

PEACE IN IRELAND.

MR. COLTON'S ADDRESS AT THE
STRAID MEETING LAST THURSDAY.

At the "peace" meeting last Thursday evening at the Elliott Club, men of different nations spoke for those nations. Bishop Colton's remarks were upon Ireland and were as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, in the efforts now making by distinguished men of every nation for the promotion and maintenance of universal peace, the noted men of Ireland will be found among the rest—and the outcome of their deliberations in the resolutions and suggestions they will make for peace will be accepted by no people more readily than by the Irish people and the descendants of the Irish race.

Reviewing the history of Irish people we find they were a peaceful people. Going back to the fourth century, when St. Patrick landed in Ireland to convert the people to Christianity, he found them spiritual and peace-loving. They received him with kindness and hospitality, and they listened to his words with reverence, and soon the whole island was brought to accept the faith without the spilling of one drop of blood.

The people loved knowledge, and soon great schools were opened that drew to their classes thousands and thousands from home and abroad. Poetry and song interchanged with deeper studies in science and learning. This was Ireland from the death of St. Patrick, 461, till almost the beginning of the ninth century. Peace and happiness went hand in hand with study and learning.

Now war thrust her cruel head into that land, for the Danes, seized its peace, and for three hundred years they kept attacking and harassing the Irish people by frequent incursions. Then for a little while there was a respite from carnage, but the sword of the invader again rolled over the land in the person of the powerful Saxon which was continued at frequent intervals during the course of four hundred years. Internal feuds made the Irish nation the easy prey to their powerful enemy, and though peace was declared by treaty, a war of persecution was begun, which has, we may say, been kept up in greater or less degree and under this phase or that, almost ever since the Irish people went to war it was in defense of their existence as a nation, and this is the spirit that has ever characterized them. In all their efforts to have their rights from the English people they have been of the peaceful rather than of the warlike character. O'Connell the greatest leader who won Catholic Emancipation for his countrymen said, "All Ireland was not worth the spilling of one drop of blood." Ireland has fought in the armies of other nations, but it was more from necessity than from choice, for, unable to find work at home, because of the oppression they had to undergo, they were compelled to go abroad. By reason of their stalwart bodies and undaunted souls they were eagerly sought for and gained for military duty.

But the Irish character is peaceful, the country flag is green and its design is the harp. The people love their fields and enjoy their modest cabins and like to live in peace with themselves and all mankind. The Irish nature is generous and the heart and heart of the Irishman are gladly given to all. His home is at your service and his humble fare he shares with you. Who, that has ever visited Ireland, will forget the warmth of his greeting? "God save you," is his word of greeting. "God save all here," "God save you kindly," are the words of friendly interchange, as the Irish make their neighborly visits. Irishmen have been famed as generals, but their greater honors are those of peace. Yes, the Irish people are lovers of poets, orators, scholars, statesmen and churchmen. Peaceable by nature, and when grace adds its asset, as it does, to the Irish character, for the Irish are a strictly religious people, then we can understand how they and the children they have borne, of which I am one, love peace and pray that its white wings spread the wide world over and bring prosperity and happiness to all mankind.—Buffalo Catholic Standard and Times.

QUEEN OF THE MAY.

An exquisite sense of fitness, in nature and human thought, is recognized in the linking of the "glad month of the year" with the devotion to the chosen Mother, laden with its trouble of expectation, crystallizes its sighs in tender leaflets and its groans in burgeons, then is perceived the mode in which the All-Father, God, pleases to reveal the beauty and benignity of the universal scheme.

In the whole realm of creation there is no parallel, either among animals or the human race, for the mind and heart of the Virgin Mother. When the celestial messenger came with his monotonous greeting, there must have been a hush in all the heavens as the angelic choirs hung breathless awaiting the fateful answer. What a picture of the marvelous! A tender maiden, raised above all human passions, to be asked to become the spiritual mother of the human race, by consenting to be the human Mother of God—the instrument and agency of fallen man's redemption! Wonderfully she asked how was she, as the daisy born of heaven's dew, to become such an instrument. When told the means, it was entirely at her option to consent or to decline. Though she must have foreseen that consent meant that she must become the object of suspicion and reproach, she did not hesitate for a moment, but, realizing the sublimity of the mission placed before her, immediately placed herself in the hands of God in that beautiful form of submission which shall be memorable while the world lives: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord."

It is Mary's peculiar privilege to be able to compel the homage even of many

who hate the Catholic faith. Even to agnostic poets, painters and writers she has proved a source of inspiration and beauty of thought. Goethe makes most effective use of her glorious attributes in relation to the despair of Marguerite:

Oh, incline
Thy look benign,
Thou rich in sorrow, on my need.

realizing thus the meaning of the title bestowed in the Litany of Loretto, "refuge of sinners." Scott, too, though not an agnostic like Goethe, has many a reference to the belief in this privilege of our Blessed Mother, particularly the beautiful hymn, "Ave Maria, Maiden Mild." Wordsworth paid her the tribute of his best and most original line, and Byron, the disolute, cynic as he was, felt the mysterious influence of "the sweet portraits of the Virgin Mary." A prevision of this universal honor was vouchsafed our Blessed Lady as we gather from her ecstatic outburst, "Behold, all generations shall call me blessed." This was what she also called in heaven. "Hail, full of grace!" was the salutation of heaven's ambassador when he beheld her, showing that in heaven she was known as blessed, because "the Lord is with her." And the Lord being with her, how dare any one to say that the Church of God derogates from God's honor in venerating His elected and beloved one?

Man can give her no tribute higher than the acknowledgment of her potent grace and his gratitude for her share in the plan of his redemption. It is a poor offering compared with what she held herself ready to yield when the voice of God asked her co-operation. But if it be offered spontaneously and ungrudgingly, it will be acceptable and efficacious. So it should be universally offered now, for the travail of the world is painful and the clouds of tribulation hang heavy above the way of the Church. But they are only clouds. The clear firmament lies above and beyond the rack.—Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

THE BISHOP ON UNIONS.

SPEAKS TO A MEETING AT THE BUILDERS' EXCHANGE.

Last Wednesday night Right Rev. Bishop Hartsmann by invitation addressed the quarterly meeting of the Builders' Exchange. There was a full attendance. He spoke very impressively on present social conditions.

He said: "Society is becoming divided into two hostile classes, the rich and the poor. We in Cleveland can look back to a time when the city was under martial law and men were lying at each others' throats. We have seen Mr. Rockefeller in forty years rise to undreamed wealth. Forty years ago Mr. Rockefeller was happy to get \$5 a week as a clerk in a Euclid avenue store. To-day no one knows the extent of his income. It is estimated at \$40,000,000 a year. I believe in a reward for initiative, for industrial courage and genius, in a right proportion."

"The system that squeezes such immense profits from the blood of labor is wrong. The condition which forces a man to accept \$9 a week on which to rear and educate a family—aye, and to accept the chances of accident with that pittance—cries to heaven for vengeance. And if employers, responsible for such things, expect any happiness other than what they can get on earth, I am afraid they will be disappointed."

"Of all the wild beasts, man, unless subdued by religion, is the most terrible. The French revolution came from oppression, and in our own life time we can remember the French Commune. We are standing on the edge of a volcano. The only thing that holds society together in this strained situation is a belief in God and the Church. But this is a day of denial of God, of scoffing at the Church. We may see the day when the tension will snap and the workmen, long suffering from what they consider their rights, may rise in their might, as we have seen men do when they forgot their religion in the French revolution and the French Commune."

"Talk of the militia and martial law! How the workmen of Cleveland could barricade Euclid and Superior aye, and laugh at the boy militia men who attempted to quell them."

"Employers and employees must come back to a recognition of the principle of the brotherhood of man. The principle of the golden rule is the only hope of society. The two classes have drifted far apart. The employer does not know his men. He does not care to."

"A clash and a deadly clash is inevitable unless we come back to a recognition of religion and brotherhood in our industrial relations."

Bishop Hartsmann spoke of the evolution in industrial methods, whereby he declared the workman has become only an animated machine and lacks the pride and ambition of individual work. He said unionism could not be put down, and declared it would be a misfortune if it should be. He insisted, however, that good men only should be at their head. He suggested as a remedy for labor troubles greater Christian sympathy, whereby labor and capital would better understand and consider each other.

Although he was talking to an association of employers, he endorsed the right of men to organize under the banner of trades unionism, although he emphasized the importance of having strong, responsible men at the head of the union. He commended to them a study of the last Pope Leo's encyclical on "The Condition of Labor," which he characterized as one of the strongest and fairest expositions on the subject extant.

The Bishop seemed tired as he came in and asked permission to remain sitting while he talked. His voice never rose above a conversational tone. The members leaned forward in their seats in silence to hear each word. When he finished they crowded about him to express their appreciation.

HALTED.

There is not much comfort to Cory and Gilman nor very much consistency in the Episcopal Church, the Church of Henry VIII, in the following declaration made by Bishop Burgess:

"The wedding of such a couple would never take place in the Cathedral of Garden City and no clergyman in the Episcopal diocese would perform such a ceremony where either of the parties had been divorced. I doubt very much whether any self-respecting minister could be found on Long Island to marry such a couple."

We are glad that Bishop Burgess strongly opposes such a marriage as that of Cory and Gilman. He has set himself on record as strongly opposed to divorced persons remarrying. Two years ago at an Episcopal convention in Garden City, he delivered an address bitterly attacking the divorce laws in the different States which made the granting of divorce so easy a matter.

In many ways those without the fold are acknowledging that the old Church was ever right. The many divorced persons throughout the United States will not find much consolation in the declaration of Bishop Burgess.—Cleveland Catholic Universe.

Responsible For Their Own Acts.

Bad homes may drive a great many men to the saloon. But men have been known to desert very good homes for the sake of drinking. It is not just to place all the blame on conditions. Men themselves are responsible for their acts.—Sacred Heart Review.

Let us, on all occasions, take good and evil consolations and afflictions, from the hand of God, ever singing the same sweet canticle, "Blessed be the name of the Lord," to the same unvarying air; for if we are so happy as to succeed in doing this, we shall live in great peace.

PETER'S PENCE.

NEED OF MORE LIBERAL CONTRIBUTIONS IS SET FORTH IN A CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO THE BISHOPS.

His Excellency the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate has addressed the following circular letter to the Archbishops and Bishops of the country:

Apostolic Delegation, Rome, June 12, 1907.
Your Lordship—As the time of the annual Peter's Pence collection, according to the instructions of the Second and Third Councils of Baltimore, is near at hand, I deem it my duty to request your Lordship to remind the reverend clergy in due time of their obligation of taking up said collection and of recommending it previously to the generosity of the faithful. I have no doubt that the Catholics of America, who yield to none of the whole world in loyalty and attachment to the Holy Father, properly understood the present financial condition of the Holy See, they would certainly be more liberal in their contributions. This hope is founded on the fact that in those dioceses where the Bishops and priests have taken a particular interest in enlightening their people on the subject the contributions have been more liberal than in others. Moreover, I must not forget to mention the fact that the pious work of Peter's Pence has become at the present time a necessity. The daily increasing wants for the vast army of the Holy See which for the past in a great measure have been met by the liberal contributions of the Catholic countries of Europe and which are now greatly reduced, for reasons and facts which should be made clear to the mind of our people, justify the hope that the Catholics of America, who yield to none of the whole world in loyalty and attachment to the Holy Father, properly understood the present financial condition of the Holy See, they would certainly be more liberal in their contributions. This hope is founded on the fact that in those dioceses where the Bishops and priests have taken a particular interest in enlightening their people on the subject the contributions have been more liberal than in others. Moreover, I must not forget to mention the fact that the pious work of Peter's Pence has become at the present time a necessity. 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