

The Catholic

"Christianus nihil nomen est, Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname).—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

VOLUME XVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1894.

NO. 82.

To Our Queen.

When dewy dawn is breaking,
And bright-winged birds are waking,
When sunlight glides the mountain crown
And floods with gold all the sea;
When new buds in meadow flowers
Are flinging their love showers,
We chant, O Queen, thy fair renown,
And tell our love for thee!

When noon's hot face is flushing,
And flowers hang ablazing,
Beneath the glance of sunny rays
That wander light and free;
When birds to shades are winging,
Their mid-day song low singing,
We chant, O Queen, our hymn of praise,
And tell our love for thee!

When shadows round are stealing,
The charms of night revealing,
And stars beam down to sliver white
In the dark blue of the sea;
When earth and sky are sleeping,
And moon rays ead are keeping,
We come, O Queen, our hearts delight,
To tell our love for thee!

—CASCIA IN AVE MARIA.

THE IRISH IN POLITICS.

The old and familiar question, "Why do Irishmen make the best politicians?" is again engaging the attention of the magazines and provoking all manner of controversy, some of it rancorous, and nearly all of it ignorant and misleading. According to the last census there were 200,000 inhabitants of New York city who were born in Ireland. There were 110,000 Irish-born inhabitants of Philadelphia, 85,000 in Brooklyn, 70,000 each in Boston and Chicago, 30,000 in San Francisco, 25,000 in St. Louis, 21,000 in Pittsburgh, 16,000 in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Buffalo, Newark, Providence, Worcester, New Haven, Lowell, Jersey City and Albany. If the foreign-born population of any American city be multiplied by three, the approximate native-born population of foreign parentage will be attained, and if the latter figure be again multiplied by two, the total population of recent foreign descent can be computed.

Under these circumstances it is not at all strange that Irishmen or men of Irish parentage should be prominent in the affairs of American cities, though their proportion as officeholders is no greater than their percentage as a factor in the population warrants. The magazine writers, however, and especially those who have imbibed something of the logic of the A. P. A., insist that an undue proportion of Irishmen hold office in the municipalities of the United States. New York city, it is true, has a popular mayor born in Ireland, but the reins of the municipal government in the cities to the east and west of New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City, are held by German-Americans, Schleren and Wanser. About 15 per cent. of the people of the United States are foreign born, yet in the United States Senate, composed of eighty-eight members, there are but two men of European birth, and both of these were born in England. The present House of Representatives is composed of 356 members, and 15 per cent. of this, the percentage which the foreign-born population bears to the whole population of the country, would be 53. In fact, however, of 52 foreign-born representatives, there are 16 in Germany, 2 in Norway, 2 in England or Scotland and the remainder in Canada. The same proportion, substantially, prevails in other legislative or aldermanic bodies, and in the executive departments of the federal and state Governments, but it is none the less a fact that Irishmen make the most successful municipal politicians, and the dispute which has recently been resumed on this question, so far from supplying a reason why this should not be the case, rings to light a number of reasons why, conspicuously and necessarily, it should.

The Irish race has many things in history of which it may be proud, but nothing which it has never accepted slavery to England. From the days of Art MacMorrrough to the last eloquent speech from the Irish benches in the House of Commons in favor of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, there has been one, long, unceasing, valiant struggle against the English rule. This has been marked by incidents of treachery to the Irish cause unexampled elsewhere, as when the Irish Parliament sold out for place and pension and endorsed the hated Act of Union. Still the people have been true, and in spite of the many and most woful mistakes of their leaders, they have never lost the desire for enfranchisement and freedom.

The first result of the imposed rule of the conqueror is to create in the conquered the feeling of clanishness. Nothing binds people together as does a common sorrow; nothing welds races as does the hammer of a common tyranny. To prefer, other things being equal, an Irishman to anyone else for a position of honor or trust has become a part of Irish blood. Naturally so, because for nearly twenty generations the Irishman has known no friend or sympathizer except the Irishman. The result is that Irish leaders in the United States find in their Irish fellow-citizens a body of men whose sympathies are with those men because they are Irish. The advantage this gives the Irish politician

is obvious, for, in most municipalities, he could enter the campaign and begin the work of securing votes with many of those waiting for him. And, as things are, this clanishness has in part enabled them to consolidate the great organizations which, under various names, dominate the politics of our larger cities.

The conquered man can get nothing from the good will of the conqueror; therefore, lacking the desire or the power to revolt, he must depend on the arts of persuasion. As no race has been held for so long a period of time in the position of the conquered, so no race has the ability to persuade others, to act on the minds of others by plausible representations, been developed as in the Irish. The power which has been their only material salvation in the past they did not lose when they came to this country. In fact had one been asked to prepare a race for dominance among a people governed as are the people of the United States by universal suffrage, he could not have advised a better course than that which England has followed with reference to Ireland. Time is very slow, but very honest. The debt of political power it owes to the Irish in Ireland it is paying with interest in this country. In Australia, Canada, the Cape, and wherever English is the spoken language.

Thus the influence which Irish leaders exert in American politics depends chiefly on two of the effects of English rule on Irish character. First, the clanishness which creates for them a solid nucleus of votes; second, on the power of persuasion, which can alone influence undecided and undetermined voters in such a country as this. In other respects, the Irish leaders have no advantage over others. Their course must command the assent of the voters, and their acts while in power must be endorsed by the approval of the voters if they are to continue to rule.

Judging from the lessons of political history of New York, Irishmen are the natural "born politicians." They seem, almost instinctively, to understand the existing conditions of American politics and enjoy a decided advantage over other foreign-born voters in that they are perfectly familiar with the English language, which other foreign-born leaders are not. They have developed in them to a large degree the disposition to try for political rule and that power of influencing or persuading their fellow-citizens without which this disposition would be but a barren desire. They have tact, great executive ability, the power of seeing clearly the end to be attained and of rightly estimating the difficulties to be overcome. They have, too, a concentration of energy along a given line which results in little or no waste of force. They are satisfied with the measure of success attainable, and they are clear-sighted in estimating this measure. To use a homely but expressive proverb, they do not "bite off more than they can chew."

They are satisfied with small as long as large things are willing to make a grasp. They are willing to make a business of politics, and by this it is meant that they are willing to work continuously. The sporadic energy which, developing but two months before election, wastes itself in an attempt to organize that machinery through which alone results may be obtained, is a variety of political insanity rarely found among Irish politicians. They are born believers in organization, and while theirs has the reputation of being one of the most turbulent of races, they subject themselves willingly to the most severe discipline it is possible to imagine. Their leaders rule them absolutely, yet their organizations are utterly democratic in this, that he who can rule the fittest governs.

It is difficult to find any more absorbing form of both than that which represents the Irish politicians as caring nothing about what we ordinarily call good Government. The Irish politicians in the big cities of this country are, almost without exception, very clever men. It is impossible that they should not see that good government must be their chief title to confidence. In addition to this, it must be remembered that their material citizens themselves, and their material prosperity is bound up with that of the communities in which they live. In point of fact, the cities in which Irish are prominent are the most flourishing in the country, a fact which is an ample reply to any charges of misgovernment.

It cannot fail to be noticed that Irish politicians are most prominent in municipal Governments. This is owing to two causes: first, the various advantages outlined can only make themselves felt in compact communities; second, native Americans will not, as a rule, interest themselves in local politics. When State or national politics are considered, the Irish politicians meet their peers in other races, and stand or fall on their individual abilities. Many of them have taken high rank in State and national councils, and have proved the equals of those whom they met.

The duties of election district politicians in any one of the large cities

are difficult, perplexing, and continuous. They require the exercise of much tact and great skill, and with a reasonable acceptance of the obligations of lieutenantcy—one of the difficulties in the field of municipal politics, where nearly every man aspires to be a leader, and those who talk the most do the least work.

The most successful Republican leader in New York city politics, the late Chester A. Arthur, was of Irish descent. His best known and most successful lieutenant in charge of Republican interests, and his successor from 1881 to 1888, John J. O'Brien, was also of Irish descent. So usually have the effective, working Democratic leaders in the field of municipal politics, Peter B. Sweeney, John Kelly, and the present chief, Tammany, Richard Croker. To another fact often obscured from general consideration is the prominence of Irishmen and of men of Irish ancestry due. They are broad and liberal in their treatment of the various composite elements of the voting population in a large city, whereas many other leaders, and more particularly Germans, are unduly clanish, excluding others from a reasonable participation in the conduct of public affairs. An illustration of this tendency was shown recently. Prof. J. H. Seamer, a German, was appointed by Cleveland as Commissioner of Immigration on Ellis Island, and in connection with that appointment had the designation of a majority of his subordinates. They are, in almost every instance, German-born citizens like himself, and nearly all of them are personal friends, or fellow members of lodges or clubs to which he belongs, whereas in those municipal departments of this city administered by Irishmen the rule of equal race recognition is generally observed. Of course these facts will make no impression on magazine writers, or upon other persons whose ignorant and unpatriotic prejudices have been aroused; but the fact is true, nevertheless, and goes a good way to explain why it is that Irishmen make the best politicians.

There is a wearisome persistence of energy and lack of variety in the "converted nun," Sarah McCormack might be to all intents and purposes the alias of Margaret Shepherd or any other of the troupe. Here is what the Glasgow Observer of April 21 says of her:

"As we are going to press we are informed that Sarah McCormack, known as the 'converted nun,' who created such a sensation recently at the Globe Theatre, Glasgow—where she appeared under the agis of General Evans—was arrested by the police authorities at Edinburgh to-day (Thursday). The charge against her is she is guilty of the crime of falsehood, fraud and wilful imposition." The charge is with reference to her appearing in the role of 'converted nun.' General Evans has also been expected to appear in the case. It is expected that the accused will be formally charged at the Eastern Police Court on to-morrow (Friday), after which the usual record of forty-eight hours will be applied for. Sarah will then probably be formally remanded until Monday, when the case will be investigated. Detective Gordon, in whose hands the case was put when a complaint was lodged against the 'ex-nun,' left Glasgow on Thursday evening, and proceeded to Edinburgh, when the authorities there notified him of her arrest and conveyed her to the Glasgow Eastern Police Office. Further details will appear in our later editions, and a full report of the trial will appear in due course.

Detective Gordon and his prisoner arrived in Glasgow from Edinburgh by train, reaching Queen street on Thursday, at 10:25 p. m.

There is little doubt, however, that after Miss McCormack stands her trial and serves her sentence, she will have a starring tour in the United States and Canada.—Boston Pilot.

The "Escape" Business.

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C. O. F.

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.
Lugersell, Ont., May 7, 1894.

At the last regular meeting of Sacred Heart Court, 270, C. O. F., the following resolution of condolence was adopted:

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God in His all-wise providence to remove from our midst by the hand of death, our esteemed Brother, D. H. Henderson; and whereas he being the organizer, a charter member and P. C. R. of our Court, it is but fitting that we should place on record our appreciation of his many services to our order. Therefore be it

Resolved that we, the members of Sacred Heart Court, tender the family and relatives of our deceased brother our heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of bereavement, and pray that God in His mercy may grant them strength and fortitude to bear with their great sorrow. Be it further

Resolved that this resolution be spread on the minutes of our meeting; a copy presented to family and our brother and one sent to the CATHOLIC RECORD and Catholic Forester and local press for insertion.

P. DEVEREAUX, C. R.
D. HOWE, R. S.

The San Joachim Church, at Rome, the gift of the Catholics of the world to the Pope, on the occasion of his Episcopal Jubilee, was handed over last week with solemn ceremonies to Cardinal Parrochi, Vicar-General of the Pope, in the presence of a multitude of people.

DIocese of Peterborough.

The Fifth Anniversary of the Consecration of His Lordship Bishop O'Connor.

Examiner, May 1.

Last night, at the Convent, the fifth anniversary of the consecration of His Right Rev. Bishop O'Connor was celebrated in a most successful and pleasing manner. The music hall (at the convent) was very festively decorated in festive style. Across the ceiling ran streamers of bunting, the Papal colors being conspicuous, and across the central windows of the east end a scroll was extended bearing in capital letters the legend "Joy Reigns Supreme," and devotional banners were disposed at several points. But the brightest feature of the adornment was the white-lad children, to the number of about 200, who occupied the graded seats and formed a very pretty picture.

Properly an old-fashioned English benediction was read by Ven. Archdeacon Casey, and Rev. Fathers O'Connell, Collins, McNeil, Emismore, and Kelly, North Bay. The choir sang an impressive and beautiful copal theme. There were present besides several prominent citizens and a large gathering of the cathedral congregation. An episcopal party were taking their seats on a dais, and the Bishop, who was wearing a surplice and a white stole, was seated in the center of the dais, and was flanked by the Archdeacon and the Canon. The Bishop, who was wearing a surplice and a white stole, was seated in the center of the dais, and was flanked by the Archdeacon and the Canon. The Bishop, who was wearing a surplice and a white stole, was seated in the center of the dais, and was flanked by the Archdeacon and the Canon.

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