

THE NAMES OF OUR LADY.

Through the wide world thy children raise Their prayers, and still we see Calm are the night and bright the days Of those who trust in thee.

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LAST YEAR'S CROPS IN IRELAND.—Last year appears to have been an unusually successful one in Ireland, so far as agriculture is concerned, the crops being very much larger than for several years.

A correspondent writing to the Dublin Freeman, from Ballinasloe, on the 11th ult., says:—"From Killaloe to Athlone, along the banks of the Shannon, and again from Shannonbridge to Ballyforan, is one sheet of water, as well as the interior of a country."

The Tipperary Free Press says:—"The Sisters of Mercy, Clonmel, acknowledge the receipt from Arthur Moore, Esq., M.P., of the munificent donation of five hundred pounds towards the erection of their new Industrial Schools. It has been intimated to the community that the Government grant will be withdrawn if a large school be not forthwith erected."

The Catholic clergy of Mullingar are determined to all in their power to check the increase of intoxication complained of by Baron Dowse in his charge to the Grand Jury of the county.

political status quo.—We give the principal portion of the declaration.—"Of the utter neglect by Whig and Tory Governments of Irish interests, the condition of Connaught affords abundant proof. Vast tracts of reclaimable mountain land left in the same condition in which they were when the waters of the Deluge were withdrawn. In this district of Connaught there are about 300,000 acres of this description of neglected land. These mountain districts might be turned into vast sources of employment, and consequent support of man and beast. This may be clearly seen from the successful efforts made by some exceptional landlords. For instance, Mitchell Henry, Esq., M.P., has given a noble example on this subject; hundreds of acres have been reclaimed by him. Corn crops are growing now on tracts on which, so to speak, a snipe could hardly find rooting. Yet, strange to say, neither personal interest, nor benevolence, nor regard for the wants of the tenantry has stimulated the attention of a numerous class of landed proprietors, who own so much of the vast waste, which Young, a hundred years ago, designated—"A howling wilderness."

GREAT BRITAIN.

A young girl, 17 years of age, was convicted of bigamy, at Dundee, a few days ago.

The woolen mill of Mr. Edward Ashworth, at Coupe, near Bury, has been destroyed by fire.

Last year the Probate Duty yielded an increase of £38,587 on the preceding year, the amount being £2,153,797.

ANOTHER QUESTION FOR LORD PENZANCE.—A letter has been received from the Dean of Bristol, from Nicedirecting that certain work connected with the restoration and the new nave of the Bristol Cathedral shall be suspended till his return.

UNITED STATES.

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There are 1,288 Catholic theological students in the United States. All other denominations have only 2,569 amongst them.

Dowington, Pennsylvania, calls it "an encouragement revival" when three preachers have worked all winter to convert one Alderman and an old woman.

Longevity seems to be an inheritance of the Irish race, and they enjoy it as generally in America as in the temperate air of their native home.

SCORCH BIGNONY.—The session of the Protestant Institute of Scotland devoted its closing day to a consideration of letters from Bismarck, Gladstone and Von Moltke, on an essay written by one of the students in defence of the German persecution.

THE PARLIAMENTARY GREEN BOOK.—This is an analysis and record of all votes given by the Irish members on Irish subjects during the sessions of two years—1874 and 1875. It is also a record of the non-appearance of those gentlemen who made themselves "conspicuous by their absence."

THE WEAKNESS OF MEMBERS.—The dexterity of Protestants in torturing figures, when their object is to prove anything intended to be derogatory to Catholicity, must be accounted one of the features of the age.

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as homogeneous as these 14,000,000? What is the use of a preponderance in numbers, when the bulky majority is split into hundreds of fragments, each forming a little world of its own? The greatest, most wealthy, most numerous, and influential sect of all is internally rent by warring schools of thought, which will coalesce in nothing but in scrambling for all the loaves and fishes available. The Catholic Church alone is one in heart, spirit, worship, and belief, just as it is one in tongue and, therefore, it alone possesses true and lasting strength.—Catholic Times.

THE CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.—A correspondent of an English paper writes:—"I beg leave to send you an account of our Catholic progress in Glasgow, the second city in the empire. It appears to many outside Scotland that the Catholic Church has little or no standing in the country. Such is the bigotry and narrow-minded teaching of John Knox and his followers; but if we only look about us, if we only visit the Catholic churches here, we shall soon find out that it is a great mistake to think for one moment that we are not a most numerous body, that we are on the increase every day. Now I shall confine myself to a few facts—not random stories, but facts which will convince your readers that Catholicity in Glasgow is of some importance; that we are a powerful body, and an orderly, well-conducted portion of this great community. I have had opportunities, for some time past, of noticing in a marked manner the attendance of the faithful Catholics to their respective churches here—more so during the past season of Advent, owing, no doubt, to the Jubilee than any other cause. Be the reason what it may, certain it is that our churches are too small, too inadequate to the fast rising wants of the Catholics. When I say that the churches are not accommodating enough I say also that the priests are not half numerous enough for our wants. In most of the churches we find that three or four more priests should be attached, so as to enable us to avail ourselves of their ministrations. I attended several churches here for some time past, and learned of missions being announced in various parts of the city. At one time I went to St. Patrick's, and another to see and hear the good priests of St. Alphonsus's in Hamilton street. And on some occasions I went to Govan, and assisted at the mission which was held there under what appeared to me most painful circumstances—the church there should be called a "Turkish bath-room" for the past three weeks. Fancy in the middle of winter to see a church so heated, so crowded, so suffocated, that notwithstanding all the windows and doors were opened, yet the officiating clergymen were actually as if in a Turkish bath. I am giving you facts, what I witnessed; and even more, I heard the zealous, good pastor of Govan say that it pained him beyond measure to be obliged to send away so many who could not find even standing room in his church. I am equally certain of what I say regarding the numbers who attend the Confessional. It is the Confessional that increases the numbers, the growth of our Catholic church-going people. Now, the fact is, that in all, or nearly all, of our churches the poor priests have had many long hours of it, hearing confessions for the past Advent. Here is a sample of what I saw in Govan Church on Friday last. The good pastor, Father Dixon, and his assistant (whose name I have heard, but I cannot now remember) were in the Confessional for hours, day after day, for the past three weeks, and on Friday, the Vigil of Christmas Eve, although the poor priests were from 10 a. m. to 12 noon, and from 4 p. m. to 11 at night, even the priests whose name I cannot now recollect when he had celebrated his midnight Mass, immediately after went into his Confessional. Now, Sir, what do you think of that? Let me add that no less than 300 persons had actually to go away who could not get near the over-worked church of Govan on Friday night and Christmas Day. Have I not already said enough to convince you that our churches are too inadequate, that our priests are too few by more than half to meet the growing wants of our good Catholic people in this city? I could say a deal more on positive facts, but fear I have already taken up too much of your valuable paper. It is good, however, that the Catholics outside should know of us in Scotland.

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come, however, an advice is offered:—"Of all the Western States we prefer Minnesota; though cold, it is remarkable for its pure air and healthiness as well as the fertility of its soil. Here settlers are afforded a special opportunity by Right Rev. Bishop Ireland, conductor of St. Paul's, who has secured a whole county for Catholic emigrants, half of railway lands, at \$1.40 per acre, besides Government land, which may be taken up gratis, under the Homestead Law. Bishop Ireland has appointed an experienced priest, Father McDermott, to look after the interests of emigrants, thirty-five of whom have already taken lands; church and schools and practical direction will be provided. Bishop Ireland wishes it understood that each emigrant will require at least \$400 in cash after paying for this land; even with this sum the first year will be a tight fit, and it will be necessary to avail of employment, which can be had on old-settled farms in the neighbourhood."

PROTESTANTISM AND MARRIAGE.—A Massachusetts gentleman named Parson, a writer of some note, having wedded his own step-daughter, the Catholic Standard (Philadelphia) comments on the occurrence:—"These Protestants who still try to hold on to the truth that the Church of Christ has the right and authority to teach and definitely determine what are, and what are not, Christian doctrines, find themselves constantly in great straits. The marriage relation is an instance in point. In most of the old Evangelical Protestant sects, the teachings of the Catholic Church in regard to the unlawfulness of marriage between near relatives, and of divorced persons contracting a second marriage, whilst the divorced wife or husband is living are still theoretically maintained. Yet these rules are constantly violated by the members and ministers of Protestant sects with impunity. Protestantism has really no settled rule or law regulating the marriage relation. While professing to look to the Holy Scriptures for rule, it really ignores these sacred writings and depends upon civil legislation. If the State allows a man to marry his deceased wife's sister or his own step-daughter, or to violate the Christian law of marriage in other ways, Protestant ministers ignore the plain teachings of the Scripture and officiate at these incestuous marriages; and sects to which they belong wink at the action, get rid of the whole subject as a matter of course. The offender still maintains his previous standing and position in the sect, and the matter is hushed up and forgotten until a new case occurs. Writing on the same subject, the Catholic Journal (Pittsburgh) says:—"The Roman law forbids marriage between parties who are related by affinity in the direct line, e.g. between a man and his step-daughter. The Catholic Church in the first centuries had no need to improve on the Roman law or to extend its provisions to the collateral line. A simple reference on the part of the Church to the law of Moses was more than sufficient to enforce obedience. The Council of Trent has restricted the extent of affinity as taught by the old canonists. The Prussian law has retained affinity in the direct line as an impediment to marriage; the Austrian code gives affinity the same extension as consanguinity; while the civil law of France forbids marriage on account of affinity in the direct line in all degrees, and in the collateral line in the first. Protestant Canonists also are unanimous in upholding this point of discipline, which, according to all, is one of the great means of preventing immorality from corrupting the family, the very fountain head of society. Affinity, or the imputed relationship between a man or wife and the blood-relations of the other, may not rest on natural law, but it surely rests on common decency, and hence it becomes a matter of painful surprise to see a minister sacrilegiously bless what his God abhors, and which if legalised would open a wide avenue to immorality."

CORN GRIDDLE CAKES.—To one pint of grated corn, add two eggs and a piece of butter half the size of an egg, a little milk, salt and flour; they may be baked on the griddle or dropped into hot lard.

The following is a simple but sure way to tell good from bad eggs:—Put them in water enough to cover them. All that lay flat, as they would on a smooth surface out of water, are good. Those of which the big end rises are bad. The vessel used should have a smooth, level bottom.

PROPOSED UTILIZATION OF FISH BONES.—German manufacturers are continually engaged in purchasing fish bones, gathered along the Norwegian shores near extensive fish curing establishments. These are pulverized and converted into fertilizers. It is suggested that arrangements be made for utilizing the bones from the establishments in Newfoundland, such products of American fishery being estimated at 120,000,000 pounds per year.

Some idea of the tautology of the legal formulae may be gathered from the following specimen, wherein, if a man wishes to give another an orange, instead of saying, "I give you that orange," he must set forth his "act and deed" thus: "I give you all and singular, my estate and interest, right title and claim, and advantage of and in that orange with all its rind, skin, juice, pulp and pips, and all right and advantages therein, with full power to bite, cut, suck, or otherwise eat the same orange, or to give the same away, with or without its rind, skin, juice, pulp or pips, anything heretofore or hereinafter, or in any other deed or deeds, instrument or instruments of what kind or nature soever, to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."

HOW TO ACQUIRE A GOOD MEMORY.—As a general thing, we read too much, and think about what we read too little; the consequence is that most of the people we meet know something, in a superficial way, about almost everything, and very little in a thorough way about anything. Not a tenth part of what is read is remembered for a month after the book, magazine, or newspaper is laid aside. Daniel Webster, on being asked how he could remember so accurately, replied that it had been his habit for years to reflect for a short time on what he had read, and to fix all facts and ideas worth remembering in his mind. "Any one who does this will be surprised to find how good his memory will become, and how long, after reading a book, or interesting article, the best portion thereof will remain."

WHY BAKERFIELD DIDN'T HAVE A CHURCH.—"Well said the Judge, who is one of the leading citizens of that mining town, 'I agree with you, and we did make an effort to get up a church, but somehow it did not succeed. My wife and I talked it over; she preferred an Episcopal church, and I called a meeting of the most respectable men of the place to choose a vestry. They voted me in the chair, and I nominated Mr. Johnston as a vestryman. Mr. Johnston declined to serve. He modestly said he thought himself not fit for the office; he liked an occasional game of draw poker, he said; he was given to some other worldly amusements, like dancing when there was a fiddler anywhere around; he couldn't resist a horse race, and unfortunately all the horse racing in Havilah took place on Sunday, which was sure to interfere with his duties as a vestryman, so he would rather not serve. I told him," continued the Judge, "that men were not expected to be so absolutely perfect in these days; that the chair itself was fond of an occasional little game of poker, and that the office of vestrymen was, in the judgment of the chair, purely ministerial; but somehow he did not see it in that light; he is a modest man, and he wouldn't serve. When he backed out everybody else did, too, and so this effort of ours to get up a church fell through, I've always been sorry for it," added the Judge frankly, "for I think a church an excellent thing to have."—From a California Letter.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

On the 16th ult., an aged man named Reynolds accidentally fell into a fire at Banagher and received such serious injuries, that his medical attendants entertain but meagre hopes of his recovery.

On the 16th ult., Mr. T. D. Sullivan, of the Nation, lectured at Tuam on the "Bards of Ireland." Mr. Sullivan, who was received with great enthusiasm, delivered a very eloquent lecture. He was, during his stay in Tuam, the guest of the Very Rev. Canon Bourke.

At Garden Hill, near Castlough, on the 15th ult., a beggar woman was approaching a farm-house, while a man named Riordan was engaged felling a tree in a ditch adjoining the roadway. Just as the woman was passing, the tree fell on her and broke one of her legs in two places, and inflicted other injuries.

On Sunday, the 12th ult., a great demonstration on the part of the confraternities of the Holy Family, of Cork, took place. Some five thousand men with bands and sacred banners, marched through the streets in procession, and were addressed in the Cathedral by the Bishop, who exhorted them to persevere in their splendid career of sobriety and goodness.

The Cork Farmers' Club are not satisfied with Mr. Butt's Land Bill. A resolution passed by them says "it does not come up to our expectations—first, in being permissive in its character; second, in its legal machinery being too cumbersome; and thirdly, in its not placing a sufficient check upon the growing tendency to encourage grazing at the expense of cultivation."

On the 10th ult., one of the heaviest thunder storms that have visited Killybeg, Clare, for some time past swept over the town and neighborhood. The lightning struck the house of Mr. Daniel Moloney, and passing down the flue destroyed the furniture and contents of one of the rooms. Fortunately no one was injured, as the room was unoccupied at the time. On the 12th ult., the Jesuit fathers opened a mission at Killybeg.

Mr. Butt, M. P., delivered an important speech at a meeting of the Home Rule League on the 11th ult., on the Parliamentary position of the Home Rule party. He emphatically denied that there was any compact in existence between the Home Rulers and the English Liberals for an exchange of votes on critical occasions, as has been alleged, adding that he and his followers were perfectly free to act independently of all political parties on whatever questions might arise in the future in the House of Commons.

The Irish Times of the 15th ult., says:—"The supply of pigs having greatly increased last week Limerick has again taken its place as the greatest pork and bacon market in the kingdom. The number killed there last week was 6,625; Waterford, 2,861; Cork 1,202. Hams, 1s. per lb.; per cwt, 108s. 112s.; ordinary bacon, 9d. to 10d." At the recent Newcastle West Fair, upwards of 900 head of cattle were offered for sale. In-calf heifers brought from £11 to £20.

The following sale was made in the Landed Estates Court, on the tenth ult.: Estate of Henry G. L'Estrange, owner; Christopher L'Estrange, petitioner.—Part of the lands of Owen Galles, containing 37a 2r 16p statute measure, in the barony of Tullyhaw, under fee farm grant of 1875, in lieu of agreement for lease of 2d May, 1875, for 31 years (expired), or for three lives renewable for ever, at a pepper corn fine, producing a net rental of £269 1s 1d; Ordinance valuation, £123 9d. Sold at £5,000 to Mr. Thomas Kiernan, in trust for Mr. James O'Rourke, of Philadelphia, U.S.

On the 15th ult., the dead body of a young woman named Sarah Mulloy, aged about twenty years, was found floating in the Liffey. It appears that the deceased, was going home from her em-