



HAPPENINGS IN LONDON.

GLARING BIGOTRY.—A subject of considerable interest to Catholics and indicative of the bigotry that still exists in England may be found in the dialogue held at a recent meeting of the Manchester School Board.

For the third time the photograph of Raphael's celebrated picture, the original of which hangs in the Dresden Gallery, came up for discussion. Mr. G. W. Chadwick moved to rescind the Board's resolution of December 18th last, accepting Mr. Reynolds' gift. In doing so he regretted that the Board had accepted such a picture with the condition attached to it that it should be placed in the Central School, contending that its proper place was in the Art Gallery rather than in one of their day schools. It was a picture that clearly taught the adoration of the Virgin.

Rev. Father Lynch: Not at all. Mr. Chadwick: Well, that is my idea. Continuing, he said the placing of the picture in their schools was an action that would not be approved by the ratepayers. It would be introducing something that had better be kept out. He strongly objected to any denominational teaching in a Board School maintained by the ratepayers.

Canon Nunn (Anglican) seconded, though he could not say so with pleasure. The subject of the picture was a sacred one, and he was sorry it had been presented, as it was bound to excite a good deal of feeling on the part of many of the citizens.

The Rev. Father Lynch strenuously maintained that the picture contained nothing of the nature of denominational teaching. If simply taught what was common to every Christian sect—the adoration of our Blessed Lord. He must dissent from the statement that it taught the adoration of the Blessed Virgin. Such a thing was unknown amongst Catholics. He should, however, abstain from voting for the reason that whichever side he took he would be misunderstood.

Mr. Broadfield spoke in favor of the acceptance of the picture, copies of which were (he said) to be found in almost every home. He hoped they would do nothing so ungracious as suggested.

Speeches followed from every other member. Mr. Richmond thought they would be doing wrong to the trust reposed in them by the ratepayers by accepting the picture with the conditions attached to the gift; Mr. Wardale feared what the electors would say at the next election, and so would vote for the rescission of the resolution; Mr. Kelly only saw the doctrine of the Incarnation taught in the picture; Mr. Hackforth declined to go back on what the Board had done, and so make themselves the laughing-stock of the country; Mr. Barber contended that the supporters of the motion before them were acting at the instigation of the Protestant Thousand, an insinuation that was indignantly denied; Mr. Woodcock said they were making an exhibition of denominational rivalry and jealousy of which children would be ashamed; whilst Mr. Meadowcroft said, though respecting the feelings of Catholics, he objected to their pictures in his place.

The Protestant Dean of Manchester wound up the discussion by saying the picture had been offered simply as a work of art, and the sectarian animosity aroused would surprise no one more than the donor. He suggested that a *modus vivendi* in the shape of not placing the picture in the position mentioned until it could form one of a miniature art gallery. It would be unfair if they placed it in the Central School as the only picture. To do so would cause, he admitted, a good deal of feeling.

EVICTED TENANTS.—In the House of Commons, the other evening, it was proposed to re-enact the famous clause of the Act of 1891 as to purchase of their holdings by former tenants with the modifications that they should be allowed twelve months, instead of six, to apply to the Land Court. The Bill further desired that the present Land Commission should act as arbitrators, that former tenants should receive, where necessary, a free grant not exceeding £100 for rebuilding and other purposes, and that a subsidy of £100,000 should be granted from the Irish Church Temporalities Fund.

DILLON ON KINDNESS.—Speaking in the House, Mr. Dillon said that the policy of killing Home Rule by kindness would make no progress as long as the policy of the Government towards the evicted tenants was allowed to be settled by the death or exile of those unfortunate people. The persistent refusal year after year of the appeal of the Irish members on behalf of the evicted tenants would only strengthen the belief that the voice of reason fell unheeded, unless backed up by aggressive action. Mr. John Atkinson, whose province it is as Irish Attorney-General to direct prosecutions against his fellow-countrymen—evicted tenants from time to time of course receiving his particular attention, resulting in their imprisonment for endeavoring to cling to the homes of their forefathers—said that while all facilities would be given for voluntary arrangement, the case was not one for conferring coercive powers for relieving the distress of these people from public funds, and he asked, with a sneer, why the "Paris Funds" had not been devoted to the object. Mr. Dillon promptly replied that every penny of the "Paris Funds" had been given to the evicted tenants.

OLIVER CROMWELL.—Once more have we to listen to a considerable amount of discussion anent the proposed statue of Cromwell to be placed on Parliament square, London. Some of the opinions expressed are very interesting. Mr. Swift Macneill, M. P., said that—it was a contempt of both Houses of Parliament. The Lord Protector would have swept away Church, Crown and Parliament without a moment's hesitation, yet a statue of this man was brought within the ambit of an English institution. Any man who outraged English institutions became, if he only lived long enough, a saint and father confessor.

You'd think it strange if Mr. H. Gladstone were favorable to it. He was First Commissioner when the proposal was brought before Parliament, and he took the precaution to ascertain the general feeling of members, because he considered that if there was a violent difference of opinion on the subject the House ought not to be asked to entertain the offer. As the result of his enquiries, he was under the impression that the proposal would not excite any very active opposition from Irish members. The spirit in which he approached the subject was that Oliver Cromwell was undoubtedly a great political personage, who had acted for some years as ruler of this country, and he felt that in the interest of historical continuity it was desirable that a statue should be erected in that House.

But the most interesting of all was Mr. Balfour's remarks. He said:—He would be the last person to deny that Cromwell was a very great Englishman, and all, whether Irish, Scottish, or English, ought not to object to his being honored by some permanent memorial. But Cromwell was neither the fiend represented by some people, nor the man of super-eminent abilities he was supposed to be by others. Cromwell had been raised, largely by the labors of Carlyle, to a pedestal which was too high. Carlyle was responsible for what must be regarded as something in the nature of a historical legend. He had been described as the one great Heaven-born Foreign Minister England had possessed during the whole of the seventeenth century. That was altogether beside the truth. He (Mr. Balfour) was no great admirer of the Kings of the House of Stuart, but from the very nature of their position it was absolutely impossible for them to have what is called a vigorous foreign policy. Very little would have been heard about the sound of Cromwell's cannon ringing in the ears of the Pope if Cromwell's power had coincided with the zenith of that of Louis XIV. Then in European politics Cromwell took the wrong side. The danger to Europe was from France, yet Cromwell supported the French against the dying monarchy of Spain. As to domestic policy, he believed Cromwell was a sincere lover

of liberty, and desirous of seeing constitutional government. He would have governed constitutionally if it had been possible. It was his evil fortune that found him governing England against the will of the people. (An Opposition member: "He was a good Radical.") Was it part of the duty of a good Radical to govern in defiance of the wishes of the people? (Laughter.) Perhaps it was. (Great laughter.) But could they eulogize a man who had left behind not a single mark upon constitutional history except the vehement prejudice against standing armies which formed the greatest difficulty of suc-

cessive English Governments. While it would be folly to deny to Cromwell the epithet of "great," he was on the whole, through no fault of his own, a somewhat ineffectual and certainly a most pathetic figure in our history. But there was nothing to induce the House to take down his statue from its pedestal and destroy it. It was one of the rooted weaknesses of the Irish character that they never could forgive. An injury 300 years old seemed to them as fresh as if committed yesterday. Surely they might, in this world of chance and change, forget and forgive.

ECHOES FROM ERIN

LENTEN PASTORALS.—This year the various Lenten pastorals, issued by members of the Irish Hierarchy, are most happy in composition, and deal with matters of most vital importance.

His Eminence Cardinal Logue spoke thus of South African affairs:—

"Though thousands of miles divide us from the scene of conflict, its fierce din awakens sad echoes in the hearts of many throughout these countries. Many happy homes, from the humblest to the proudest in the land, have been turned into houses of mourning. The mother's longings for the son whose sight shall never glad her eyes, the widow's tears, the orphan's helplessness, the hopeless sorrow to which so many are doomed for the remaining years of their lives, bear mournful testimony to the affliction with which we have been visited. Nowhere has it been more keenly felt, up to the present, than in Ireland. As the Irish regiments have been hitherto well to the front, the losses among them have naturally been very great. Hence it is not usual to meet even at this early stage numbers who bewail the loss of relatives, or whose hearts are torn by uncertainty as to their fate, numbers of helpless beings, whose breadwinners have found a nameless grave in South African wilds, or, if surviving, have been rendered incapable of giving any future help."

Attention of Catholic parents in Ireland has been called to the fact that there are no Catholic chaplains in the British navy, and until such time as this wrong is remedied, they should not allow their children to become members of that navy.

BAD LITERATURE.—His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin writes:—"The attention of Catholic vendors of books, newspapers, and other publications should be called by the clergy to the awful responsibility that is incurred by those who lend themselves to the diabolical work of undermining the morals of our people through the dissemination amongst them of debasing and seductive publications such as continue to be sold in not a few places in this city and diocese. Those who are engaged in this infamous traffic should remember in time the warning words of Our Lord: 'Woe to that man by whom scandal cometh'; and again 'What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world if he suffer the loss of his soul?'" Writing of the same question the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, warns his people most earnestly against books and newspapers injurious to faith.

ABOUT TEMPERANCE.—The

Bishop of Cloyne dealing with the temperance question, writes:—

"Five and twenty years ago the Irish Bishops met in National Synod, and published, in the name of the whole Hierarchy, an address they said: 'To drunkenness we may refer, as to its baneful cause, almost all the crime by which the country is disgraced, and much of the poverty from which it suffers. Drunkenness has wrecked more homes, once happy, than ever fell beneath the crowbar in the worst days of eviction; it has filled more graves and made more widows and orphans than the famine; it has broken more hearts, blighted more hopes, and rent asunder ties more ruthlessly than the enforced exile to which their misery has condemned our exiles.'"

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY.—Mr. T. W. Russell, M. P., for South Tyrone, has been criticized by his constituents on account of his attitude on the university question, but has replied thus:—

"There are those who calmly suggest as a solution of the difficulty that I should simply change my opinions upon the education question and solve the problem. If the suggestion arose out of anything but sheer ignorance and thoughtlessness I should treat it as an insult. I can no more change my convictions on this question than I can change the color of my skin. They have been adopted after prolonged and careful consideration, and are stronger today than they were twenty-five years ago when Mr. Gladstone first faced the problem. This being so, it follows that, with the advent of the general election, a grave condition of affairs may arise in the constituency. The gentlemen who are opposed to a settlement of the university question declare their intention to run a second Unionist candidate. Let us assume that they are able to do so. The result is certain. I may be defeated, but the return of a Home Ruler and a supporter of the Catholic university is assured. The seat will be simply given away. There are those who do not care. I am not of the number. I do care, and it is this feeling, backed by the earnest entreaties of my friends, which has made me consider the whole matter afresh."

He adds that the proposition he has made is that if elected at the general election he will be ready, if called upon by a responsible Government to vote for the establishment and endowment of a university for Catholics, to resign the seat and thus leave the net issue for or against to be decided at a by-election by the electors of South Tyrone."

ECHOES OF THE STANLEY CUP MATCHES

Here is an afterclap of the great hockey match taken from a private letter from Montreal:—"The Winnipeggers are returning to the woolly west, wiser and sadder men. But let it be known to all men that Gingras covered himself with glory for his rapid play. The match was the grandest, cleanest hockey ever played, so the professionals say. And the excitement in town! The relief of Kimberly wasn't a patch on it. Here are a couple of details you may not find in the press:—It looked blue for the Shamrocks just ten minutes before the end on that decisive Friday night. The Shamrock boys retired to the dressing-room and said all together one "Hail Mary." Frank Wall came out on the ice and, before seven thousand spectators, blessed himself

a la Brownson. In one minute a rush gave them a goal, the game, the championship, the cup and all the bloomin' glory they could wish for."

It speaks well for Catholic training that every one of the seven champions in this most exciting of all sports—where fever heat and icy coolness must go hand in hand—was a Catholic. Nor does it argue ill of Jesuit training that the Captain of the champions, Harry Trickey, and two of his best men, Jack Brannen and Arthur Farrell (not Scanlan, as we said by mistake some time ago) had been students of St. Mary's College, Montreal, while Tony Gingras, the most popular man on the home team, got all his classical lore here at St. Boniface College. —Northwest Review.

ROMAN EVENTS.

This week the Roman correspondent of the Liverpool "Catholic Times" tells most interestingly of "LEO XIII'S BIRTHDAY."

"Twelve months ago few people thought it likely that Leo XIII. would live to celebrate another birthday. The Holy Father's apparently feeble frame, the serious nature of the disease which rendered a surgical intervention necessary, the venerable patient's great age, all these circumstances seemed to absolutely preclude the possibility of the Pontiff's occupying the See of Peter for many months after the operation which he so courageously underwent. And yet the 2nd of March is here again, and Leo XIII. is still with us, not only so, but better in health, and stronger and more full of life and energy than he has been for the last few years. "It is a miracle, a resurrection!" exclaimed a venerable priest who stood near me in the crowd at St. Peter's on Thursday last, when the Pope, smiling and blessing, swept past us on the Sedia Gestatoria. My neighbor afterwards explained that he had seen the Holy Father for the last time just after his recovery from the illness which placed his life in jeopardy, and that he considered the Pontiff's present good health and evident strength as almost miraculous. Leo XIII. himself shares in this opinion. He believes that Divine Providence finds his presence here to be still indispensable, and values his life only inasmuch as he considers it a gift to be used exclusively in the fulfilment of this exalted mission confided to him. On the 19th ult. the Holy Father celebrated the anniversary of another important event of his long life, namely, that of his consecration, which took place in the Church of San Lorenzo in Panisperna in 1843, fifty-seven years ago. Besides the present Pontiff, only 13 others have ever lived to celebrate their episcopal jubilee. In token of thanksgiving for the heavenly protection of which he is so evidently the recipient, the Holy Father, whose devotion to the Blessed Virgin is well-known, has caused a splendid floral offering, from the Vatican Gardens, to be placed before the Altar of Our Lady of Health, in the Church of St. Mary Magdalen. A solemn "Te Deum" will be sung in St.

Peter's on the 4th of March, after which Cardinal Rampolla will give Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament."

BRITISH WARSHIPS.—The presence of four British men-of-war in the Italian ports at the present juncture is beginning to attract a good deal of attention in Italian press circles. The Royal Sovereign is at Genoa, from whence the Empress of India left recently for Naples; the Astrea is visiting the Sicilian ports, and the Caesar has been a fixture at Spezia for a considerable time.

BRIGANDS STILL EXIST.—The belief that brigandage is a thing of the past, only fit to adorn the pages of children's story books and of "penny dreadfuls," has grown to be part of the creed of the modern sceptic. Unfortunately, however, its vitality in Italy cannot be doubted, and if we glance through the columns of leading Neapolitan and Sicilian papers we necessarily come to the conclusion that the gay bandit may still be met with elsewhere than on the stage of the Adelphi. Proofs are not wanting that the existence of brigandage in the happy Kingdom of Italy, where militarism is second only to that of Prussia, and where the nation cheerfully starves in order to maintain hundreds of thousands of armed men who, in all fairness to it said, would give their ears in order to turn their swords and bayonets into ploughshares.

PERSONALS.—Mgr. John S. Vaughan is preaching a course of Lenten sermons at San Silvestro in Capite.

Mgr. Riordan, Archbishop of San Francisco, has returned to Rome from his trip to Egypt, and is staying at the Hotel Giannelli, together with Bishop Spalding.

Cardinal Ledochowski, Prefect of Propaganda, who had almost recovered from his recent severe illness, has had a relapse, which is considered dangerous owing to the venerable patient's great age.

Mr. Hall Caine, author of "The Christian," "The Deemster," and other like works, is on a visit home.

C. M. B. A. NOTES.

There is evidence of great activity in the branches of the C.M.B.A., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Canada. There are 16 branches of this great association in this city, all of which are in a prosperous condition. At the recent meeting of the Grand Board of Trustees, held in this city, it was shown that the year of 1899 was one of the most prosperous in the history of the Association, and a determined effort is now being made to have the year 1900 still more prosperous.

Branch 26 at its last meeting initiated three new members, and had as many more applications.

Branch 74, of St. Gabriel's parish, had recently 10 applications for membership at one meeting.

As will be seen by the following reports from branches which have met this week, increasing membership is one of the orders of the day.

BRANCH 50.—The last regular meeting of Branch No. 50, C.M.B.A., of Canada, which was held at its hall, St. Antoine street, on Wednesday evening, was very largely attended. President W. P. Doyle presided, and amongst those present were several visitors from sister branches.

Two applications to membership were read and referred to the Board of Trustees. In the order of Good of the Association, addresses of interest were made by President Doyle, Chancellor T. P. Tansey, Chancellor Patrick Doyle, and others. Branch 50 has been making great progress lately, its meetings are being largely attended, and are anxiously looked forward to with pleasure, this is due to its energetic committee, which is known as the committee on the Good of the Association, which manages to have something that interest their fellow members prepared for each meeting.

President C. O'Brien presided over the last regular meeting of Branch 54, C.M.B.A., of Canada, which was held at St. Mary's Hall, Wednesday evening. The meeting was a large and interesting one. Branch 54 has in contemplation the holding of an entertainment shortly after Easter. From reports presented a large num-

ber of applications, are expected for the next meeting.

A largely attended meeting of Branch 87, of the C.M.B.A., of Canada, was held at its hall, 1342 St. Catherine street, Wednesday evening. Brother Joseph Beland, ex-M.J.A., President of the Branch, presided, and beside him on the platform were the Rev. Father Bertrand, Spiritual Adviser, Senior Deputy J. J. Costigan, Grand Deputies C. A. Poitevin, A. Spedding, John H. Feeley, Chas. Fortier, Chancellor M. Sharkey, President Dandelin, and other representatives from the 16 sister branches of the city. Considerable business of a routine character having been disposed of, the special feature of the meeting was proceeded with the initiation of seventeen new members. The ceremony was conducted by the Grand Deputies; following this was the balloting for four more new members, and the reading of 10 new applications. Short addresses by the Rev. Spiritual Adviser, Deputies Costigan, Poitevin, Feeley, Baurgaud, Brothers F. N. Martineau, ex-M.J.A., Sharkey, and others followed, all of whom congratulated the Branch upon its efforts towards the advancement and spread of the usefulness of the Association. Letters of regret for inability to be in attendance at the meeting from Grand President Hon. M. F. Hackett, Grand Secretary Brown, Grand Supervisor Dr. Edw. Ryan, and Grand Trustee Bohan, were read. The meeting was brought to a close by the adoption of a hearty vote of thanks to the visitors.

A large meeting of Branch 25, C.M.B.A., Grand Council of Canada, was held in their hall, 92 St. Alexander, Monday, March 12, 1900. After the regular business of the Branch had been dealt with, and remarks on the "Good of the Association," made by Bros. Costigan, Feeley and Grand Deputy Carpenter, the members indulged in a game of progressive euchre, which they heartily enjoyed. The first prize was won by Bro. B. McU. J. Dolan, and the consolation prize, by Bro. Fred. Haynes. The series of progressive euchre parties inaugurated by Branch 25, to take place after each of their meetings, are meeting with the greatest success, and are greatly appreciated by the members.