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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1905.

IRISH NOT "LEGIBLE" IN LAW.

The Court of King's Bench at Dublin has handed out a judgment adverse to the defendant in the case of the Crown against Neil MacBride, of Feymore, Donegal. MacBride, who is a carter, considered it to be sufficient compliance with the law to have his name printed upon his cart in Irish characters. The Court holds that Irish characters are not "legible" within the meaning of the law, and the Lord Chief Justice reasons out the grounds of illegibility in this way:

"The character and type were not the character and type of language which the Crown directly recognizes as the language of the United Kingdom for all legal, official, and public purposes. No doubt this Summary Jurisdiction Act was an Irish Act, but it was an Act passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and was expressed in English. That Parliament conducted its debates and legislated in English—he believed an attempt was made to address it in Irish, which failed—the enacting body expressed itself in English, and the enactment which contained the provision in question was expressed in English. English was the language of the Crown, of, as he said, the Legislature, both in debate and in enactment, of all the Government and public Departments, of the Courts—the Supreme Courts, and the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction where the very offence under consideration was to be investigated."

The law as interpreted by the Lord Chief Justice may be good or bad; but the effect of it is to hurt MacBride's trade. The defendant, it appears, is an excellent Irish scholar and students of the old language who flock to Donegal to improve their knowledge will not have that same fellow feeling at sight for MacBride that they would have if English-made laws allowed an Irishman to letter his chattels in his own language.

ROME AND THE NATIONAL POETS.

Seeing that Shakespeare is to be honored in Rome, with a statue, and that a statue has also been decreed to the French poet, Victor Hugo, who had next to no relation with Rome, the whole subject of connecting the poets of the leading European nations with the centre of Christianity becomes of interest. A Roman correspondent makes the remark that Hugo was only selected as a counterpoise to the German influence implied in the statue of Goethe, who had much to do with Rome. Italians at the same time are reminded that Dante has not yet received the doubtful honor of being represented by a public statue in the Eternal City. The works of the great poet of Italy lend themselves to interpretations which, according to the party that regards them, may be turned to opposite purposes. The anti-Papal party honor Dante for his severe words against some Popes, and his references to the temporal power of the Papacy. The Catholics of Italy and of the world at large cannot but admire the grand Catholic production that is so deeply inspired with the highest outcome of Catholic teaching: the doctrines formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas being turned into poetry by Dante.

The difficulties of harmonizing the ideas of the two great parties were too heavy a task for Giosue Carducci, the greatest of living Italian poets. He was invited to Rome by the Italian authorities, who were about to establish a chair for the teaching of Dante, to their pattern, in the University of Rome. In his letter refusing this professorship, Carducci declared that Dante was a Catholic, and that no amount of striving could ever remove that fact. He would not strive to do it.

ENGLISH CATHOLICS AND NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The suggestion having been made that it would be more to the advantage of Catholic schools in Great Britain if, instead of continuing the policy of co-operating with the Protestant High Church party in the educational crisis, the Catholic authorities were to put forward a demand for separate treatment for Catholic schools, the matter was submitted to the consideration of the Bishops at their recent meeting, and, according to the London Tablet, they have expressed disapproval of such a course. The Tablet, commenting on this decision, says that "any attempt to cut ourselves adrift from the National system of education, to take up an isolated position, and perhaps to snatch an advantage for ourselves at the expense of others working for the common cause of definite religious instruction in the schools of the people must necessarily be attended by great danger. It could be nothing but a calamity if the thousands of non-Catholic denominational schools were given up to secularism. It would be a calamity in itself, and doubly a calamity, because it could not fail in the long run also to weaken the position of the Catholic schools. English political life is intollerant of exceptions, and a position of privilege goes hand in hand with insecurity. Surely it is simple prudence to forget our differences and closing up our ranks to present a united front to a common foe."

PROTESTANT DECAY IN ONTARIO

A little while ago comment was exited upon the decadence of Ontario by the publicatian of the diminishing birth-rate in that province. The effects of race suicide, however, appear more formidable when seen in the school statistics that have been published within the past few days. The figures for the past year give the number of pupils enrolled in the Ontario public schools as 403,161, indicating a decrease of 4963 for twelve months. This decrease has been staring the school authorities and the government in the face during the past ten years. All means, artificial as well as substantial, have been tried in order to check the downward tendency. In plain words it means that there is a smaller number of children of school age in Ontario to-day than ten or twelve years ago, and that the number grows steadily smaller year by year.

Five or six years ago the government raised the school age from 16 to 21 in order to soften the contrast. Every individual in the province under the age of manhood and womanhood was placed upon the school roll, whether attending school or not, and by that device the school attendance was manipulated to represent a total as large as the genuine muster of school children formerly had been. But the number has been falling again, and there is today the same dark, significant contrast, which cannot be wiped out a second time by tinkering with the statistics. The paternal and patriotic government, in short, cannot very well raise the school age to forty or forty-five, the period which a famous Ontario authority has fixed as the chloroforming age.

What is to become of the Protestant population of Ontario? Immigration will sustain it perhaps at the present level, which has long been stationary or nearly so. But the new arrivals will inevitably affect the character and complexion of the community for good or ill.

Meanwhile it is an excellent sign that the Catholic population is growing, with constantly increasing vigor. Whereas there are nearly 5000 fewer Protestant children in Ontario to-day than there were twelve months ago, there are 1153 more Catholic children than last year's school rolls showed. And it is a curious fact that the smaller number of Protestant children are accommodated in a larger number of school buildings. In other words, there are sixty-three more public schools, although there are nearly 5000 fewer pupils. The number of Catholic schools has only increased by twenty-one, which may be due to the handicap Catholics are under in Ontario as a minority denied any share of the neutral taxes for the support of schools attended only by Catholic children.

Another interesting comparison is the comparative cost of the two sets of schools. The public schools cost, per pupil, in counties, $9.95; cities, $10.68, whilst the Catholic schools in counties cost only $7.50 and in the cities $8.93. The lion's share enjoyed by the public school pupils represent the monopoly of the neutral taxes for schools of the majority.

These figures are most instructive, because they show that despite the financial disadvantages under which the Catholic religious schools are laboring, they are doing all the work for the country that Christian morality alone can accomplish.

ORANGEISM IN THE ASCENDANT

The Orangemen of Dublin have made formal demand of their brother in office, Chief Secretary Long, for the dismissal of Sir Antony MacDonnell. The demand was made at a meeting convened in the Dublin Orange Hall recently, whereat discussion was forbidden to the representatives of Lord Dunraven's party of devolution. The newspaper reports of the meeting are somewhat amusing.

Mr. Woods, Secretary of the Irish Reform Association, who sat next Captain Shawe-Taylor in the front row of seats facing the platform, rose and said—Before you put the resolution (demanding Sir Antony's dismissal) to the meeting, as a Protestant—

The Rev. Chairman (Dr. Moffatt)—Sit down, sir, if you please. If you don't I will have you put out.

Mr. Woods—I am here to challenge——

The Rev. Chairman (calling to some men who were standing at the door of a small room opening off the platform) said—Come in here and put this gentleman out.

Mr. Woods, amidst much excitement, was violently pushed into his seat, and a number of men standing around him prevented him rising again or addressing the meeting.

Captain Shawe-Taylor then rose.

The Rev. Chairman, addressing him, said—Sit down. I won't allow anyone to speak.

Captain Shawe-Taylor remained standing, and the Rev. Chairman, going forward, gave him a violent, and, for an old gentleman, a powerful push, which sent the Captain forward in the direction of his seat. He, too, was immediately surrounded, violently shoved and thrown back on to the second row of seats, which were occupied by some ladies.

The Rev. Chairman then, amidst a scene of considerable commotion, put the resolution and declared that the "Ayes" had it. The audience, rising, sang "God Save the King."

Canon O'Connor, speaking from the platform, said—Now everybody retire singing "God Save the King."

Captain Shawe-Taylor again attempted to speak, and had got as far as "Ladies and gentlemen," when he was again handled with violence, and both he and Mr. Woods were hustled into the room opening off the platform. Some of the more violently disposed of the Orangemen were now seething with excitement, and Captain Shawe-Taylor and his friend would probably have experienced far rougher treatment than they received had it not been for the intervention of Canon O'Connor and a young layman and a few others who pleaded with their more excitable brethren to refrain from further violence. Both Mr. Woods and the Captain when they reached the room surrounded by the excited and threatening crowd, found that their hats were missing.

This is a sample of the toleration Irish Catholics and Irish Protestant reformers as well may expect under the regime of the present Chief Secretary.

We were honored with an invitation from the Sisters of the Holy Cross to their commencement exercises at St. Mary's Academy, Notre Dame, Ind., on June 15. The University of Notre Dame extended same courtesy.

In spite of the gloomy reports recently current concerning the state of health of the General of the Jesuits, Father Martin, he continues to improve. The Osservatore Romano informs its readers that he has been able to resume the celebration of Mass, with a dispensation from the Sovereign Pontiff on account of the want of his arm.

Our contemporary, The Witness, must have got its hands upon a new edition of John Hays' "Castilian Days." We have no idea by what other means it could have learned that Spain is about to embrace Protestantism to spite the young King for a letter he is alleged to have written to the Bishop of Barcelona, and the Queen, "who recently signalized a time of keen suffering through famine by a lavish gift of jewellery to a wooden statue of the Virgin." Wherever The Witness gets its impressions, it shows its own willingness not only to form them, but to express them in a disrespectful way.

The Holy Father has added three new members to the Biblical Commission, the secretary of which is the Irish Franciscan, Very Rev. Father David Fleming. The new members are Rev. Father Delattre, S.J., who since last October has been teaching Sacred Scripture at the Gregorian University, in Rome, Rev. Father Hoepsler, of the Order of St. Benedict, Professor of Sacred Scripture in the International College of his Order at St. Anselm, on the Aventine, where another member of the Commission, the Rev. Father Weikert, author of a recently published Hebrew grammar, also resides; and Rev. Father Depicier, Procurator of the Servites of Maria, who enjoys in Rome a great reputation as a scholar and pious theologian. He is Consultor of the Congregations of Propaganda and of Studies, and he teaches in the College of the Propaganda.

Sir Daniel Ross O'Connell, whose death is announced at San Remo, was the grandson of the "Liberator's" youngest brother, who was created a baronet in 1869. The family had long been settled at Derrynane Abbey, in Kerry, faithful to the old religion, and supplying gallant officers to the armies of France and Spain.

One of the Liberator's nephews was a volunteer on board Paul Jones's vessel, the Bonhomme Richard, when she fought the Serapis off Flamborough Head. His uncle, Count O'Connell, was a general in the French army, and after the Revolution colonel in the British service. The late Sir Daniel Ross O'Connell's eldest brother, a lieutenant in the 60th Regiment, was killed at Ingogo River in 1881, and a cousin, Daniel John O'Connell, of the Commander-in-Chief's bodyguard, was drowned 20 years afterwards while crossing a spruit near Bloemfontein.

The late baronet is succeeded by Mr. Morgan Ross O'Connell, his next brother. Their sister, Miss Ellen O'Connell, the famous fisherwoman, married General Sir Charles Tucker, who did some hard fighting and trekking in South Africa.

PERSONAL.

His Grace Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, was a guest at the Archbishop's Palace last week.

EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS.

Sixteenth International Gathering to be Held in June.

Rome, May 12.—In a recent letter addressed to the Bishops of Italy the Cardinal Vicar of Rome announces the proximate holding of the 16th International Eucharistic Congress in this city, "the metropolis of Christianity," which still resounds with the sweet echo of the solemn celebrations held on the occurrence of the 50th anniversary of the Dogmatic Definition of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Cardinal relates that the Pontiff, in his ardent charity for souls "redeemed by the Precious Blood of the God of Love," has expressed to him the desire he has of participating personally, so far as present circumstances may permit, in some of the functions held on the occasion. The Pope desires, however, to inaugurate the Congress himself by a solemn Pontifical Mass, which he will celebrate in the Basilica of Saint Peter on the 1st of June, the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will, besides, receive with paternal kindness—evidently in special audience—all his children who will come to Rome for this grand occasion, and deliver an address to them.

The Congress will close with a grand solemn procession, in which Pius X. will take part, carrying in his hands the Adorable Sacrament.

It is proposed to raise on this occasion a subscription for a richer reliquary in which to place the most precious relic on earth of the Institution of the Eucharist. "In the Church of St. John Lateran," continues the Cardinal Vicar, "the mother and the head of all the churches of the world, is preserved the Holy Table which served for the Last Supper which Jesus had with His disciples, and on which He instituted the Sacrament of Love."

It is proposed to place this sacred relic near the Confession of this basilica, which is dedicated to the Saviour, and more within view of the faithful. It is now placed above the altar of the Blessed Sacrament, in the left transept, and far from view.

The Congress will be held from the first to the seventh of June next. There will be a solemn inaugural session, and three sessions of practical study. These will have for their object 1st, Eucharistic Congresses and the Press; 2nd, Eucharistic Associations; and, 3rd, the Eucharistic Cult. These themes naturally open out into many subdivisions having direct relation with the objects proposed.

With regard to the papers to be read at the meetings, a time limit of not more than twenty minutes will be enforced, and reports, etc., will be limited in each case to ten minutes.

Besides the discourse of His Eminence the Cardinal Vicar of Rome, and of Monsignor Heylen, Bishop of Namur and President of the Permanent Committee, there will be four discourses made in the inaugural session; and at the beginning of every session afterwards there will only be one discourse read, the rest of the time being occupied with reports and "relations."

On the 1st of June (Ascension Day) Pius X. will celebrate Pontifical Mass in St. Peter's. In the afternoon a Triduo opens in St. John Lateran, and Vespers will be sung before the Altar of the Blessed Sacrament, where the Table of the Last Supper is placed. Monsignor Radini-Tedeschi, Bishop of Bergamo, will preach on the occasion. The sessions of the Congress will be held in the Church of the Santi Apostoli, as during the Marian Congress. On the 6th of June, in the afternoon, there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Peter's, in which His Holiness will take part. This will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, imparted by His Holiness. The "Te Deum" will be sung on this occasion. On the following day the Holy Father will receive in special audience those who are members of this Congress, and will address them in a discourse.

Amongst other discourses that will be given on this occasion, attention has been called to one by Professor Orazio Marucchi upon the theme, "The Eucharist in the Catacombs."

The Catholics of the whole world are asked to make offerings of gold, silver, gems or money to enrich the reliquary, or case, which contains the Holy Table of the Lateran. Congressists are of three classes, according to their offerings: the offer of five francs gives them the privilege of participating in the Congress; of 10 francs of having a further right to receive the "Acts of Congress" or report of the whole proceedings, which will be afterwards published; those giving over that sum will be regarded as benefactors of the work. A special place will be reserved in St. Peter's for the Congressists on the occasion of the Pope's pontificating on the 1st of June.

An invitation is also to be issued to the Catholic world in order that during the Congress a solemn Triduo or other function in honor of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament may be made, according to the opportunity of the places, as will be done in Rome. In such a way, during the days of the Congress, the Catholic world will be united in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament with the Holy Father and with Rome, in supplication for the Church and for all nations. This Congress will constitute an event in the religious life of Rome.

BOYS IN GREEN VICTORIOUS.

The opening of the lacrosse season last Saturday afternoon was a memorable one. The first battle was between the giants in the lacrosse world to-day—the Shamrocks, champions of the world, and their great rivals, the Capitals, of Ottawa. Considerable anxiety was felt by supporters of the green and grey, as to the strength of their favorites. Nearly half the champion team of last year had signified their intention of retiring from the game, as they thought they had, by their work for years with the team, earned a rest. The placing of junior men in the places of such veterans was rather a risky task, especially when they were to face a heavy team like the capitals. But the youngsters proved themselves worthy substitutes. It was like the words of the old song, "The faster you pluck them the quicker they grow." Well, the Capitals came, they saw, but they did not conquer. They went down to defeat—a thing they least expected. It was nearly four o'clock when the Shamrock team stepped on the green sward at Mile End. Their appearance was the signal for applause from the three thousand spectators present. In the recent troubles about certain players leaving the team, the True Witness was the only paper that maintained that Robinson was with the Shamrocks to stay. When the clever home fielder ran down the field on Saturday and the grand stand recognized him, thousands clapped and shouted. Another surprise was the appearance of little Tommie Currie, a lad of only sixteen years, brother of the famous Jommie, the great centre player. T. Currie has the honor of being the youngest player who ever played on the senior Shamrocks. The surprising part of Saturday's match was the apparently easy way that the Shamrock home players scored. Science and good generalship count. The redoubtable trio, Howard, Kavanagh and O'Reilly, had the capital home at their mercy. Kenny, the Shamrock goal keeper, spent a good part of the afternoon sitting down conversing with the umpire, only rising when the ball would be coming near. Hennessy, Hogan, Robinson, Currie and J. Brennan were the stars of the home. Robinson and Currie kept the home well fed, Hennessy, Hogan and J. Brennan doing the scoring. Hennessy's side shot from near the centre of the field, and from which he scored, was a feature of the game. The new men on the Shamrock team made a very favorable impression, and surprised none more than the Capital players. The Capitals have a strong and heavy team, played well at times, but could not stave off defeat. At the last quarter they made frantic efforts to do something, but they were simply overpowered. As the shades of evening were about to fall over the scene the gong sounded announcing that the world beaters had won the first match of the season of 1905 by the decisive score of 7 goals to 2.

A team like the Shamrocks, which has upheld the honor of Canada's national game for thirty-five years and retained the championship of the world for nearly twenty years, should receive better support from the public to-day. Our people should encourage the grand old Shamrock team, which has won honor for the Irish in the sporting world.

Two things will increase the popularity of lacrosse. Punctuality in starting the game, and good clean lacrosse. The True Witness congratulates the boys in green on their first victory.

Try to be something in this world and you will be something. Aim at excellence, and excellence will be attained. This is the greatest secret of success and eminence. "I can not do it" never accomplished anything; "I will try" has wrought wonders. —Howes.