

## CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS.

## CARDINAL GIBBONS THE CENTRAL FIGURE.

Christian, Jew, Brahmin, Buddhist, With Other Shades of Theology Gather in a Most Notable Conference.

CHICAGO, Sept. 12.—A procession in which the religions of the world were represented signalized the opening of the World's Parliament of Religions at the Art Institute. It was a procession that had a world of meaning in it; one that would have been impossible not many years ago. Jew marched with Gentile and Roman Catholic with Protestant. The religious beliefs of India, of China and of Japan were represented, as well as those of the English-speaking nations. All attired in their priestly robes and wearing the insignia of their office marched in peace and fellowship to the platform, while the audience rose and cheered at the sight. First came Cardinal Gibbons escorted by President Bonney. Then came Mrs. Potter Palmer and Mrs. Charles Henrotin, representing the board of lady managers.

## SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PROCESSION.

There were following in the procession an archbishop, of Zante, Greece; a Methodist minister from Chicago; a Roman Catholic Archbishop of Chicago; several Lutherans from Germany and Sweden; two or three East Indian Brahmins and Buddhists; a Chicago Presbyterian clergyman; a Chinese Buddhist; a Chicago Israelite; a couple of Bombay theologians and, in fact, the most heterodox line of religionists ever seen since the world began. As this remarkable parade reached the hall the audience rose and joined in singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," a hymn that, as it acknowledges the Christian doctrines of the Trinity, was hardly appropriate in such a gathering.

## THE PRAYER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE IN GOD.

The next thing on the programme was more universal than the hymn. Cardinal Gibbons led the heterodox gathering in prayer, and the petition put up was the "Lord's Prayer," and there was not one of these present who could not, whether he did or no, join in the prayer. For the Mohammedan, the Buddhist, the Brahmin, all of whom were present, believe in a Supreme Being. The scene was a novel one, for many of the visitors from the Orient were clad in their native costumes, the prelates in some instances in their robes of office. There was not a vacant seat in the hall and many were standing against the wall and in other places where a view of the platform could be had.

## THE VERSATILE PRESIDENT BONNEY.

There is one man connected with these World's Fair congresses who has hardly had the credit that he deserves, and that is President Bonney. Being the head of these gatherings to this gentleman has fallen the duty of welcoming the various bodies which have met under the auspices of the World's Auxiliary. He has had to speak to woman suffragists, spiritualists, civil engineers, social reformers of all kinds, and in fact to the believers in or agitators of everything that is current in the world of progress. And he has shown a versatility of speech that has enabled him to speak to them all in such a manner as to tell them "what they were there for" without making a single mistake. Every one of his brief addresses has been felicitous and just what the occasion called for.

## HOW HE TALKED TO HETEROLOGY.

And in addressing this congress—probably the one in addressing which it was the easiest to say something that would rankle—he was especially happy. He said in brief that they should all give thanks for being able to take part in so grand a congress, one that so fully exemplified peace and progress, and which would have so great an influence on the world. After reviewing the programme of the congress, he welcomed all in the name of the brotherhood of religion.

Rev. John Henry Burrows, chairman of the committee on organization, then addressed the congress. He said that never before had such a congress been undertaken, and not long ago it would have been deemed impossible to carry it to successful completion.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC WELCOME.

Archbishop Feehan followed, welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church. He said that the as-

sembly was one unique in the history of the world. Learned men had come from all countries to speak and to tell us of those things that was of the greatest interest to all—of God, of His truth and justice, of His worship, of peace and of mercy. No matter how we might differ in religion, there was one thing that was common to us all, and that was our common humanity. The Archbishop welcomed the delegates in his own name and in all that he represented.

Cardinal Gibbons had to leave early, so his response to the addresses of welcome was called for out of its order. He said that though all did not agree on matters of faith, there was one platform on which all were united, that was charity, humanity and benevolence. He spoke of the Good Samaritan who bound up the wounds of a man who was his enemy in religion and in social life, and said that that was the example we ought to follow. He said that he could not impress too strongly on every one that each was his brother's keeper. That was the whole theory of humanity. If Christ had cried with Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" we would still be walking in darkness.

Rev. Augusta J. Chapin welcomed the congress on behalf of woman. The parliament of religions, she said, was the grandest and most significant gathering that had ever been assembled on this earth. President Higinbotham, of the Columbian exposition, next welcomed the delegates on behalf of the World's fair. He said it was a source of great satisfaction that a new city in a far part of the world should be accorded the honor of these congresses. They were the greatest honor of the World's fair year.

Rev. Alexander McKenzie, the next speaker, said that he supposed that every one who spoke stood for something and he stood for the old settlers, the Puritans. There was one thing that we could show the foreigners that could be seen nowhere else in the world, and that was a Republic that was in the process of making by Christian forces. There was a religious motive in the founding of it, and it was that, he thought, that made it proper to speak of it at this time. The parliament of religions, he said, was really begun on Plymouth rock and had been growing in importance ever since until now every religion on earth was represented in the country.

The next speaker on the programme was Pung Quang Yu, secretary of the Chinese legation at Washington. In introducing him Mr. Bonney spoke of the treatment that some of his countrymen had received in this country, but in spite of which the Emperor of China had sent a delegate in a Christian spirit to his congress. Nearly half of the people in the hall rose and cheered and waved their handkerchiefs as the delegate advanced to the front of the platform.

Prince Wolfousky, of Russia, followed with a tribute to the congresses. He spoke of a Roman Catholic prelate addressing the Jews and said that it was a magnificent scene that could be seen only in this age.

Other addresses were made during the day by Rt. Rev. Roushe Shibata, of Japan; Rev. Dr. Burrows, of this city; Archbishop Redwood, New Zealand; H. Dharmapala, of India; V. A. Shandi, of Bombay, a "Janist"; Minas Secherez, an Arabian editor; Professor Chakravarti, Theosophist, of India; Miss Jeanne Saralbi, of Bombay, and Bishop Arnett. All the addresses were of the same tenor as those the point of which has been given.

## Resolutions of Condolence.

At the regular monthly meeting of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, held in their hall, the following resolutions of condolence were passed on learning of the death of one of our most esteemed honorary members, Mr. James Brennan, whose death recently occurred in the City of Toronto.

Resolved, Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst by the hand of death, our beloved brother and honorary member, Mr. James Brennan, we deem it our duty to place on record the sentiments of esteem and affection in which he was held by the members of this society.

Resolved, That by his death the society has lost one of its most honored members, but we are nevertheless consoled by the belief that he has gone to receive the reward of a good and well-spent life.

Resolved, That a solemn Requiem Mass be offered up for the happy repose of his soul, in St. Ann's Church, on Monday, 11th September, at 7 a.m., at which all members are most respectfully invited to attend.

P. J. BERGIN,

Rec. Sec. St. Ann's Young Men's Society.

The eminent Jesuit Father, John Joseph Franco, who has long and closely studied the spiritist movement in Italy, has published a manual on this serious subject. As in other countries, the spiritist movement is rapidly extending in Italy, to the grave detriment of faith and morals, and to a greater extent than is generally believed.

## THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.

## Sketch of the New Governor-General of Canada.

Right Honorable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Bart., Earl of Aberdeen, who has been appointed to the Governor-Generalship of Canada, to succeed Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, G. C. B., whose vice-regal term expired the 30th of April last, was born in 1847. At that time his father was Lord Haddo, but succeeded to the earldom some thirteen years later. The new Governor-General is the grandson of the Earl of Aberdeen, who was Prime Minister in 1854, and under whose premiership Mr. Gladstone served his first term as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He succeeded to the Scotch peerage January 27, 1870, on the death of his adventurous and ill-fated brother George, the sixth earl, who on January 23 sailed from Boston in the capacity of mate of the schooner Hera, bound for Melbourne, and was swept overboard in a storm and drowned on the fourth day out.

He was educated at University college, Oxford, of which he took the degree of B.A. in 1871, and that of A.M. in 1877. In 1881 he was appointed Lord High Commissioner of the Queen to attend the sessions of the General assembly of the Church of Scotland. For five successive years he annually took up his residence for a fortnight in Holyrood palace, Edinburgh, where he entertained royally and from whence he issued with dignity to preside over the deliberations of the governing body of the Presbyterian church. He entered the House of Lords as a Conservative, but in the session of 1878 he disagreed with some of the principal measures of his party, and when two years later the Earls of Derby and Carnarvon resigned their offices Lord Aberdeen heartily supported the views of these statesmen. In the debate on the Afghan war he voted against the Government of Lord Beaconsfield. In 1875 he was a member, and subsequently became chairman, of the royal commission to enquire into the subject of railway accidents. During 1877-78 he served as a member of the committee of the House of Lords on intemperance.



LORD ABERDEEN,  
Governor-General of Canada.

Having become a member of the Liberal party, he was in 1880 appointed Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire. In 1886 he was appointed by Mr. Gladstone Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with the mission of carrying out the Home Rule policy of the Government. In this capacity he rendered himself immensely popular in Ireland, and the scene in Dublin on the occasion of his leave-taking is said to have been such as had never been witnessed there since the departure of Lord Fitzwilliam in 1785.

Lord Aberdeen is a member of many religious and philanthropic societies, and contributed £1,000 toward General Booth's scheme for alleviating distress.

Lord Aberdeen was probably the most popular nobleman in Scotland, if not in the United Kingdom. No vicerey of Ireland ever so completely won the hearts of the Irish people as he. Both Lord and Lady Aberdeen are distinguished in London, and, indeed, wherever their far reaching influence penetrates, for noble philanthropy and unostentatious generosity. It has been said of them that "never, perhaps, were husband and wife more thoroughly in sympathy with each other." Lady Aberdeen's work in behalf of oppressed people has done incalculable good. She is somewhat of a politician also. She took a deep interest in the late political campaign, and made several speeches in Scotland to large and enthusiastic audiences.

In 1878 the Earl visited the United States, making a very extended tour, and delivered addresses in nearly all the large cities on the struggle in Ireland for Home Rule. The Earl and Countess made a few months' visit to Canada in 1890-91, and conceived a deep affection for the country and people, so much that they disposed of their house in Grosvenor square, London, a palatial home that sold for \$70,000, and purchased a fine property called "Highfield," near the outskirts of the city of Hamilton, where they resided for some time. They are very unpretentious people and have four lovely children, to whom they are devoted. Lord Aberdeen is a very religious man and a strong advocate of temperance.

The Countess of Aberdeen, who is a daughter of the first Lord Tweedmouth, is a handsome woman, above the medium height, possessed of a cultivated mind, kind heart and great strength of character. While with her husband in Ireland she became deeply interested in the welfare of the oppressed people, and using her influence caused others to sympathize with her efforts, and the result was the organization in 1886 of the Irish Industries association, its object being to develop home industries among the poorer classes. A central office was established in Dublin for the selling of Irish made goods, and the industry grew so rapidly that in a short time a branch office was opened in London, and the one in Dublin removed to larger and more commodious quarters in that city. In order to strengthen the work of the association it was decided to have a display of Irish industries at the Columbian fair in Chicago, in promoting which the Countess took an active part.

The civic reception committee met on Saturday to take the first steps towards organizing

the reception to the Earl of Aberdeen. Ald. Villeneuve and Ald. Stevenson were of opinion that the Mayor and a delegation of the City Council should go down to Quebec to meet His Excellency, but Ald. Smith was of opinion that the proper place to greet the New Governor-General in the name of the citizens of Montreal was right here. That was also the opinion of His Worship the Mayor. It was consequently decided to send the Mayor's secretary, Mr. Rene Beauset, down to Quebec to privately consult His Excellency's convenience. If possible the aldermen will present Lord Aberdeen with an address on the morning of the 27th instant, so as to make the civic reception coincide with the formal inauguration of the Board of Trade building, in which His Excellency is to participate.

## IRISH NEWS.

The Rev. Father Beggs, O.S.F., has been transferred to the Franciscan Convent, Carrickbeg.

Lord Farnham possesses the largest estate in this county. He holds 2,455 acres, valued at over £20,000.

The Sisters of Mercy have opened a school for the education of deaf and dumb female children at Rockfordbridge.

At the recent sessions in Durrow, John Skelly, Martin Shannon and Thomas Kenna were prosecuted by Thomas Purcell for trespassing in pursuit of game. The three were fined.

Messrs. T. H. Simcocks, R. Nulty, Callan, P. Lyons, T. Long, J. Downey, Farrell, J. Weldon, P. Gorman and W. Skelington have been elected to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

The death occurred at the Convent of St. Joseph, Rue Mechlin, Paris, of Miss Mary Josephine Reilly (in religion Sister Joseph Emmanuel), eldest daughter of Philip Reilly, of Woodpole, Kells.

Hannah Graham, John O'Neill and Louis Shannon, of Whitepark, Ballyclare, were driving lately on a car owned by Thomas Givan, Ballynure. They were thrown out near Larne and seriously injured.

The Secretary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Carlow, has received £50 in aid of their funds from the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, being part of the assets of the late Rev. B. O'Neill, formerly P. P. of Bagenalstown, left for the poor of Carlow.

The Lurgan Town Commissioners held a special meeting lately and decided upon the demolition of the last of the original buildings of that town. The building in question was the chief of the ancient business part of Lurgan, known as the "Middle Row."

A series of open air temperance meetings were held during the past week at the back of the Custom House by the Dublin Total Abstinence Society. The programme at each meeting consisted of temperance addresses, interspersed with musical selections.

Jerome Guiry, of Peppardstown, Fethard, has been selected as one of a British Commission appointed by the Canadian Government to visit the Dominion. Mr. Guiry was selected out of one hundred and forty candidates to represent Ireland on the Commission.

Signor A. Barzaghi-Cattaneo, whose picture of "The Last Kiss" was recently exhibited at Craufeld's Gallery, Grafton street, Dublin, is now engaged on a large painting of the Lord Mayor of Dublin presenting to the House of Commons the petition of the Corporation in favor of Home Rule.

His Excellency Spencer Walpole, Esq., Governor of the Isle of Man, has presented Mr. John Loton, Librarian of the Rathmines Public Library, with a copy of his latest work, "The Land of Home Rule," for use in that library. The inhabitants of Rathmines and Rathgar will be sure to appreciate the compliment.

The Dublin Gazette contains the following announcement: "Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to appoint, by warrant under her Royal Sign Manual, the Most Rev. Archbishop William Joseph Walsh, D.D., to be one of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, in the room of John Baldwin Murphy, Esq., Q.C., resigned."

On a lovely morning in August a merry party started from St. Joseph's Convent, Kilkenny, to visit Woodstock, a beautiful resort, which is situated at about fifteen miles from the marble city. Every accommodation was provided by Mrs. Beardwood, Superior of the convent, who is ever solicitous for the happiness and welfare of those under her charge, and is loved by all who know her. The drive along the green banks of the silvery Nore was most enjoyable, and the picturesque scenery magnificent.

An illuminated address has been prepared for presentation to the Very Rev. Dean Bugler, V.G., of Birr. The occasion of the presentation (which includes also the picture in oils of the recipient) is his elevation to the dignity of Dean of the Diocese of Kildare. The address speaks of the grand services rendered by Dean Bugler to the cause of Catholic education by the introduction of the Presentation Brothers over the schools; also the establishment of the convent schools, where the children of the parish have now the opportunity of receiving a practical and religious education. The address is in book shape, consisting of six pages of beautiful illuminations, each being of a different design.

During three weeks the Vicentian Fathers of St. Vincent's Sunday's Well, conducted a most successful Mission in the parish church, Kinsale. It was one of the best attended Missions ever witnessed in the town. On several evenings a number of Protestants attended. In addition to the immense number of persons that received the Sacrament of Penance, 5,000 persons received Holy Communion; 800 families, representing 4,500 persons, were consecrated in the Pious Association of the Holy Family, recently inaugurated and strongly recommended by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII.; 150 women and girls were added to the female branch, and 250 men and boys to the male branch of the Confraternity of the Holy Family, which has been in existence in the town for the past sixteen years. Over 400 persons joined the League of the Cross, of whom 100 joined in the Temperance Hall. There were about 500 enrolled in the different scapulars, and a large number in the Living Rosary.