

LORD STRATHCONA'S GIFT TO THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.



LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL.

The following, which we quote from the Montreal Gazette, is an item of cheering news for the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal, and, we may add, of Canada in general:

"Hon. Mr. Justice Curran was the recipient yesterday morning of a cheque for \$5,000, from Lord Strathcona, in aid of the new Catholic High School, now in the course of erection at Belmont Park. In His Lordship's letter, enclosing the cheque he says, 'Whilst I am personally more immediately connected with the Protestant Church and institutions of the country, not the less have I a warm feeling for my fellow-citizens of other denominations, including the Catholics, both English and French-speaking, and I would gladly, as far as possible, aid them in their efforts for higher education.'"

What the honorable judge handed Lord Strathcona's generous gift to Rev. Father Quinlivan, P.P., of St. Patrick's who is in charge of the erection of the new Catholic High School, he fervently said "May God bless and prosper Lord Strathcona."

Lord Strathcona, more familiarly known as Sir Donald Smith, ranks foremost amongst the philanthropists of Canada. This is not the only instance which might be cited of the broadmindedness which characterizes his generosity. It recalls the time when he donated the sum of \$1,000 to the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association, the leading Protestant Athletic body in the Province of Quebec, and a like sum to the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association, the leading Catholic organization of a similar character in the Dominion. Other donations to good objects followed; and this New Year's gift sent to Rev. Father Quinlivan, through Mr. Justice Curran, is a crowning act of patriotic and public-spirited citizenship on his part, so far as the Catholics of Montreal are concerned. They are grateful to him not only for these donations, but also for the broad and generous spirit which he has always manifested towards them in commercial, social and political matters.

This gift of \$5,000 to the Catholic High School fund ought to serve as an example to English-speaking Catholics, and particularly to Irish Catholics throughout Canada, who ought to display a little self-sacrifice by contributing to institutions which go to make them a strong factor in the community.

It will also, we have no doubt, do much towards uniting all good and true men belonging to the various sections of the community.

We have more than once given a biographical sketch, in these columns of Lord Strathcona, giving prominence to his noble generosity in furtherance of the cause of education, in the erection of institutions for the sick and the suffering, in supporting organizations for relief of the poor, and in encouraging young men's associations, without regard to creed or nationality. The "True Witness" hopes that the sturdy pioneer, this great and good Canadian, may long be spared to continue his career of usefulness and beneficence.

GERALD BALFOUR AND HOME RULE.

Mr. Gerald Balfour in a recent speech at Meighly, referred to the Irish Local Government Bill, in the passing of which he had some share. Some Radicals, he remarked had said that the financial clauses of the Act offered a flagitious bribe to the landlords of Ireland. He was bound to say this small section of Radicals met with no sort of countenance either from the recognized leaders of the party or from the bulk of the Irish members. He was somewhat surprised, therefore, to find that in a recent speech Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who might be, for aught he knew, when Parliament next met the leader of the Liberal party in the House of Commons—(laughter)—repeated these criticisms, and asked what business the Chancellor of the Exchequer had with a bill that professed to deal with the local government. He thought Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman was a good deal less ignorant than he professed to be. It was rather late in the day for a gentleman in his position to offer an objection of that kind. It was well known from the time the Bill was introduced and from the time that the

policy of the Bill was announced a year previously that the financial provisions of the Bill formed an essential part of it, and that if these financial provisions were defeated the Bill itself must also go. Why did not Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman vote against the second reading of the Bill? How is it that, following the example of Sir Wm. Harcourt and Mr. Morley, he absented himself during the whole of the discussion in the Committee stage of the Bill from his place in the House of Commons? Far from accepting these criticisms he (G. W. Balfour) maintained that the government in acting as they did had the wit to perceive and the courage to seize an opportunity which perhaps would never have recurred for the settlement of what was known to be one of the most difficult problems in connection with Irish Government.

Proceeding he asked, what was the position in reference to the agricultural grant in 1896? An Act was passed assigning an agricultural grant in relief of agricultural land in England, Scotland and Ireland received at the same time what was known as an equivalent grant proportionate to the respective contributions of the three countries to Imperial revenue. But Ireland was not satisfied with this equivalent grant

and claimed for herself that she should receive the additional advantage that she would gain if the principle of the English Act was applied to Ireland also. The Government never admitted that that claim could be put forward absolutely as a claim of right. At the same time he thought that nobody would deny that it was a very natural and not altogether unreasonable claim. The matter came up for discussion in the House of Commons, and, if he mistook not, the entire Liberal party, and he believed Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman amongst them, voted for making this concession to the Irish demand—that was to say, he voted, or the Liberal party at all events voted, in favor of giving to Ireland the money which Ireland actually received under the Bill passed this year, and he did not understand how any gentleman who held the opinions which Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman held with regard to Home Rule could have quarrelled with the distribution of that money, when the distribution of that money was finally accepted by the Irish members. (Cheers.) The Unionist party, while adhering to the policy of popularizing local government in Ireland, had not ceased to believe that some sort of safeguard was still necessary for the minority. What safeguard was to be introduced? Here came in the unique opportunity. On

the one hand there was the reasonable claim of Ireland to be treated in respect to agricultural land in the way that England had been treated. On the other hand, there was the establishment of local government on a democratic basis. They united the two policies. They divided the agricultural grants between the tenants on the one hand, and the landlords on the other, giving to the tenants the larger share, and to the landlords the smaller share; but they so contrived that the shares of the landlords should be applied in a way that made it possible to reorganize the entire rating system of Ireland, to provide for the landlords those safeguards which they considered they were entitled to against danger of fiscal oppression which they dreaded from this great change in the local government of the country. It had been complained by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman that in this Act the principle of Home Rule had been accepted, but the Unionists had always declared that the local government of Ireland should be put on a more popular basis; the two policies of Home Rule and extended local government were alternative policies.

The distinction between Home Rule and local government he said, was not merely a distinction of degree, but a distinction of kind. To establish a Parliament in Dublin, would be to establish a Parliament in Ireland with legislative powers, but local administrations in England did not legislate. If Home Rule and local government were practically the same, why was it necessary for Mr. Gladstone to destroy his party and keep the country in a turmoil all these years and interrupt useful legislation by bringing forward and keeping before the country schemes of Home Rule, when, according to these criticisms, it was open to him with the consent of all parties to bring in a scheme of local government? Sir H. Fowler had admitted that the Local Government Act for Ireland must be fully tried before it was possible for the Liberal party to take into consideration any further change with regard to local government. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman said that to introduce another Home Rule Bill would be, under existing circumstances, kicking against a stone. Well, Home Rule with Sir H. Fowler and Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman had become a pious opinion which meant an opinion on which you did not mean to act. Mr. Morley had said Home Rule to the great masses. Sir William Harcourt clung to it with or without conviction. With others, as he had said, it was a pious opinion not to be acted upon. Was it wonderful, in those circumstances that the Liberal party was in its present position? But Home Rule was not dead, and it would not die while Ireland sent eighty members to Parliament. The demand for Home Rule was likely to survive for many years after the removal even of the genuine grievances on which it was fed. The danger was present still. The Unionist party who had saved the country from a great disaster, must not dream of disarming or of disbanding their forces, or even of relaxing for a single instant, until the task which called them into existence as a united party had been fully and finally accomplished.

A CATHOLIC MAYOR FOR KINGSTON.

Dr. Edward Ryan was on Monday elected Mayor of Kingston, says our esteemed contemporary The Canadian Freeman, from which we take the following sketch:

Dr. Ryan is the second Catholic Mayor Kingston has ever had, Hon. Senator Sullivan being honored with a double term nearly a quarter of a century ago. The Mayor elect is a townshipp of Loughboro boy, where his father now resides. He carried off honors in Queen's University, has been an excellent member of the Council Board for seven years, and will undoubtedly make a capable Chief Magistrate for this historic city. His remark in his nomination speech that if elected he would be "no man's man," was evidently remembered by electors who desired to see the Mayor have a free hand in everything pertaining to the city's business. The Mayor elect may have some interesting civic problems to solve during his term of office, but with his experience as an alderman, and endowed as he is with talents of a high order, these matters will be ably dealt with to the city's benefit.

MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION IN BELFAST.

The manner in which the Catholics of Belfast, Ireland, are striving to maintain the Catholicity they have secured in regard to representation in municipal affairs is worthy of great praise. Priests and laymen are united in the struggle, as may be seen from the following report, which we take from the Irish News, of a meeting of a section of the Catholic Association, which has been held under the immediate guidance of His Lordship Bishop Henry.

Rev. H. O'Boyle, Adm. presided, and in opening the proceedings said: They wished that they should be in a state of preparedness for any contingency that might turn up with regard to the municipal elections. He thought that they were scarcely aware that St. Paul's had already commenced to prepare—in fact, that in that locality they were prepared. For the last five weeks they had been meeting every week. Their streets were well captained, and their men were being marshalled. They did not know whether there would be a contest, but as he had told them before, if they wished peace the best way to ensure peace was to prepare for war. They did not wish war, and they did not court it. Last week there was a sort of inter-accusatory strife with those who should have been their brothers, and whom they called their brothers, and when they called their brothers, they were aware of their own real enemies. Keen as they were aware, had been in town recently, and everything appearing to be quiet and Popery was to be driven out of Protestant Belfast, and there was evidence from which they had not yet been driven, and that was the Falls. In their own Church they did not think that everything was completely anti-Catholic, there were some elements they did not like. The audience were aware of the manner in which the Protestant Bishop had been treated, and how even the members of Christianity had been treated from a political point of view. He was charged on his part they were prepared to try conclusions with another, and they were prepared to try and let Dr. Henry, but in the battle with Dr. Henry they would have the men of the Falls to contend with. He said by their fees that at the thought of this contest they were overjoyed. He would be delighted and willing to try a fight with the real enemies. If opposition came from those who opposed them last year they would feel sorry for them, but there could be no matter of doubt of the overwhelming majority for Mr. Carr.

Last year there was a great cry against Mr. Carr, which took for its aim the honest people. But Mr. Carr's course of action since he became their representative had so pleased those who opposed him that the majority of those who voted against him last year were now prepared to vote for him. Even at the close of the poll last year many of them would have recorded their votes for Mr. Carr after they had seen men being driven on cars from the neighborhood of Sandy Row into a Catholic district to cause the Pope and Catholic Bishops, and in particular their own Bishop. He thought the Catholics of Belfast had a right to be faithful to their Bishop for the manner in which he worked for them. In times past it could not be realized that Catholics could have such a standing as they had in Belfast today, and the Catholic people of Belfast knew that this was due in a great measure to the manly and unselfish action of Dr. Henry on their behalf. He might have remained in his palace not bothering about the

temporal welfare of the people, and being content to merely look after their spiritual welfare. But he had not been satisfied with attending to their spiritual welfare; he had also taken to heart their temporal welfare. Every day he gained a greater hold upon the Catholics of Belfast, and even those who opposed him before, although they did not like to openly give in, in the least of hearts felt he had adopted the right course. And even looking at this matter outside the Catholic standpoint Dr. Henry's action had benefited Nationality, because those who were opposed to the National rights of the Irish people pointed to the North of Ireland, and Belfast especially, as being opposed to the National cause, and now if the Protestant people of Belfast—or the majority of them—had their way there was no doubt that by degrees the Catholics would be rooted out of Belfast and then there would be no National spirit in Belfast. Dr. Henry was trying to keep the Catholic people of Belfast together, and for this reason, and many others, no public man, or representative leader in the country, should in any way countenance those who oppose him. The Rev. chairman then called upon Mr. Carr to address the meeting.

Mr. James Carr, T.C., said, as they were aware he would forward for election on the 16th of January next. He hoped that there would not be a contest, but if there was he was not afraid of the result. Division in Belfast, in any shape or form, would be disastrous to them. They could not afford to quarrel among themselves. The Catholic Association numbered such an organization was platform was broad enough for all Catholics. The constitution was democratic and broad and liberal, and every Catholic arrived at the use of power in Belfast should be a member of the association.

The necessity for a Catholic Association was of a thing of today, or yesterday, for as far back as he could remember. During the riots of '72 there was a Catholic association formed to defend Catholic rights and rebuke Catholic wrongs, in '72 a Catholic Association was formed for the same purpose, and in '86 when the National political power in Belfast was strongest there was a Catholic Association. And now there was a Catholic Association founded by the Lord Bishop, supported by the Catholics of Belfast, and prepared to fight for Catholic and National interests.

That Association had done a vast amount of good. His Lordship, that wise, that good and just prelate had called into existence the two wards of Smithfield and the Falls and given Catholics for the first time in the history of Belfast the power to elect Catholic representatives for the 50,000 Catholics of Belfast. And they, the Catholic representatives, pledged themselves to do all in their power for the Catholics of Belfast, and for himself and his colleagues he would say that not a single promise was made that was not faithfully kept.

He had every confidence in appealing to them for a continuance of their support. He had been faithful to his bishop, faithful to the electors of the Falls Ward who returned him. If he should be rejected there would be one glorious recollection in his mind—the recollection of the voting at the Falls, when the manhood and the womanhood returned them against terrible odds, with the enthusiasm and devotion to their Bishop that was never surpassed in any electoral contest in Ireland.

RETIREMENT OF SIR HENRY HAWKINS.

The news of the retirement of Sir Henry Hawkins from the English Bench followed hard upon that of this marvellous activity at the Kent Assizes, commented upon in this column only two weeks ago. But for the activity it would not have caused any surprise for Sir Henry had completed his eighty-first year in September last. Few Judges would at that age have sat for thirteen hours with only twenty minutes' intermission. But this was not the only remarkable thing about that famous jurist; for probably the number of members of the bench who decline promotion on the ground of love of their work, is fewer still.

This Sir Henry Hawkins did, however, and though he had been in his day perhaps the most brilliant member of the English Bar—having been leading counsel for the crown in many

famous cases, including that most noted of all criminal trials, the prosecution for perjury of Orton, the Tichborne claimant—he remained to the day of his retirement a simple nisi prius Judge.

A few months ago it was announced that this remarkable man, having applied his keen judicial mind to that most momentous of all enquiries that engage the human intellect—the discovery of the true religion amid the host of rival claimants—came to the conclusion reached by so many of the most brilliant and most able of his countrymen within the past half century or more; and following whither divine grace led, made his submission to the Catholic Church.—The Casket, Antigonish.

Some of the petrified wood found in Arizona, it is said, is so hard that steel tools will not work it, the petrifications being only three degrees less in hardness than a diamond.