



# CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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## THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

The secretaries of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language have received the following letter:—

Collegiate Seminary, Lady-lane, Waterford, 14th December.

DEAR REV. SIR—It is only now that circumstances permit me to render an account of my stewardship, and to thank the council for their unanimous vote of thanks passed at their meeting previous to the 23rd. for my humble efforts in behalf of a truly patriotic and deserving cause, and so kindly communicated by you. I am happy to be able to inform you that some fifteen respectable young men and youths have, short though the time has been, already accepted my invitation, and have entered on a course on the study of their mother tongue. Many of them are already able to bid farewell to the "First Book," which has been supplemented by other auxiliaries. Conversation and short recitations from works, particularly those of the great archbishop, are made part of the proceedings, thus rendering the whole attractive, agreeable and practical—I remain, dear rev. sir, yours very faithfully. STEPHEN O'BRIEN.

## THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

England is unfortunate in having always a little war in hand. At the present moment the frontier tribes in India are uneasy and the Galekas at the Cape of Good Hope are causing some commotion. An English exchange informs us that:—

More fighting has occurred in South Africa. A Reuter's telegram from Madras, summarising the news from Cape Town to the 4th inst., says:—"On the 2nd inst. 800 Galekas attacked a night patrol of 125 volunteers and 23 police near Poeka. The Galekas were defeated with a loss of 80 men. Mr. Barron, of the Algoa Bay volunteers, was killed, and seven men were wounded. M'Kinnon, the petty chief under Krell, who had taken refuge in the Gaika country, has paid a small portion of the fine imposed upon him. Uneasiness exists respecting the Gaikas. Sandhill professes complete loyalty, but it is rumored that he is raising a war-cry in Sambuland. It is officially denied that the Zulu boundary question is causing anxiety in Natal." A special telegram to the Times says that the Galekas who began the fight on the 2nd were 1,000 in number, and that the battle lasted two hours. The same despatch says:—"A mass meeting has been held at King William's Town, declaring life and property insecure, and calling upon the Government to summon a special session of Parliament for the proper organization of defence. All the leading men of the town, including Messrs. Dyer, Davis, Byrne, Irvine, Baker, Dick, Fuller, and Gould, were present.

## THE HILL OF SKELETONS.

An eye witness writing from the seat of the war describes a hill of skeletons at Plevna. We can easily realize the truth of the description, although it falls to the lot of few men, even those who have been soldiers, to witness such horrors:—

As I rode up the slope of the hill east of Plevna, towards the redoubt defending the road between that town and the village of Radichevo, a ghastly scene was presented. Hundreds of Russian skeletons lay glistening on the hill-sides, where they had fallen during the assault of September. The bones were generally completely bare. Those nearest to the Turkish earthwork had been covered with a few inches of earth, which had been washed off by the first shower, and now they lay as naked as the others. The Moslem outpost pits were among these skeletons, many of them being not more than a yard distant. Notwithstanding the infectious neighborhood of these horrible human relics, not a shovelful of earth had been thrown over them. Singular as it may seem, many of these skeletons had distinct expressions, both in the attitude in which they had fallen, and in the position of the fleshless jaws. As I sat on my horse and gazed upon the horrible spectacle, I could distinguish those who had fallen without suffering from those who had died in agony, and the effect was such as I shall never forget. The Russian soldiers who marched into Plevna in the rear of Osman's sallying force passed among these remains of their unbrired comrades, but there was no disposition manifested to inflict any punishment upon the men who could treat the bones of brave enemies in such a heartless manner.

## THE TENANT-RIGHT AGITATION IN ULSTER.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 19th ult., the first of a series of tenant-right meetings to be held in the North of Ireland took place in Ballyclare, county Antrim, Mr. James Ferguson presiding. The following resolutions, amongst others, were adopted:—

That in all cases of disputes between landlord and tenant about a fair and reasonable rent (where tenant-right exists) an independent tribunal, such as a valuation board or other company, should be appointed to put on a fair rent, excluding from such valuation the tenant's interests in all his improvements.

And, That the provisions of the Ulster tenant-right should, as far as practicable, be extended to the whole of Ireland, and the chairman should be required to give a maximum compensation for disturbance under the 3rd clause of the Land Act.

3rd. That it has been the immemorial custom of Ulster to give leases, and that originally the Ulster custom was largely the right of the tenant to renewal of his lease; that recent legal decisions had

thrown doubt upon the existence of what is known as leasehold tenant-right; and that an Act of Parliament should be passed to clear up all doubts, and for this purpose and for the protection of the tenant-right of Ulster, it should be made the presumption of law that every holding in Ulster was subject to tenant-right.

Resolutions were also passed in reference to the necessity for an amendment in the Bright clauses, and also expressing the need for a thorough reform of the grand jury laws.

## THE MASSACRE OF THE NEZ PERCE INDIANS.

The Nez Perce Indians are Catholics. It may be remembered how chivalrously they behaved when fighting against the U. S. troops. They proved themselves as brave as they are humane. It is told that when they beat back the U. S. troops and found some soldiers who had been wounded they treated them with Christian tenderness, and when one wounded soldier looked alarmed when the Nez Perce approached, one of the Indians bent over the wounded man and said in broken English, "We no hurt wounded man, we fight like Catholic, no like savage." How differently those Indians who are not Christians behave. Here is a description of how five Nez Perce Indians were lately butchered by savage Assiniboines:—

Major Walsh has just returned from the Milk River with a Christianized Nez Perce woman whose history for the past two months is one of horrible suffering. She was one of a lodge party of nine—five men, two women and two children—who escaped from Chief Joseph's camp on the eve of the battle with Gen. Miles at the Bear's Paw. They fled by night in a northwesterly direction, and after a hard journey reached a camp of Assiniboines, thirty miles south of the Milk River. The Assiniboines, who since the memory of man have been at enmity with the Nez Percés, received them kindly, to the astonishment of the fugitives, and gave them meat and clothing. The following morning, however, the Assiniboines took their guns from the Nez Perce warriors and told them to go north into Canada, and that they would keep the women and children. The five men accordingly started north. One of them was the husband and another the uncle of the woman whom Major Walsh has rescued. An hour after they had left the camp, a body of Assiniboines rode after them, overtook them on the banks of Le Sapin Creek and murdered them, bringing their bodies back. One of the Nez Perce papooses was then killed, but the other was at the point of death and the savages spared it. The five dead bodies were thrust into the lodge with the two women, and there they remained for three days.

The murder of the five Nez Percés has been charged to Sitting Bull's band but they are entirely innocent. Major Walsh and Captain McCrea, with fifteen troopers, left for the Sioux camp on the Cache du Lac to-day. The fires are abating and the weather getting colder, with a promise of snow.

## THE STATE OF POLAND.

The latest accounts from Poland appear to show that that country is in a state of lawlessness. The hands of the people are so effectively tied that even an attempt at insurrection appears to be impossible, and this "lawlessness" of which we read may be the efforts of a few men to kindle the flame of insurrection once more. We find the following in a contemporary:—

A letter from the Polish frontier in the Cologne Gazette says that at Warsaw and in other parts of Poland much alarm prevails on account of the numerous murders and robberies in the country, which are daily becoming more frequent, notwithstanding the presence of a police force, which is the largest and most costly in the world. This state of things is generally ascribed to the new judicial organization which has been introduced in the kingdom of Poland since July, 1876. Russian justice is notoriously slow and complicated, and the new judges, who have been imported from the interior of the empire, knew nothing of the Polish language or customs or of the national character. Many of them are young men from St. Petersburg, who pass their time in frivolous amusements, and totally neglect their judicial functions; others have a strong leaning for nihilist doctrines, and these treat the criminals who are brought before them for trial with a leniency which tends rather to encourage crime than to restrict it. But the main cause of the want of security which prevails lies deeper. Since the insurrection of 1863 the Russian Government has never ceased to pursue a policy of revenge towards its Polish subjects; it has kept the country in a permanent state of siege, and has used every means of dissolution and demoralization without reflecting as to the consequences of such a course. In order to weaken the Polish element the population has been systematically oppressed, not only from a political, but also from a religious and economical point of view. By this policy the Poles have lost immensely; but, on the other hand, the Russians gain nothing, for the country is growing poorer every day. Whole villages are forcibly "converted" to the Russian faith; no property is safe from confiscation, and the special laws enacted against the Poles are carried out by corrupt and greedy officials. No wonder, concludes the correspondent, that under such a regime all respect for the law should disappear, that the consciences of the uneducated masses should be perverted, and their sense of right and wrong be wiped out altogether.

## THE WAR FEELING IN ENGLAND.

Many accounts from England assure us that for months past the country has been preparing for war. England is experiencing the sensation of a man who has been "sold." Russia has certainly beaten her in diplomacy, and England now feels it keenly. A correspondent in hopeful accents tells us that:—

Bismarck is reported to have said, "If Turkey is the sick man, England may be called the sick woman." Once this idea gets rubbed into the English mind, once a European power flings that practically in the British face, it is war. Conscious of her sacrifices for peace, England has not lost her national pride, and when roused she is a fighting nation. Since the days when she last declared war against Russia, I remember nothing so ominous as the present state of affairs. In my last letter I gave you a sketch of the Woolwich arsenal. Since I despatched it orders have been received for the immediate completion of the four 80-ton guns for the Inflexible, and during the week, in response to Government commands, a number of field guns, 38-ton guns, and large quantities of stores have been shipped for Malta, whither vast quantities of material have been forwarded during the past two months. Two hundred thousand pairs of military boots have been ordered at Northampton, the seat of the boot and shoe trade of England. A large body of men recently discharged at Chatham dockyard have been taken on again. A friend of mine who visited Portsmouth yesterday tells me that the war-feeling there is strengthened by the increased activity in the transport service. If England had no other ally than Turkey, and were pressed into a rupture with Russia, Germany and Austria combined, she could put in motion such a power as the world has never seen. Not only could she shut up the trade of the three Empires with her fleets, she could give to Turkey an army of Mahomedans from India sufficient to paralyze the united forces of all her European foes, while the least disaster would bring France upon Germany with a rush that would give the Fatherland sufficient occupation. It is not an uncommon thing to find thoughtful Englishmen who believe that Great Britain is to be put on her trial as roughly as Turkey, and if she has to fight she will find it necessary to exert all her strength not simply as a European but as an Asiatic power. Victoria would not only draw the sword as Queen of England but as the Empress of India, the ruler of 180,000,000 of Asiatics, whose Government was never more popular than at this moment. The recent tour of the Prince of Wales through the Empire, the homage of all the princes and chiefs, the strengthening of the English power, not only in her forts but in the hearts of the people, and the lavish contribution of her wealth, sent from every city, town and village of Great Britain to alleviate the late famine, have served to consolidate the respect and affection of the subjects of the Empress. A war in defense of Constantinople would make India ring with shouts of joy, and bring to the British banners, if required, not thousands, but millions, of troops, who would fight for their faith and British God.

## HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The New York Times reassures some of its readers who have been made unhappy by its recent strictures upon Mr. Beecher, and explains to them why they need be under no apprehension that the famous preacher will end by casting off all the doctrines of Christianity. It says:—

"Of this," "there is no danger. Now that he has thrown hell overboard, we may expect that he will consent to retain what is left of the Christian faith. No man who disbelieves in future punishment need have any objection to the moral law. A man who is addicted to robbery and dislikes to go to prison will naturally dislike the law which makes robbery a punishable offense, but if policemen, magistrates, and prisons were to be abolished, and he could rob with absolute impunity, he would cease to feel any active hatred of the law. In like manner, a man who believes that hell is the penalty for wilful perjury, and who, nevertheless, finds himself strongly tempted to commit perjury, would naturally like to have the Ten Commandments abolished; but, if convinced that hell has no existence, and that he will not be punished hereafter, whatever crime he may commit, he will be perfectly willing to let the harmless moral law remain as it is. Mr. Beecher having rid himself of all fear of future punishment, cannot feel that any part of Christianity is inconvenient or burdensome. Doubtless being a man of tender conscience, he could not do wrong without feeling more or less uneasiness, but he need no longer be harassed with a fear of punishment after this life. When once this fear is eliminated from Christianity, the latter becomes the easiest and most cheerful religion ever invented. Christianity without hell is merely a collection of moral precepts which commend themselves to the approval of all sensible men, but which no one need feel compelled to obey. We may select a few easy commandments and obey them as long as we find it convenient; but we may, with equal safety, destroy the rest. In fact, the believer in Mr. Beecher's variety of Christianity is a law unto himself, and can do precisely what he pleases without fear of any except purely temporary and worldly consequences. Toward such an easy religion as this Mr. Beecher cannot feel any hostility. Why then, need there be any fear that he will class himself openly among its enemies? If Mr. Beecher's coat were to pinch him in several places, we could understand why he should feel like tearing that coat into small pieces; but after he has altered it so that it fits easily and without chafing him, no matter what he may do, we should expect to find him preferring it to all other actual or possible coats. Now that he has cut and altered Christianity until it fits him like a loose dressing-gown it would be folly for him to tear it to pieces or to throw it aside, and hence he will undoubtedly cling to it with the utmost affection."

## A FANATIC.

The Catholic who insults a Protestant, because he is a Protestant, is as bad as the Protestant who insults the "Papist," because he is a "Papist." We have often said that no man should be insulted or annoyed because of the religion he professes. Now we ask our Protestant friends to read the underneath extract from the Glasgow News, and let them fancy what their feelings would be if some fanatic spoke of Protestantism as this Hutcheson did of the Catholics:—

THE PROPOSED PAPAL HIERARCHY.—In the Police Hall, Cranstonhill, on Thursday evening, Mr. Geo. Hay delivered a lecture on "Martin Luther"—Mr. Peter Hutcheson, shipowner, in the chair. At the close of the lecture Mr. Hay said—in the course of my remarks at the close of my lecture last Thursday evening, in speaking of how the present efforts of the Papacy should be met in this country, and particularly in Scotland I advocated a vigorous aggressive action by Protestants—such as the establishment of missions to Romanists, the circulation of Protestant literature, and a thorough exposure of the whole system, every facility being afforded to Roman Catholics to escape from a system doomed to destruction. We might urge this as a common Christian duty. But the time has come for Protestants to treat the Papacy as a conspiracy against their civil and religious liberty, and a sworn enemy of Great Britain in all its interests. Every priest of Rome must be regarded as the general or commander of an invading enemy, whose object is the life's blood of every Protestant. Every Roman Catholic congregation must be held as the army of a foreign prince who grants no toleration of any opinion not his; and every member of that congregation must be regarded as a man who would aid a man with a dagger concealed under his garment. Every consistent Roman Catholic is a traitor against Queen Victoria, the sworn enemy of pure religion, and the agent of the Pope to exterminate heretics. He comes to shed the blood of our parents to bewitch our sisters and brothers, to carry off our daughters to be debauched by the soldiery of Rome, and to cast to the flames the pastors of the people. Such a system as this should be met by the repeal of all Acts of Parliament giving the Romanist civil rights in this country. Roman Catholics were admitted to political power in 1829, on the distinct understanding and sworn pledge that they would remain friendly subjects of the Queen, and as an earnest of their sincerity they freely declared against the right of the Pope to interfere in civil matters in this country. But those promises and pledges have each and all been broken, and war has by them been proclaimed in the most hostile manner. What, therefore, remains for us but to repeal those privileges granted to them in good faith. We must also take active measures for the total demolition of all monasteries and nunneries in this country—not their inspection, but their complete destruction. It is plain to anyone acquainted with the workings of these institutions that they are nurseries of sedition in our midst, and ought as a matter of simple right and self-defence to be abolished. It may be said that to put into practice such proposals would lead to rebellion in the land. Rebellion is rampant in the land, and if those who are loyal to the Queen and Constitution do not act the reign of anarchy must soon commence, and forever put an end to all that is good and noble and true in the land of Knox. Shortly the cry from the Protestant camp will be, "Wing the birds this time, and the rookeries will come down of themselves."

## THE HEALTH OF THE POPE.

The health of the Pope at our latest authentic advices was on the whole good, remembering his great age and the number of times at which the secular press has declared him to be at the point of death. On Christmas Day the Lord Mayor of Dublin, on the authority of the Cardinal Archbishop, announced that his Holiness had not been in better health during the preceding eight months than he was at that time. It must however, be understood that advanced years give some importance to slight ailments and that the prayers for the Pope, asked by the Cardinal Vicar of Rome, are due by his children to their aged father—and this even though it is their hope, and there is probability, that he may live long years to come. One of the secular papers of New York admits that so far as human foresight can see he is as likely to outlive Bismarck as not. Who, we may ask, would have put his chance against that of La Marmora, merely counting years? Yet La Marmora died on Saturday and the poor old Pope lives. And the cable brings to-day the news that Victor Emmanuel is down with that most fatal of diseases, pneumonia. Although that is a malady which seldom leaves much space for aught but physical agony, and the royal robber has lately been bereft of that left-handed consort who might have brought him a priest empowered to absolve him, let us hope that the mercy of God may vouchsafe him a repentance deep enough to set off against the impossibility of making the restitution which his dishonesty demand. And while they implore the mercy of God upon his enemies, we trust that Catholic Americans will continue to pray for the Pope, while remembering that he has numberless chances in his favor of long and fairly active years.

**TRAVELLER WANTED** An experienced TRAVELLER, whose sole occupation it shall be to push the circulation of the "True Witness." To a suitable man a liberal commission will be given.

## WHO ARE THE CONVERTS?

A few weeks ago the Episcopal organ, the Churchman, said: "It can be shown from statistics that the larger proportion of converts to Rome are from the non-Episcopal bodies." As the Churchman has failed to produce the statistics since called for, it is not inappropriate for us to give a few distinguished names serving to indicate their quality, and showing that though the Catholic Church may thank all denominations for their contributions, she is under special obligations to the Episcopalian:—

Without leaving the United States, we might cite such illustrious personages as the late Most Rev. James Roosevelt Bayley D. D., Archbishop of Baltimore; Most Rev. James Frederick Wood, D. D., Archbishop of Philadelphia; Right Rev. Josiah Young, D. D., late Bishop of Erie; Right Rev. Bishop Taylor, of Hartford—all of whom were converts to the Catholic faith; L. Stillman Ives, D. D., Protestant Bishop of North Carolina, who, having seen the light of truth in the Catholic Church, renounced every earthly consideration—dignities, honors, wealth, friends—and bowed contentedly and humbly to become a simple layman in the fold; Very Rev. George H. Dornie, Vicar General of the diocese of Newark, and son of the Protestant bishop of that name; Rev. James Kent Stoddard, late president of Hobart and Kenyon Colleges, now a Paulist Father; Revs. T. T. Hecker, Francis A. Baker, A. F. Hewit, Edward Dwight Lyman, Episcopal clergymen of distinction and now Catholic priests; Rev. J. Clark, S. J., formerly a Professor of Mathematics at West Point, later commissioned a Brigadier-General in the United States Army, and now President of Gonzaga College, Washington; Orestes A. Brownson, L. L. D., the distinguished reviewer, whom Lord Brougham is said to have styled "the master mind of America"; J. A. McMaster, editor of the New York Freeman's Journal, Gen. D. W. C. Clarke, of Vermont; Rev. Dr. Rogers, Dr. Joseph Huntington, the well-known author of "Joshua Mary," "Gripings after Truth," etc.; Hon. Thomas Swinney, Senator from Ohio, and for some time Secretary of the United States Treasury; Hon. Henry May, a distinguished orator, and one of the leaders of his party in the House of Representatives; Homer Wheaton, Esq., late of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., at first a lawyer of distinction, but actuated by zeal for the service of God, such as he then supposed to be, he devoted his wealth and talents, of a superior order, to the Protestant ministry, until, the study of theology having opened his eyes to the falsity of his position, he was eventually led into the Catholic Church. Then there are Hon. Thomas B. Florence, of Philadelphia, for sixteen years a member of the United States House of Representatives, Hon. Judge T. Purkin Scott, of Baltimore, and a host of the other leading men of the country, a mention of whose names alone would occupy more space than our limited columns will allow, without speaking of the hundreds of highly-educated women converted to the Church within the last fifty years, and who grace all classes of society.

In order to give the Episcopalian a chance for vindication, it is fair to give the following from a Protestant daily: "But let us offset the blame for losing Doctors Bayley, Newman, Hecker, and others, Mr. J. McMaster, editor of that uncompromising Catholic paper, the Freeman's Journal, is a son of a Presbyterian minister. The Rev. J. W. Bakewell was a successor to the Presbyterian commentator, Matthew Henry; his son, R. N. Bakewell, became editor of the Shepherd of the Valley, a Catholic paper, Father Huntington says in his 'Reasons for Renouncing Protestantism,' that his theological training was at Princeton. Dr. O. A. Brownson was a Congregational minister, Father Hewit is the son of an 'Old School' Presbyterian pastor. Father Walworth is a son of Chancellor Walworth, an elder in a Presbyterian Church. Judge Bunat, of Louisiana, was a Baptist, Judge Lord was a Presbyterian before he made a similar change. Professors Oertel, Muller, Phillips, Adams, and the philosopher Schlegel never went to Rome from the Episcopal Church. Dr. De Jour was a Calvinist pastor in Geneva. Counts Engelheim, Stolberg, Werner, the Princes of Me. Klenberg and the Baron of Eckstein, with De Haller, Esslinger, Henter, and Overbeck, were all non-Episcopal Protestants. The recent gain to the Catholic Church of the Queen Dowager of Bavaria was not a loss to the Episcopal Church. And Bishop Cummins' allusion to the 'Marquis of Ripon with all his wealth' leaving the Church of England for the Church of Rome, is offset by the Marquis of Bute, with his greater wealth, who went to Rome, from Presbyterianism. But a few months ago we read of the Rev. Dr. Daykin, a Methodist minister of Brooklyn, N. Y., going to the Catholic Church's Church."—Pilot.

## WAKES CONDEMNED BY THE IRISH BISHOPS

In the Catholic churches of Ireland recently, the officiating clergymen read for their different congregations the opinion arrived at by the Catholic hierarchy of Ireland on the subject of "Wakes" at their recent meeting at Maynooth College. The Bishops express, in the first instance, the deep concern which they feel for the proper and respectful treatment of the dead, and the many instances of demoralization and want of due respect which often occurred at wakes, some of these being mere carousals. In future no one is to attend at wakes except the immediate relatives of the deceased. No spirituous or intoxicating liquors are to be used in such places, and for disobedience of these injunctions the clergy are commanded not to visit the house, not to attend at the interment, nor to celebrate Mass for the deceased. There is no doubt that these lordships have been moved to act in this important direction by the many scandals and scenes revolting to human enlightenment and our common Christianity, which very often occur among the poorer classes of the community at wakes.