

## LETTER FROM LONDON.

Weekly Correspondence of the Register

LONDON, Eng., Feb. 2nd, 1893.

A shock like that of an earthquake passed over the United Kingdom yesterday when it was announced that Mr. Gladstone had resigned. News boys were shouting themselves hoarse, special editions and five-minute bulletins were being issued at the newspaper offices, while the telegraph buildings were besieged by large crowds, and an extra force of operators had to be put on to meet the requirements of an anxious and excited public. Close upon the heels, however, of the startling intelligence came the official denial, and this morning the English public is recovering as best it can from that disorder to the system which undue nervous excitement always produces, and is venting its wrath upon the luckless *Pall Mall Gazette*, the author of what it is pleased to term the latest freak of Anglo American journalism.

The *Daily Chronicle* rallies its contemporary on the fertility of its imagination, and gives it some hints as to the future exercise of its inventive faculty. "For to day we would suggest the abdication of the Queen. To-morrow, by way of a quick change to foreign politics, the retirement of the Czar to the Court of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria; while for a final sensation we can think of nothing better than the assassination of the Pope by the Grand Lama of Tibet. It might have occurred to a serious and an experienced journalist, as both adds the *Chronicle*, that of all unlikely events in domestic politics at this moment the resignation of Mr. Gladstone in good health is, without exception, the most unlikely. The statement is made that he proposes to resign on account of his disappointment over the rejection of the Home Rule Bill. But, in the first place, the action of the Lords, which was wholly foreseen, is now some months old; and in the second place, Home Rule is not rejected, and will not be until the country has rejected it at a general election. Again, we are solemnly asked to believe that the Prime Minister will close a career of sixty years of sturdy fighting by deserting his post and his colleagues at a moment when the fortunes of two of the greatest of his Bills are hanging in the balance, and when the final conflict with the Opposition is about to open. Whatever Mr. Gladstone is in his enemies' eyes he is not a poltroon or a traitor, both of which the *Pall Mall Gazette* would make him out to be.

Although Mr. John Redmond has intimated his intention of moving a vote of censure on Mr. John Morley little importance is attached to the rhodomontade in which he has lately indulged. Parnellism is played out in Ireland, and Mr. Redmond realizes that his only card is to make a semblance of indignation in Parliament. No one believes he is in earnest when he threatens to take action which, if effectual, would substitute Mr. Jackson for Mr. Morley as the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

An important item of news is the decision of the Irish Court of Appeal, by which Mr. Michael Davitt is rendered eligible to be re-elected as a member of Parliament. The extraordinary doctrine of Judge Boyd, that no man should stand as a Parliamentary candidate unless he is prepared to meet the costs of an election petition, has been blown to the four winds by the Lord Chancellor and the Appeal Judges. The reversal of his judgment is a rebuff for the County Court Judges, who took advantage of his judicial position to read Mr. Davitt a severe lecture when the application for a certificate was made; but it is a heavier fall for Mr. Pierce Mahony and the rest of the Parnellite leaders. These noble-spirited patriots made up

their minds to drive Mr. Davitt from Parliamentary life. But in this they failed, and it is more than probable that Mr. Davitt, in spite of his own reluctance to re-enter the House of Commons, will be back to Westminster early in the new session. In fact it has long been mooted in Irish circles that he is to be the coming leader of the Parliamentary Party.

It will be remembered that at the general election of 1892 Mr. Davitt was returned for North Meath by a majority of 403 over Mr. Pierce Mahony, and Mr. Patrick Fullam defeated the Parnellite candidate in South Meath by the narrow majority of 89. A petition was presented against the return of both members by the Parnellites on the ground that a pastoral issued by the Bishop constituted undue influence. The South Meath case was heard first, and Mr. Fullam was unseated. When the other petition came on Mr. Davitt, through his counsel, intimated his desire to accept an adverse verdict, as the circumstances in the two cases were precisely similar.

Mr. Mahony refused to let Mr. Davitt off so lightly, and the petition was fought to the end, resulting, as was anticipated, in the unseating of the respondent. Then came the question of costs. Mr. Davitt declined to pay them, on the ground that he had offered to vacate the seat; but when he was threatened with bankruptcy his friends at once proposed to defray the costs themselves. In fact one member handed a cheque to Mr. McCarthy to cover the entire amount, but Mr. Davitt was obdurate. He was made a bankrupt, and his seat became vacant. In due course he applied for his certificate, which was refused for the reason I have quoted; but this decision has now happily been overruled, the Court of Appeal declaring Mr. Davitt could not be held responsible for the expenses which were involved after he had expressed his willingness not to contest the petition. Mr. Mahony will thus lose his original costs, and will also have to pay the costs of the appeal.

There is nothing inherently improbable in the remarkable story in the *Speaker* about the "Unionist Plan of Home Rule." This is to the effect that a prominent Liberal Unionist has drawn up a scheme which is practically "Home Rule a' round." It proposes two Provincial Councils for England, and one each for Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In addition to the Central Council in Dublin, Ireland is to have four smaller councils, one for each Province. Dublin Castle and the Lord Lieutenant are to be abolished, and a Catholic University is to be endowed. Nobody will hesitate to ascribe this interesting plan to the genius of Mr. Chamberlain. Long ago he proposed local self-government for Ireland by Provincial Councils. The extension of this idea to Great Britain is a natural development, and the endowment of Catholic education in Ireland is the kind of contrivance which bears the characteristic stamp of Mr. Chamberlain's ingenuity. However, the Irish Party by this time know well their man. They look upon the leader of the Liberal Unionist as the evil genius of the Home Rule movement. If it had not been for his desertion at a critical moment they believe a Parliament would by this time have been established in College Green.

"IT IS A GREAT PUBLIC BENEFIT."—These significant words were used in relation to Dr. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL, by a gentleman who had thoroughly tested its merits in his own case—having been cured by it of lameness of the knee, of three or four years' standing. It never fails to remove soreness as well as lameness, and is an incomparable pulmonic and corrective.

A Greek poet implies that the height of bliss is the sudden relief of pain; there is a nobler bliss still—the rapture of the conscience at the sudden release from a guilty thought.—*Bulwer Lytton.*

## An Ecclesiastical Conference.

The priests of the Diocese of Toronto assembled at the Archbishop's residence last week for the annual Diocesan Conference. His Grace is always and everywhere at home with his clergy, and his clergy are nowhere more at home than at the hospitable retreat of his Grace at St. John's Grove.

Theological Conferences of the Catholic clergy are periodically held in every fully organized and well regulated diocese. Subjects for exposition and discussion are selected and announced at the beginning of the scholastic year, and meetings are held at the different Deaneries, or diocesan centres, at which these subjects are fully and freely discussed. We have assisted at many theological discussions in various dioceses, and have heard some of the ablest and most eminent divines; and we are much pleased to say, in all sincerity, that a more learned, useful and amiable Theological conference we never witnessed than that held at St. John's Grove.

Archbishop Walsh presided at the conference. The matter for exposition and discussion was the Blessed Eucharist, as a sacrament, and a sacrifice, with the many dogmatic, Scriptural and liturgical questions that this great question implies. His Grace of Toronto is well and wisely known for his profound theological knowledge, and his vast and varied ecclesiastical erudition; but never is his extensive learning and tender piety more apparent and powerful than when he speaks of the great sacrament of Love—the central sacrament of the Christian system—the universal sacrifice, and the eternal priesthood. When he speaks on these subjects to his people his Grace is the *Pastor Bonus*—the good and faithful Shepherd. When he speaks in the midst of his priests he is the *Lucerna ardens et lucens*—the burning and shining light.

It is high praise for the priests of Toronto to say that they showed themselves worthy disciples of such a teacher. Some of the most difficult questions in Theology came up for discussion in the conference, such for instance, as the Scripture proof of the Real Presence, the existence and action of the sacred species, the essence and identity of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the laws and practices to be observed in the reservation and administration of the most Holy Sacrament, etc. It would be instructive to non-Catholics to see what large intellectual freedom the Church permits in the discussion of these fundamental and most sacred subjects.

In the course of the conference the able arguments of the older priests showed too conservative wisdom of experience, as well as exact scientific knowledge; while the younger men exalted in the strength of general principles, and the invigorating mental exercise of pursuing premises, through nice distinctions, to ultimate logical conclusions. The discussions were unusually brilliant, while at the same time most practically useful, and the genial spirit imparted to the conference by the choice associates and apt illustrations of the distinguished President made the meeting one to be remembered with pleasure and profit by all those who were present.

## C. M. B. A. in Hamilton.

I had the pleasure of attending the meetings of Branches 56 and 37, during the past week, and was pleased to hear that both Branches are strong and flourishing. On Wednesday evening, the 14th, Branch 56 met, and I was introduced to the President, J. J. Leitz, by Bro. Cauley, and was cordially received by him and the other members present. Branch 56 has about 80 members on their roll, and has a very able staff of officers, whose names appear below.

On Thursday, the 15th, Branch 37 met, and I was introduced to the President, C. Shields, by Bro. Sharpe, Fin. Sec., and received a very cordial greeting. Branch 37 has a membership of over 100, governed by an efficient staff of officers, whose names also appear below. Hamilton should be proud to possess two such Branches of the C. M. B. A.

In closing I wish to compliment the Bros. in Hamilton on their neat and well equipped Hall on King street East. It is a credit to them, and I hope to have the pleasure of attending their meetings again.

C. N. MURPHY,  
Agent CATHOLIC REGISTER,  
Branch 139, Fort Erie.


## BRANCH 37.

President, Chas. Shields; 1st Vice-President, J. M. Brown; 2d Vice-President, C. Mooney; Rec. Secretary, A. Bourque; Treasurer, John Ronan; Fin. Secretary, J. A. Sharpe; Guard, Jno. Dil on; Marshal, Wm. McGough; Representative to Grand Council, T. Lawlor; Alternative, J. W. Coffey.

## BRANCH 56.

President, J. J. Leitz; 1st Vice-President, J. Gaffney; 2d Vice-President, Mr. Fifer; Rec. Secretary, B. J. Conway; Treasurer, W. A. D. Baby; Fin. Secretary, J. J. Burns; Guard, J. Harmon; Marshals Jas. O'Day; Representative to Grand Council, B. Cauley; Alternative, A. T. Filigiano.

Mrs. Mary Ann McCusker died at Carriagallan, on January 17th, at the remarkable age of 112 years.



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### NOTICE

#### To Creditors of Patrick Kearney, Waggon Maker, Deceased.


NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Ontario 1887, Chapter 110, that all creditors of and other persons having claims against the estate of Patrick Kearney, late of the City of Toronto in the County of York, Waggon Maker, who died on or about the tenth day of September 1893, are hereby required to deliver or send by post prepaid to Foy and Kelly, Number 80 Church Street in the City of Toronto, Solicitors for the Administratrix of the estate of said deceased, on or before the 24th day of February 1894, a statement in writing of their names and addresses and full particulars of their claims and of the securities (if any) held by them.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that immediately after the said 24th day of February 1894, the said Administratrix will distribute the assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which notice shall have been given as above required and the said Administratrix shall not be liable for the assets or any part thereof, to any person or persons of whose claim or claims notice shall not have been given as aforesaid at the time of such distribution.

FOY & KELLY,  
80 Church street Toronto.  
Solicitors for the Administratrix.  
Dated at Toronto this 26th  
day of January, A.D. 1894.

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