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EDITORIAL NOTES.

We are highly pleased to learn that, on account of an error in the addition of the total qualified voters in St. Ann's Ward, it has been discovered that the rumor of more voters than were on the list being polled, as alleged, has no foundation. We are exceedingly glad of this; for were it otherwise the whole Section of St. Ann's Ward would be under an undesirable cloud. True we were anxious to see Mr. McGrail elected, and simply because he was an anti-boodle candidate and a young man of energy and ability worthy of confidence; but we would prefer to see any candidate beaten rather than have it established that an election was carried by such wholesale methods of dishonesty. Mr. Girard, of the City Clerk's Office, deserves thanks for having discovered the error. While rejoicing to learn that the electors of St. Ann's Ward are freed from all suspicion on the question, still we cannot help taking notice of how gladly the general public, in other sections, seized upon the piece of political gossip and how very rapidly it found circulation in the press. Look at it from whatever standpoint you may, there lurks an unjust anti-Irish prejudice in the bosom of thousands, whose experience and pretensions should raise them above the level of common bigots.

In the records of human brutality we doubt if there can be found anything to surpass the barbaric action of that mob in Paris, Texas, the story of whose atrocities was published to the world last week. So revolting are the details that no pen—save that of a cruel sensationalist—would attempt to describe them. They talk of annexation to the United States. Before our civilized Canada could join in such a union she would want, amongst a thousand other things, a guarantee that the law of the Republic be sufficiently strong to reach and punish the incarnate fiends that were guilty of such action. It is a poor recommendation for such a great and Christian nation if the executive does not take steps to civilize that land of white savages. It would not be wonderful to use the language of a Celtic bard, if—

"Fevens would burn them,
And agues would freeze them,
And the strong hand of God,
In His red anger, seize them."

It is true that the wretched victim of the Satanic scene had committed a fearful crime; but for that crime the law of the land has ordained a fit punishment. Moreover, it is not the province of a mob any more than it is of an individual, to take away human life. But even the taking of life would be a mercy compared to the infernal tortures to which twenty thousand human tigers subjected one poor human creature. The persecutions of Nero were merciful compared to that death, and the stake of the Iroquois was a bed of roses compared to that gibbet.

We are pleased to inform our readers that a letter has been received at Valley

field, from Mgr. Emard, the Bishop of that diocese, informing his priests that he and his travelling companions, Rev. Messrs. Allard and Primeau, reached France on Sunday evening the 15th January last. They had most pleasant trip and so far are in the best of health. Needless to add that we are rejoiced to hear such a good account of Bishop Emard's journey to Rome, and that we wish him, and his companions, all manner of success and prosperity in their pilgrimage to and from the Eternal City.

The now notorious Mrs. Shepherd has gravitated to Belleville. We notice by a programme, which a friend from that city sent us, that she has been heralded with considerable praise from a certain section of the press. She seems evidently determined on wiping out the Catholic Church. She has a pretty heavy contract on hand, one in which many of her eminent predecessors have ignominiously failed. The Roman emperors strove to choke the Church of Christ at its foundation, and they failed; Mahomet sought to carve the Cross to pieces with his sword, but the emblem of salvation is still triumphant. Luther, Calvin, Knox, and Henry VIII. sought with all their might to efface Catholicity, but they have passed into eternity, while Catholicity remains. Mazzini, Bismarck and Garibaldi did their utmost against a divinely instituted establishment; their power is gone, and the institution of Faith continues to flourish. In fact the devil has, ever since the dawn of Redemption, been striving to pull down the Church of Christ, still his Satanic Majesty has been ever defeated. Perchance it has been reserved for Mrs. Shepherd to knock the foundation from under the Church of Rome. If so it can be justly said that she was more successful than the Emperors, more lucky than Mahomet, more fortunate than Luther, more clever than Mazzini, and that above all, "she beats the Devil!"

In our editorial columns we reproduce a splendid leader from The Irish Catholic of Dublin, under the heading "The Home Rule Session." We would advise our readers to carefully peruse that forecast of the coming probabilities and possibilities in regard to the Home Rule question during the present session of the Imperial House. We had intended writing this week upon the subject, but the article that we quote covers the ground so well, and coming from one who is within earshot of all that is actually taking place beyond the Atlantic, that we feel our readers will thank us for the reproduction of it, for no article of our own could possibly touch the chords so correctly and forcibly.

The English and foreign press still keep up the agitation about that dynamite outrage in Dublin. The Times and a few Unionist journals did their utmost to make political capital out of the unfortunate event, and to use it to the detriment of Mr. Gladstone and his policy; but owing to the attitude taken

in Ireland and in England by Irishmen their attempts proved nothing but failures. The Speaker, must have reflected the sentiments of all honest and just Englishmen when, speaking for its party, it said that:—

"The intelligent foreigner had only to read the farrago of envenomed nonsense which appeared in the shape of the reflections of the Times upon this event, in order to understand at least one-half of the Irish question at a glance. How can a nation, the leading journal of which is capable of speaking in such a spirit on such a subject, ever hope to conciliate the Irish people by applying to them its own methods of government? How can the people of that country entertain either respect or affection for those who seem to be at once their accusers, their judges, and their executioners? If we believed that the sentiments of the Times were the sentiments of the people of Great Britain, or of any but a small and malignant section of the nation, we should be compelled to give up the hope of any reconciliation between the two countries, and to watch them drift apart into a perpetual enmity as mischievous and dangerous to the one as to the other. Happily there are those among us who can keep their heads, even under the shock of a dynamite outrage, and to them and to the general sense of fair play which is not yet lost in Great Britain we can appeal from the frantic partisans who are willing to condemn a whole people because of the sin of one man."

The following, from the *London Universe*, is timely indeed as a warning against placing faith in those would-be Irish humorists who merely draw ridicule upon the nation and do injustice to the race.

"There was a dreary yarn affecting to be funny, signed Major Rory O'Gore, in a half-penny morning paper of London the other day, professing to give details of the Dublin dynamite outrage (if dynamite it was in reality). This is intended to probe an open wound or to cover with a transparent screen of sneering sarcasm a very gross piece of criminal folly, which is condignly censured by Irishmen of every class and creed. If the author meant to be humorous, he should have followed the lines of one of Carleton's pretences:

His desire is neither to distort his countrymen into demons, nor to enshrine them as suffering innocents and saints, but to exhibit them as they really are—warm-hearted, hot-headed, affectionate creatures—the very finest materials in the world for either the poet or agitator—capable of great culpability, and of great and energetic goodness—sudden in their passions as the red and rapid gush of their mountain streams—variable in their temper as the climate that sends them the mutability of sun and shower—at times rugged and gloomy as the moorland sides of their mountains—often sweet, soft, and gay as the sunlit meadows of their valleys.

But this "bogtrotter" (as he describes himself) makes the man with the infernal machine an Irishman, makes all Irishmen sympathize with him secretly, and daubs over the typical Pat with a coating of loathsome blackness."

Wonderful the power, sometimes, of one song. Wolfe has become immortal on account of the "Burial of Sir John Moore;" Gray's fame is almost entirely due to his "Elegy in a Churchyard;" Rouget Delisle shall go down to posterity embalmed in the imperishable strains of the "Marsaillaise." There lives to-day a man, who is a professor in "Trinity College," Dublin, and who is a solid "loyalist," an opponent of the Home Rule cause, and yet whose name shall live in the patriotic literature of Ireland as long as the "Memory of the Dead" shall be played or sung. The *Chicago Citizen*, speaking of him some time ago, said: "The aged 'loyalist' will pass into oblivion; but the fiery gospel of his rebel muse will forever illumine the name and the fame of John Kells Ingram." No matter how he may have survived the grand enthusiasm of other days, he certainly has given to the Irish race the most national and soul-stirring song that was ever penned by man or sung by patriot. At this particular period in the critical moment in Ireland's prospects, there is a stanza that will not only bear

reproduction, but which alone should suffice to rescue the name of Ingram from oblivion and preserve it green (for the sake of his song) in every Irish heart.

"Then here's their memory may it be
For us a guiding light—
To cheer our strife for liberty
And teach us to unite!
Through good and ill, be Ireland's still,
Though sad as theirs your fate,
And true men be you, men,
Like those of 'Ninety-eight.'"

The grand four weeks retreat, preached by the Redemptorist Fathers, closed on Sunday night. On Sunday morning at 7.30 o'clock the members of St. Ann's Y. M. S. proceeded in a body to the church headed by their band. At mass the general communion took place, and it is calculated that over fourteen hundred persons were present. The retreat was a great success. The first week was for the married women and at the close there were 2225 communions; the second week for the married men ended with 1875 communions; the third week for the unmarried women closed with 2358 communions; and the fourth week for the young men, which terminated last Sunday, resulted in 2100 communions. It was, indeed, a harvest of souls for God, and the Redemptorist Fathers are most highly satisfied with the results. Elsewhere we publish a synopsis of the sermon preached Sunday evening by Rev. Fr. Strubbe C.S.S.R.

Prof. Goldwin Smith has been in New York; he spoke of calling upon President-elect Cleveland. He is on his way to Washington with his semi-annual budget of news and information picked up during his semi-annual residence in Canada. Goldwin Smith must "speak with forked tongues," as the Indian was accustomed to say, for in New York he is reported to have told the American public that a large majority of Canadians would hoist the annexation standard tomorrow, that they would vote for that measure. Yet he did not so speak in Toronto, before leaving for the United States. Here were his words in Canada:

"If I am asked what is the state of opinion here, I shall venture to say that there is among our people generally a growing desire for closer relations with the rest of our race upon this continent. If there is not, why are all those alarm bells ringing? I shall admit at the same time that there is a powerful combination of organized interests, official, commercial, and social, as well as traditions and established sentiment, arrayed on the other side. I shall admit also that there is among us, and especially among our politicians, a good deal of caution, and that the number of those who in their hearts look forward to continental union is much larger than the number of those who avow their opinion."

In justice to Goldwin Smith we must say that he has, over his own signature, denied the report of his remarks made in New York, and which purported to be a direct contradiction of the above. However the professor exposes himself greatly to just suspicion by his self-imposed diplomatic missions to and from Washington.