

Sonnet.

NIAGARA IN WINTER.

I stood upon the ice-cream's glittering mound
Which Winter's hand had fashioned from thy spray.
Built up defiant of the headlong way—
High from above with stupor's bounding
Came the great flood;—I felt, not heard, the rum
Deep thrilling thro' my soul, I dared not stay
The quivering mass no seemed to heave and sway
Threatening to engulf me in the abyss profound.

I went beneath the cliff, and gazing stood:
Nature's great minister:—here the deafening din
Is stilled, gigantic shafts of stalactite
Uphold the lofty arch of frost-bound flood
Or from without surveyed, or from within
Man, awe-struck, owns God's all-creative might.

M. F. Howley,

Niagara Falls, Feb. 11, 1903.

Death of Monsignor Dillon.

The news has reached Ireland of the death of Monsignor Dillon, domestic prelate of the Pope, in the fifty-fourth year of his age. Monsignor Dillon was a native of Cork, where he received his classical education from the late Mr. John Gooding, a very erudite scholar, then advanced in years, who had been a Maynooth student many years before, had studied under Delahogue and Darro, and had been a class-fellow of Archbishop McHale, Bishop Denvir, and Dean O'Keefe. After pursuing the usual course of studies at All Hallows, where he did no discredit to a teacher who taught a good many distinguished ecclesiastics, he was ordained for the diocese of Sydney, where he spent several years, being stationed at Balmain. He was one of the directors of a new Catholic weekly newspaper, of which the late Archbishop Vaughan was chief proprietor. About eight or nine years ago, his health being much impaired by reason of his continuous labors, his physicians ordered his return to Europe. He came to Italy and took up his residence with the Irish Augustinian Fathers at San Pio. He was the author of the well-known work, "The Virgin Mother of Good Counsel." Leo XIII., recognizing his signal services, elected him to the rank of Monsignor and assistant at the Pontifical Throne. He was actively engaged in making arrangements for the Irish pilgrims to visit the miraculous shrine of Gennazzano when the summons of death came.—*Catholic Review*.

A Thieving Crow.

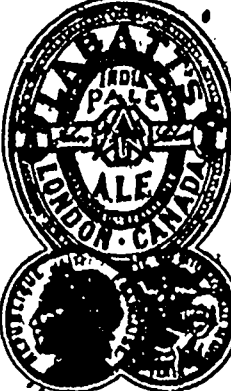
"The crow is the brainiest thing that wears feathers," asserted P. O. Flower, addressing the Mendacity club at the Laclede. "What he doesn't know is hardly worth finding out. You can fool any other bird with a scarecrow, but this black pirate of the air can tell a bundle of old clothes from a real live man as readily as a skilled naturalist can distinguish between a dude and a dodo. Some years ago I was conducting a dry goods and notion store at Nashville. I had a pet crow that was always hopping about the store. I was continually missing small articles from the notion counter, and as I was not familiar with the utter depravity of the crow tribe, I attributed the petty thefts to shoplifters. One day a \$100 bill disappeared from the cash desk, and I then hired a detective to watch the store. He was not long in spotting the thief.

"Mr. Crow flew away with a skein of silk thread and he was followed. He deposited it in a hollow oak tree in the rear of the building and came back for another haul. We cut the tree down and found it to contain more than a bushel basketful of notions of all kinds, filched from the counters, and in the lot was my \$100 bill. He was the most successful shoplifter I ever knew. We impaled a mock-o'-urt, tried the offender and passed sentence of death upon him. But it was never executed. Whether he understood the sentence or simply realized that his occupation was gone I do not know, but with a loud croak he flew away, and we never saw him again."—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

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Mr. Anthony D. O'Donnell, of Dungleo, has been sworn in a Justice of the Peace for the County Donegal.



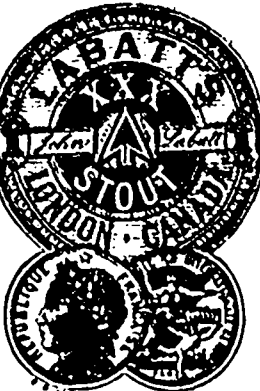
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Last Appeal for Help.

London, Feb. 13.—The following address has been issued by Justin McCarthy and other Irish Nationalist leaders: "To our kinsmen and to all friends of Ireland in the United States, Canada and Australia. We have reviewed the most crucial moment in the history of Ireland's long struggle for her rights. The premier of England, the leader of the government and of the party ruling the British empire, has brought in a home rule bill which forms as a whole a broad and solid and enduring plan of national self-government for Ireland. The bill offers to the Irish people a parliament practically free to deal with all of Ireland's local affairs, and an executive government responsible to that parliament, and, in addition, the Irish people have under the bill the right to share by a delegation of 30 members in the government of the empire. In this, as in many other respects, the settlement of 1833 places Ireland on a higher national plane than that of 1801. It increases her place in the governments of the world, and offers more solid guarantees of the honorable fulfilment of the great contract between her and Great Britain. The representatives of Ireland have accepted without hesitation the constitution proposed in the bill as a fitting consummation of the sacrifices and labors of the Irish race for so many centuries. They believe they can regard the enactment of the measure as a final and triumphant close to a long, bloody and sorrowful struggle. The enemies of Ireland do not yet, however, acknowledge that the end is close and assured, although they know that the bill is certain to pass the house of commons by an unbroken majority, and that any measure which secures a majority of the popular chamber is always ultimately enacted into law. They invoke the assistance of the house of lords in postponing a settlement. We cannot therefore disregard the possibility of a long and desperate campaign to defeat Mr. Gladstone's noble efforts and to wreck the Irish cause. Confronted by enemies venomous and unscrupulous and with boundless wealth, it is impossible for us to carry on even the short remnant of the struggle without the assistance of brethren and friends in all parts of the world. It is only from people of our own blood and from American and Australian sympathizers with our principles that we have asked or accepted assistance. We make an appeal to the same friends more confidently on the morrow of the day when, by a vote unanimous and unchallenged, the house of commons had stamped upon the foul and calumnious charges made by the paymasters of Ploquet that the Independent Irish Nationalists had consented to become mercenaries of a British administration. In the struggle of the last fourteen years almost the dominant factor next to the courage and tenacity of our people at home has been financial assistance from our kindred and friends beyond the seas. Our nation, reduced to poverty by long centuries of misgovernment under a restricted franchise before that assistance came to her aid had not a voice, but that of enemies, in the house of commons. The tenants were represented by evicting landlords, their aspirations for religious liberty were represented by inveterate bigots, and the never extinguished demand for national self-government by either Tories or place-hunting Whigs. O'Connell's mighty movement for repeal broke down under the strain of this want of proper parliamentary representation of the demands of Ireland. For a quarter of a century after his death the constitutional movement slept the sleep of death while the Tories and Whigs in the house of commons found no remedy for a single one of the evils of their country, and accepted the rewards of perfidy and treason in well paid offices. In 1850 America and Australia threw themselves into the struggle. From that hour the parliamentary movement never really looked back. Aided by the generosity of our people and friends abroad the cause at home found honest, faithful, courageous representatives, not one of whom during all the stress of thirteen years accepted pay or place from the British government. These representatives fought and conquered coercion. They fought and conquered forgery. They broke successive hostile administrations, until at last they find themselves friends and allies of the greatest of British statesmen and the strongest of British parties. They ask now that they may be enabled from the same powerful and generous people to bring to consummation their labors and their principles. Borne by the generosity of their race through the long night, they ask now for the aid required for the brief interval that still stands between Ireland and her breaking day. Signed, Justin McCarthy, Edward Blake, Thomas Sexton, Michael Davitt, John Dillon, Timothy M. Healy, Wm. O'Brien, Arthur O'Connor, Thomas Power O'Connor."

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TELL THE DEAF.—Mr. J. F. Kellock, Druggist, Perth, writes: "A customer of mine having been cured of deafness by the use of Dr. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL, wrote to Ireland, telling his friends there of the cure. In consequence I received an order to send half a dozen by express to Wexford, Ireland; this week."