in the procedure, the lack of all ordinary observations that we are accustomed to in courts of justice, the seeming antagonism of the tribunal to the accused, the lengthy speeches made by generals, the cases—like Supreme Court factums—presented by those who had only to give evidence, and the total disregard for public opinion, as well as the exclusion of all natural sympathies. But one all important fact is almost generally overlooked: it is a military and not a civil trial. The principles of Potshers, and the civil code of Napoleon find no application before a court-martial; rather does it move upon the principles of the unwritten military code of the same Napoleon. In the civil court the innocence of the accused is presumed until his guilt is proven, and the burden of proof rests with the prosecution; in the military court, the guilt of the accused is pre-supposed, until he can prove his innocence, and on him lies the burden of proof. In the civil court the benefit of the doubt goes

to the accused; in the military court a doubt is sufficient to create a suspicion of guilt, and suspicion, if not proved baseless—is sufficient reason for immediate execution.

Again court-martial knows no sentiment, it recognizes no code except that of discipline, and it has no spirit except the "esprit de corps." Even though the civil code of highest jurisdiction, has declared Dreyfus innocent of the crime for which he was condemned in 1894, still the Court-martial may find him guilty of lack of discipline, of meddling with affairs that did not concern him, or with violation of the "esprit de corps" that governs the army. To find him guilty of that for which he had been degraded and sent to the Devil's Island, would need fresh and strong evidence, which is not forthcoming so far. To discharge him entirely would accostitate his restoration to his rank in the army. To restore him to his rank, but to deprive him of the emoluments and the right to advancement, would be contrary to justice, and also to the spirit of the military code. Therefore, to restore him to his grade, would mean that the road to higher commands would be open to him. In the accidents of human affairs there would be nothing surprising were he one day to reach the grade of general. Now, the idea of a general, who was under military suspicion, upon whose life a doubt rested, would be a menace to the country and to the army. It is, consequently, clear that there is no medium; Dreyfus must not only clear himself of the accusations of 1894, but he must offset every shadow of a doubt regarding his infringements upon the rules of military discipline, otherwise he cannot be acquitted—for acquittal means restoration in the army, and the restoration of one under suspicion is against the most elementary principles of every military code in the world. For these reasons we find it hard to believe that Dreyfus will be acquitted.

per cent. From this sum, however, must come the cost of liquidation and the like, so there would not likely be over 50 per cent. net for the depositors. Since making this statement Mr. Kent and two other gentlemen have been appointed permanent liquidators. The appointments suggest a consideration to the "True Witness"; and it is this: Is it not strange that, while there are many Irish Catholic depositors in the Ville Marie Bank, and there are a few Irish Catholics in the city who are well known to be eminently proficient in all matters appertaining to accounts and in the transaction of general business, no effort was made by these depositors to have one of their own people appointed as liquidator. It is the same old story told over again.

The outlook for the Jacques Cartier Bank seems to be bright. According to the president and vice-president, depositors having nearly a million of dollars in the bank have signed an agreement to leave their money in that institution for a year. The severity of the "ruin" on the bank is shown by the government bank returns for July, which proves that \$1,517,000 in deposits payable both on demand and after notice were withdrawn. It was this heavy drain which caused it to close its doors temporarily. From appearances discernible it may probably open soon.

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION IN ENGLAND.

The Liverpool correspondent of the Dublin Freeman gives the following interesting and enthusiastic account of the recent Convention of Catholic Young Men's Societies held in that city. He writes:

THE WHOLE OF THE Catholics of the Emerald Kingdom have had their attention drawn to the great conference by which the Young Men's Societies are closing the fifteenth year of their existence. What a race the walls of the historic Benedictine Church of St. Mary's (the mother church of Catholics in Liverpool since the Reformation) could tell of the hopes and aspirations of the brilliant Irish priest the day he ascended the pulpit to found the organization which had done so much to elevate the sons and grandsons of those victims of the famine years for whom it was in a special manner intended.

Looking around the elegantly decorated rooms of the Liverpool Town Hall on Saturday night, when the Lord Mayor gave a reception in honor of the delegates (250 in number), I saw many evidences of the glorious work which Dean O'Brien began. How the children of St. Patrick have progressed in Liverpool since their No. 144 Forty Irish Catholics occupy prominent public positions inside the four corners of the city—aldermen, councillors, poor law guardians, school board members, magistrates, etc.—very many of whom were present at the various functions in connection with the conference.

AS AN IRISH PRIEST inaugurated the Society it was but to that a priest of the same race should preach at its jubilee. Dr. Lyster, Bishop of Andover, was the choice, and well was the selection justified. For an hour and ten minutes the great audience listened with rapt attention to the eloquent words which fell from his lips and scarcely an eye was dry as he graphically pictured the condition of Ireland in the years which saw the foundation of the Society.

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

The Canadian Government is taking precautions against the introduction of the Bubonic plague into this country, and its prompt action is to be commended when it is considered that Oporto, where it is prevalent at present, is only three days' sail from England. The Imperial Government is also on the alert. A London doctor who was for many years a resident of Hong Kong and attended thousands of patients there during the outbreak of 1894, and has made special researches as to the origin and progress of the disease, says:

"The sanitary arrangements of many towns in England, including London are not calculated to defeat the disease. If we get the plague in the east end of London, the chances are that it will spread like wildfire, just as it did in Hong Kong. The bacillus thrives amidst unsanitary surroundings, while sunlight and plenty of air kill it. The period of incubation is usually five, and sometimes seven or eight days.

Eight papers were read before three committees, into which the conference was divided, the most notable being a paper on "Catholics and Public Life," by the Lord Abbot of Glasnevin, in which he said that to the persisting and unceasing efforts of Irishmen English Catholics had now open to them every avenue of public usefulness, which he urged them to aspire to fill.

Papers were also read on the Drink Problem, the Social Question, and the Attitude of the Church towards Science, the latter being read by the well-known astronomer, Father Corneille, S.J.

A public demonstration, attended by over 4,000 persons, was held in the evening, addressed by the Marquis of Ely and the Bishops, mentioned above.

The Marquis said the Young Men's Society was one of the many debts which English Catholics owed to Ireland. The meeting was on the whole enthusiastic, and those who were present will not readily forget the stirring incident of the vast audience spontaneously and giving vent to their feelings in the beautiful hymn, "Hail, Queen of Heaven."

The Conference ended with a grand public banquet.

Ireland loomed large at this historic gathering, and it may interest the delegates to learn that the body of the great O'Connell rested in the chancel of St. Mary's, where the pall is still affectionately preserved.

If the plague breaks out in London the present hospital provision would not answer at all. Special plague hospitals should be temporarily erected. The greatest danger lies in the possibility of the disease coming overland through Persia, Turkey or Russia. If the Baltic, Black Sea and Mediterranean ports became infected it would be a fearful menace to England.

The Lancet, the leading British Medical Journal commenting on the outbreak of the plague, says it must frankly be admitted that the subject is one of considerable concern to the population and trade of Great Britain. It is not so much at ports like London, Bristol, Liverpool, Southampton and Plymouth that the danger is to be feared, but at certain smaller ports where the medical inspection is inadequate.

NOTES FROM AMERICAN CENTRES.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America, to which we referred in previous issues, was brought to a close last week. The resolutions reported by W. J. Shanley, of Hartford, and unanimously adopted, are lengthy. They recognized the action of the Catholic Bishops in deciding to administer the pledge to all children at their confirmation, and they congratulated the union on the association of women in such large numbers and with so much enthusiasm in the movement. They further said in part:

"We call upon the adult members of our cause to have their children enrolled in the juvenile unions and thereby to have them made by association to adhere to the principles to which their parents are allied. We recommend the introduction into Catholic schools of text-books treating upon the drink question, and that periodically instructions be given."

THE VATICAN AND THE QUIRINAL.

It is said that His Holiness will shortly make another solemn protest against the position of the Vatican in Italy. It will be the most strongly worded protest which has ever been issued from the Vatican against the seizure of the Papal States. The general opinion is that the Pope will seize the opportunity at the approaching great festivities of the Holy Year, when tens of thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the world are gathered together in the Eternal City. The Pope intends, it is said, to enumerate all of what he considers to be the vexatious sufferings of the Church and the persecutions to which the clergy are exposed in Italy. He will lay special stress on what he is reported to have described as "the last and worst indignity suffered by the Church"—namely, the fact that Italy employed all her diplomacy to exclude any representation of the Vatican from the Peace Conference at the Hague. His Holiness considered it most fitting that he should, as the Apostle of Peace, be represented at the assembly, and the organizers had understood this, since they showed their desire to send him an invitation. The Pope deems the action of Italy a flagrant violation of her own laws, since, according to the guarantees voted by the Italian Parliament in May, 1871, the Pontiff must be considered and treated as a Sovereign Power. Finally, His Holiness will demand the moral support of the whole of the faithful, to help the Church to raise herself from her present unbearable position. Judging from the warmth of feeling with which the Pope expresses his views on the matter, the new protest will be the strongest in terms which has emanated from the Holy See for some time.—The New Era.

COMPENSATION FOR IRISH LANDLORDS.

FROM TIME TO TIME we meet with a "leader" in some exchange or other that attracts our special attention, either on account of its spirit, its originality, its logic, its wit, or its genuine sarcasm. Humor, such an article, combining, however, all of these qualities, do we find in the London "Lancet" of July 22nd. It is a solid argument, underlies all its polished bitterness. We will give our readers the *bona fide* of this striking editorial. A motion, presented by Lord Inchiquin, asking compensation for the landlords of Ireland on account of reduced rents is the subject, and the "Lancet" thus deals with it.

CRY OF DISTRESS. It is a hardened generation that will not listen to the cry of the distressed Irish landlord. So it is that the name Mr. Gladstone, in 1887, once clapped their chains by the Lord Abbot, which set up a sort of jubilation to the Irish rents on something approaching a basis of justice. It is true that their habits were unimproved, subject to no law, responsible to no authority, and, in defiance of every principle of equity, they had reaped their victims without mercy or remorse. The tenants, while in a way they were freemen (being British subjects), were as much the slaves of the landlords as were the negroes of Carolina, the bondsmen of the plantations. The landlords could raise the rents to any pitch they pleased, and the tenants, having no other employment, were obliged to live or starve, and suffer perpetual hunger in order to pay a ruinous land tax to their absolute master. If a farmer exercised the franchise by voting against the landlord's nominee, his rent was doubled, or he was thrown out of his house, or his family disappeared in the workhouse or in the emigrant ship. A record of the iniquities of Irish landlords would fill volumes.

WE WILL SKIP a lengthy historical retrospect of the Land League and the various succeeding organizations. The article continues:

"The Land Courts have docked the rents to the extent, roughly speaking, of twenty-five per cent. In many cases up to seventy per cent. have been cut off. But why? Because they were unjust rents, and therefore the exaction of them was tantamount to highway robbery. We are not surprised that the cry of the rack-renters is loud in the land. They demand compensation for the loss of the right to plunder their tenants. A thief might as reasonably claim compensation for being deprived of his liberty to pick people's pockets. It was the "Times" that years ago told the Irish landlords that they had 'fronts of brass.' Lord Inchiquin

sentation of the Vatican from the Peace Conference at the Hague. His Holiness considered it most fitting that he should, as the Apostle of Peace, be represented at the assembly, and the organizers had understood this, since they showed their desire to send him an invitation. The Pope deems the action of Italy a flagrant violation of her own laws, since, according to the guarantees voted by the Italian Parliament in May, 1871, the Pontiff must be considered and treated as a Sovereign Power. Finally, His Holiness will demand the moral support of the whole of the faithful, to help the Church to raise herself from her present unbearable position. Judging from the warmth of feeling with which the Pope expresses his views on the matter, the new protest will be the strongest in terms which has emanated from the Holy See for some time.—The New Era.

on Tuesday last proved the correctness of the description by his motion calling on Parliament to consider the claims of the Irish landlords to compensation from the State for the loss they had sustained." Lord Inchiquin's amendment was taken up and reported by the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Fawcett, the Marquis of Londonderry, and others. All brought down to the depths of misery by Mr. Gladstone's wicked and laws. Good must be the British public who will not pity the poverty of the Marquis of Londonderry and of the Duke of Abercorn. As he began the knocked loudly at the Treasury door, but they got not a copper. And so they whine in their wretched chamber and actually secure as many sympathetic votes as suffice to defeat the Government motion to enact the Land Tenants' Bill. It is an empty gesture.

PAST FINANCIAL AID. It is impossible to appraise the Irish landlords. Directly they can get no compensation for the loss of their plunder, and they know that their well. But indirectly their "royal friends" have filled their pockets at the expense of the Irish farmers. Under the local government (O'Donnell) Act of last year, they were relieved for ever for the payment of poor rates. The support of the poor now comes out of the pocket of the people, the landlords being saved about £250,000 a year. This is compensation indeed, and yet they are not satisfied. It was by intimidation they obtained this enormous dole, for it was made plain to the Government that the Lords would throw out the Irish Land Government Bill if they did not get an adequate bribe.

The objects were aimed at in Lord Inchiquin's motion. One is the Irish Tithes Bill, the other is to influence the Land Courts in favour of the landlords, and against the tenants. By howling and whining that they are robbed and "kilt entirely," they count upon intimidating the Land Commissioners. They are never weary of making charges of injustice against the sub-commissioners, and they have actually succeeded to a considerable extent in terrorizing them. This is one of the purposes of the constant demand for compensation. The other is to urge on the government to pass the Irish Tithes Bill. It proposes to give the landlords about two millions of Irish money. Owing to the opposition of the Irish members the Chief Secretary has withdrawn it for the present session. This has irritated and angered the rack-renters, hence their growl in the House of Lords on Tuesday. Brazen beggars are those Irish landlords that they had 'fronts of brass.' Lord Inchiquin

SATURDAY'S LACROSSE MATCH.

The executive and lacrosse teams of the S. A. A. achieved great triumphs on Saturday last. The former by their splendid management of the large crowd of spectators and other matters incidental thereto, and the latter by their magnificent work against the plucky representatives of the Factory Town, which resulted in a victory which places the wearers of the green ahead of all competitors for the championship pennant.

Some idea of the enthusiasm displayed by the spectators, in the match, may be inferred from a perusal of the following letter received by the secretary treasurer of the Association from a French Canadian clergyman associated with one of the dioceses adjoining that of Montreal. This enthusiastic priest writes his appreciation of the great battle as follows:

"I attended the match between the Corvalls and Shamrocks, on Saturday last at the Shamrock grounds, and I considered it one of the finest exhibitions of the national game I had ever witnessed. For years past I have followed lacrosse, because I admired the game believing it to be a noble, elevating, and heart-stirring athletic exercise. Team lacrosse is undoubtedly the best recreation for all classes, and the match on Saturday was certainly noted for this feature. For my part I always want the best team to win. Of course the Shamrocks had my sympathy, never-

theless I am desirous of giving justice to whom justice is due.

The Shamrocks have the fastest home I ever saw. Such tactics, for combination passes and sharpshooting work, by Lude, Brennan, Hoodin and Henry are not only rare, but well calculated to rattle the most astute defence. Pardon these few observations. They are made not to criticize, but to appreciate the great work of the representatives of the Irish Canadian Athletic Association, which is so deserving of the support of all lovers of amateur athletics.

May good luck follow the Shamrocks on every battle field, between now and the falling leaves of Autumn. May they gather enough victories to enable them to swing to the breeze the proud emblem of the championship of the world."

Captain O'Connell was a happy man when at the conclusion of the eleventh game he rushed from the field to the club house where he received the congratulations of hundreds of the friends and admirers of the team.

By exact count of tickets taken in at the different gates there were 5,031 paid admissions. Add to these figures the membership annual passes and complimentary cards to members of the team, and press which the secretary treasurer estimates at 600, it would make the attendance at the match 5,631. The national game is not dead evidently.

SOMETHING ABOUT BANKS.

A statement was made by Mr. A. L. Kent, one of the liquidators of the Ville Marie Bank, to a meeting of depositors held a few days ago. Despite all rumors to the contrary he said, that, so far as a cursory glance at the books showed, the depositors would ultimately obtain 50 cents on the dollar.

The assets of the bank he figured at \$1,866,000 at the present time. From this sum must be deducted \$726,000 as uncollectible, leaving a difference of \$1,140,000 in favor of

the depositors. From this amount, however, must come the circulation to be redeemed, and this, of course, could hardly be even guessed at at the present time. Putting it at its worst, say \$500,000, would leave something like \$640,000. To this sum must be added the funds which would come from the double liability clause. Mr. Kent was of the opinion that something like \$75,000 might be collected from this source, which would give \$715,000 to be divided among the depositors, or about 50

GERMAN EMPEROR AND NEW WOMAN.

The German Emperor has decided opinions on many subjects; and he has a happy way of giving terse and forcible expression to them. Some American ladies recently visited him on board his yacht at Kiel. They were "new women," and spoke to him of what they called the degraded position of their sex in Germany. When they had finished talking he said:

that women have no business to interfere with anything outside of the four K's—Kinder, Kirche, Küche and Kleider—children, church, kitchen and clothes. The American ladies, it is asserted retired from the contest, convinced that the Emperor was a hopeless subject.

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