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The Catholic Register.

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The Late Father Ryan

Let us not dwell upon the painful suddenness with which Father Frank Ryan has been taken from our midst. Death, as all his friends were well aware, found him not only prepared, but brought to him release from prolonged physical suffering. During the last year he lived in the knowledge which the sick in body entertain without alarm. Father Ryan was prevailed upon by his friends to try "the sea air of the South, and he returned a couple of months ago without having experienced more than the temporary benefit of rest from hard work. But he was a man of action at all times, and was out on Monday, though the next day brought the collapse.

We shall not attempt to speak of him in terms of eulogy. He found in Toronto a field congenial to his activities. In the public eye he was the ideal citizen, the respected clergyman, the influential personality, because all good and benevolent movements gained by his association with them. As the Catholic priest he was, and deserved to be, beloved.

In the ranks of the priesthood natural disposition can no more be concealed than among the laity. Father Ryan was the very soul of generous sympathy. Hundreds of times was his voice heard in the pulpit of St. Michael's; but never once, we believe, in the stern tones of the priest who sometimes feels that the sins of the world are past human pity. He resembled those result missionaries of old who preached with uplifted crucifix. He drew men's hearts to him by pointing to the Saviour, who died for sinners, and with His last breath forgave them. The gospel of Divine Love breathed in every spoken word; and his daily life was of good will to all men. His heart was open to every appeal of want and suffering, and his slender means were never withheld from those who claimed them.

Father Ryan's learning distinguished him socially, but without effort or desire on his part. His simple, gentle nature repelled the parade of scholarship whenever and wherever he lectured, his discourses were conversational and extempore. His training and life, as student and professor, gave him all the characteristics of the educated man, and the familiar style of speech which is the most graceful feature of cultivated scholars, belonged to him in a rare degree, because he had no need to assume it.

In the more forceful attitude of a platform orator Father Ryan was often seen. His deep attachment to the national cause of his race brought him before public meetings on some notable occasions. The Irish Race Convention, held in Leinster Hall, Dublin, in 1896, heard him immediately after the eloquent Chairman, Bishop O'Donnell, of Raphoe, had resumed his seat. The Bishop has the voice, presence and range of language that stamp the born leader of men.



THE LATE FATHER RYAN.

He had thrilled the audience and raised enthusiasm to a high pitch. It is enough to say that that pitch of enthusiasm was fully sustained by Father Ryan. Subsequently, on various provincial platforms, his words were listened to with strained attention and his influence upon the popular meetings was notable.

The Labor circles of Toronto held him in esteem and were always anxious to hear the Catholic view of the problem of Capital and Labor from his lips. That his moderation and good sense impressed the workers was attested by their acceptance of his mediation in a number of local disputes.

Father Ryan was above all things a patriotic Canadian. He believed confidently in the contentment and solidity of our Canadian institutions and took pains to instill his convictions into the young minds with whom he was in every-day contact. This was all the more significant of him, inasmuch as the ardent years of his manhood were lived in the United States, in a college permeated with the patriotism of the Republic. On both sides of the line, however, he

identified himself with the ambitions of the young men who were proud to cultivate their interest in public affairs and watch their efforts to take creditable part in the citizenship of their country.

We have touched only upon a few points of Father Ryan's public life as priest and citizen. Of his spiritual life nothing shall be added more than this: that the priest largely endowed with gift of mind and physical energy found labor and responsibility growing upon him that must have been a heavy burden when accepted along with the austerities of the sacred calling. Overwork broke down the engine, and Father Ryan, who a few years ago looked the embodiment of health, is in his grave at 58. How many Catholic priests may the same not be said of? They give their lives for God, and it is all they can give. But such lives leave the noblest lessons; and that those lessons are lost upon the hurrying world, who would be so insensible as to think? The public of Toronto without distinction of creed or calling paid honor to the memory of Father Ryan on Tuesday, as we have seen honor paid to many other priests who, like him, fought the good fight in the sphere of activity in which they were placed, and left all who knew them better and broader for their acquaintance.

The people not only of St. Michael's parish but of the entire city mourn the loss of a true priest and in their Catholic faith will pray that his soul may enter into the eternal reward.

Rev. Francis Ryan was born in the year 1813 of Irish parents who had settled in Newfoundland. He was educated in St. John's, in Ireland, France and England, studying in the Jesuit schools of those countries. On Sept. 19, 1875, he was ordained to the priesthood, and first visited Canada in the capacity of secretary to the late Dr. Conroy, Papal Delegate. Father Ryan had been Dr. Conroy's pupil and stood high in his esteem. After the death of the Delegate, Father Ryan came to Montreal, and was for two years English preacher in the Church of the Jesuits there. He was next appointed Professor of Philosophy in St. John's College, Fordham, N. Y., and also taught at St. Francis Xavier College. Pastoral charges were given him, first in St. Ignatius Church, Baltimore, and the Church of the Holy Trinity, Chicago. He was known as an eloquent preacher of ecclesiastical retreats, in the leading dioceses of the United States and Canada and visited Toronto in that capacity before being called to this city by the late Archbishop Walsh. He was appointed rector of St. Michael's Cathedral and acted as the personal representative of the Archbishop upon many public occasions both in Canada and abroad. He was elected to the Senate of the University, to the High School Board, the Separate School Board and other educational bodies. He promoted the League of the Sacred Heart, the Catholic Truth Society and other religious aid societies in the Cathedral parish, and was closely identified with works of charity within the parish and throughout the city.

Increase of American Divorces

(From The New York Sun.)

The Tribune from the Pope by Father Pardon at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Monday for upholding "the absolute integrity and sanctity of the marriage tie," was also a tribute to the Roman Catholic Church for maintaining the indissolubility of matrimony, as a sacrament and thus making divorce a sin against God in its eyes.

Unquestionably, the only efficient bar against divorce is raised by such a prohibition, so far as concerns those who recognize the spiritual authority of the Church, and render obedience to it as a religious obligation. As a consequence divorce among Roman Catholics of anything like strict allegiance to their Church are practically unknown.

Father Pardon asserted that "during the last twenty years 320,000 divorces have been granted in this country," but where he could have obtained any exact statistics for that particular period, we cannot tell. In 1881, however, the United States Commissioner of Labor, under authority from Congress, published a report in which were collected the statistics of marriage and divorce throughout this country for the period of twenty years from 1867 to 1888, inclusive. In those years the number of divorces granted was shown to be 328,716. It is probably to these statistics that Father Pardon referred, and his further assertion that for twenty years the aggregate of European divorces had been only 260,000 must also have been based on that report, in which the total was put at 214,811.

When matrimony is separated from a purely religious obligation, and the Church is deprived of control over it, divorce, and divorce for many causes, naturally results. Undoubtedly, the Roman Catholic Church by making matrimony an indissoluble sacrament puts up the only effective bar against divorce which can be erected for those who render obedience to its spiritual authority; but in every American State, with the sole exception of South Carolina, the contract is dissoluble by the civil law, and the bar to divorce having been thus thrown down the causes made legally sufficient for the dissolution are bound to be multiplied.

Outside of the Roman Catholic Church, therefore, only social sentiment can act as a force restraining from divorce, for there is no possibility that American legislation will ever make the contract of marriage indissoluble. If social opinion frowned on divorce and subjected the divorced to social reproach it would tend to deter those in fear of its consequences from taking advantage of civil facilities for escaping from irksome marriages. The experience shows that actually social sentiment has been growing the more tolerant of divorce the more they have increased.

There are so many cough medicines in the market, that it is sometimes difficult to tell which to buy; but if we had a cough, a cold or any affliction of the throat or lungs, we would try Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. Those who have used it think it is far ahead of all other preparations recommended for such complaints. The little folks like it as it is as pleasant as syrup.

Home Rule and the Tories.

The London correspondent of The New York Tribune in his summary of the Irish political situation on Monday wrote:

The Home Rule question is coming rapidly to the front again. The Irish Nationalists regard the situation as much more promising than at any time since the retirement of Mr. Gladstone. They are not deceived by the report that it is the intention of the Government to suppress the United Irish League and to govern Ireland by means of the Crimes Act. The league will, they maintain, thrive more than ever after it is officially suppressed, and the revival of coercion they regard as the one thing needed to bring the Irish question more into the very forefront of British party politics. They feel firmly convinced that a couple of years of real, genuine unconstitutionalism in Ireland will land Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and the fighting Liberal party back into power with

Home Rule as the first plank in their platform.

Despite the premature announcement of the substitution of the coercion of Ireland for the legislation programme, there is reason to believe that the Ministers have been frightened by the steady progress of Mr. O'Brien's powerful league, and that a belated attempt may be made to grapple with it. This will be a reactionary policy, which will complete the Government record of inefficiency and ineptitude. The postponement of the education bill after three unsuccessful attempts to reorganize the system of primary and secondary education will be discreditable when the local authorities throughout the country are demanding evolution from chaos to order in the existing arrangements, but the reversion to the coercion of Ireland will be a confession that the policy of smothering the island with kindness is a failure. It seems incredible that Mr. O'Brien's power should be challenged a few weeks before the coronation festivities, but the Unionist journals are already denouncing him as a frenzied fanatic, describing the intimidation now existing as equal to the worst forms of boycotting of Mr. Parnell's time, and calling aloud for the suppression of the United Irish League, and for throttling the fast-growing hydra of tyranny and anarchy.

COERCION MOST PROBABLE POLICY.

The Ministers without doubt are seriously disturbed by the condition of the island. Mr. O'Brien's powerful organization has taken advantage of the opportunity offered by the agrarian agitation. The Unionist Ministry had supposed that it had brought the Home Rule movement to an end by establishing local government, and enabling landlords to sell out to tenants on reasonable terms. Purchase, where it had been arranged, has unsettled the districts where the landlords have been unwilling to dispose of estates, and a new conflict has opened, with the resources of the United Irish League behind the discontented tenants. It is easier for the Government to revert to coercion than to accept the principle that land reform has been carried so far that it must be taken further, and purchase rendered compulsory.

Every thought which genius and ploty throw into the world alters the world.—Emerson.

NO REASONABLE MAN expects to cure a neglected cold in a day, but Allen's Lung Balm will overcome the cold and stave off consumption. Cough will cease and lungs be sound as a new dollar.

Ottawa Correspondence.

(Special to The Register.)
Men who are engaged in the "art preservative," and whose talents are devoted towards bringing The Catholic Register to that high state of mechanical perfection which it is rapidly reaching, appear to take an extraordinary delight in robbing my librarians of their length, their width and their profundity. Last week I stated that Sir Richard Cartwright was first elected for "Lennox," but a typographical butcher who feared neither the Minister of Trade and Commerce, nor myself, substituted "Simcoe" therefor. I am told that this horrible blunder has thrown Sir Richard's whole system into a terrible state of disorder, and that if I approach him closely enough during those penitential times, he will poke into the sanctity of my precious person with his crutch—the chief means, which I deeply and sincerely regret to say, he has now for locomotion.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN THE MORNING.

The most elaborate preparations are under way to make our National Anniversary an unprecedented success. Efficient committees representing the various national, benevolent and religious societies, are hard at work and the fact that Irishmen from outlying counties will attend in large numbers and that the orator of the occasion will be the Rev. Dr. Fallon, now stationed at Buffalo, I am safe in predicting that the 17th day of March will mark a red-letter day in the social and national history of our race at the Dominion capital.

ST. PATRICK'S HALL.

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that which congregates in the various rooms of the above building almost every night since its opening. I was much troubled with fear that Clannan Gael had suffered a terrible diminution at the seat of govern-

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ALONZO W. SPOONER
Laboratory, Post Hops, Ont.

ment, but judging from the large gatherings which I meet here, of their intelligence, and of their patriotism, I see every reason to hope that when the old guard will have passed on the stage of life, a young generation full of enthusiasm will be ready to grasp and wave aloft, the green banner of our forefathers. All honor to the man who, in a practical manner, set about erecting such a building and bringing it to a successful consummation. Hundreds of young men in Ottawa, who prefer a respectable meeting place to the demoralizing attractions and allurements of the whiskey shop, will honor the man, whilst generations unborn will revere his memory.

IRISHMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

The recent bye-elections have resulted in a valuable addition to the Irish contingent in the Canadian House of Commons. Two Williams—Wm. Hart, of Kingston, and Wm. Power, of Quebec—have floated in on the last wave, and all who know them will rejoice that they have made their way in perfect safety.

Wm. Hart was born in the town of Peterborough about half a century ago, as close as I can now remember. His father, John Hart, owned and carried on a large mercantile establishment in that flourishing town, and whether through his commercial integrity, his warm love for the Old Faith, or his sterling devotion to the Old Faith, he created a swarm of friends amongst those of whom he was fondly revered. The Hartys, many of whom settled in Kingston, and made several marks in the commercial world of the Limestone City, were natives of the banner county of Ireland—Tipperary. Mr. Hart himself embarked in commercial pursuits in this city until death struck down that able statesman, Christopher Finlay Fraser, a member of the

Ontario Cabinet, upon which sad event the subject of this notice was, by common consent, selected to fill the vacancy. It need not be said here that it required a man of more than average ability to manage a department over which Mr. Fraser had presided for years. Mr. Hart, however, accepted the position and proved himself an able match for all the requirements of the new situation. That he would be still a member of the Provincial Government of Ontario had been chosen, is an admitted fact, were his health not shattered through protracted disease of an acute character. Mr. Hart, I am pained to say, still has to fight an obstinate complaint, but the political wire-pullers of Kingston thought that it was sound enough to keep from the grasp of Toryism the constituency made vacant by the elevation of Mr. B. M. Britton to the Bench.

Mr. Wm. Power, the newly-elected member for Quebec West, was born in the "Hoek City," a little more than half a century ago, his father, a native of the County of Waterford, where half the congregation of every Parish Chapel bear that name, having crossed the Atlantic some years previously. Those acquainted with the state of parties in the City of Quebec need not be told that Mr. Power had he so chosen, could have represented Quebec West in either the Provincial or Federal Legislatures. Owing to his large business interests it was impossible for him to yield to the entreaties of men who name candidates, and it was only during his absence on the other side of the Atlantic that he was recently elected to a seat in the Parliament of Canada. What his future movements may be, I, of course, cannot tell, but in the election of the two Williams a respectable addition has been made to the Irish contingent, as well as a most valuable accession to the business and debating talent of the Canadian House of Commons.

RANDLER
P. S.—There are other Irishmen already in Parliament about whom something must be said later on.

THE DEMON, DYSPEPSIA.

In olden time it was a popular belief that demons moved invisibly through the ambient air, seeking to enter into men and trouble them. At the present day the demon, dyspepsia, is at large in the same way, seeking habitation in those who by careless or unwise living invite him. And once he enters a man it is difficult to dislodge him. He that finds himself so possessed should know that a valiant friend to do battle for him with the unseen foe is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, which are ever ready for the trial.

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