

THOUGHTS OF HOLY WEEK

(By a Regular Contributor.)

HOLY THURSDAY.—Next week will be Holy Week, the last of the Lenten season, and the most important of all the year, since it is commemorative of the most striking events in the history of our redemption.

On Holy Thursday the Redeemer broke bread and handing it to His chosen few, performed the miracle of transubstantiation. At that moment for the first time, were the words, "This is my body," pronounced; and immediately the Eucharistic Sacrament was created.

No wonder then that the day is called Holy Thursday. The kiss of Iscariot told the master that numbers of traitors would follow the example of the fallen Apostle, and receive unworthily the precious gift of His Body and Blood.

GOOD FRIDAY.—The saddest and most glorious day of all the year! The day of twilight grandeur; the weaving of funeral darkness into perpetual light.

HOLY SATURDAY.—This is a day of repose, of transition between the gloomy scenes of Friday and the glorious event of Sunday.

tion, and surround ourselves with the actual scenes and the living actors, what an astounding panorama would we not behold. Standing upon some eminence outside the doomed Jerusalem, we would behold the fate of millions of dead patriarchs and just ones hanging in the balance, the future salvation of millions yet unborn awaiting the consummation on yonder skull-shaped mountain.

Then, turning again to the mountain, we would see the soldiers depart; the centurions casting lots for the garments of the Mighty Dead; and the faithful few looking up to the silent Saviour. But then; Ah! A transformation. Clouds rolling up and along the horizon; lightning leaping across the expanse; the sun glowing dark upon the western sky; the earth rocking like a tempest-lashed ocean; the dead coming forth from their graves and walking among the living; the veil of the temple rent from top to bottom.

Even as we write—even as you read—are we daily playing the part of the Roman soldier, the cruel centurion, the black-hearted scribe, or the bloodthirsty Jew. By our sins we are causing the same Divine Victim to renew the agonies of Good Friday and to suffer over again the horrors of that sanguinary sacrifice.

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gospel of revelation, that the envoys of Christ must carry all over the earth and unto every future generation.

Holy Saturday is also the day upon which the Catholic is supposed to withdraw into the hermitage of his own heart and there prepare himself fittingly for the rolling away of the stone from the sepulchre of his sinfulness, when the Angel of the Resurrection descends on the morrow.

VARIOUS NOTES AND COMMENTS.

MICHAEL DAVITT ILL.—This widely known Irish Nationalist, now in California, is reported to be ill, and threatened with pneumonia.

COOMBES MAY BE DETHRONED.—Despatches from Paris, under date of March 19, describe the situation in which Premier Coombes' ministry is at present, as becoming gradually precarious.

PREJUDICE.—With all the boasted liberty of the 20th century, it is astounding that there should be so much prejudice displayed towards those who profess Catholicity.

CHOIR BOYS.—Another peculiar reason, emanating from a non-Catholic source, why religion should be taught in schools, is that furnished by a recent strike of the choir boys of an Episcopal church, which urged the minister to declare it to be one of the baleful results of an absolutely non-religious system of education.

CHURCH MAY LOSE DEPOSIT.—A Catholic American exchange says: An effort is being made to save from the wreckage of the Sheldon Iowa State Bank \$8000, which belongs to St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Sheldon, and which was on deposit in the bank at the time of the failure.

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THE POPE AND FRANCE.—Correspondents of American newspapers, with headquarters in Paris, are busy just now writing about the approaching visit of President Loubet to Italy.

A prominent personage says President Loubet will go to Rome more like Charlemagne, as a representative of authority instead of dependence.

that the visit of a ruler of a Catholic country to Rome requires a visit to the Vatican. It is a recognized fact among diplomats that Emperor Francis Joseph has not returned the visit of the King of Italy because he would be expected to call at the Vatican.

This is on a par with the general tone of the daily press of to-day, yet Catholics are its mainstay.

FIRST LOAN.—In connection with the Irish Land Purchase Bill, which is certain to be the forerunner of other great changes in Ireland ere long, the Government has announced the issue of \$25,000,000 in 2 1/2 per cent stock. The issue price is 88. The list closed yesterday.

DUBLIN'S LORD MAYOR.—At a recent meeting of the Dublin Corporation, a resolution to reduce the salary of the Lord Mayor from £3700 a year to £1700 was carried by 40 votes to 26.

EVIL SIGNS.—European exchanges received this week contain the following note of a sacrilegious occurrence in Cannes, France: Thieves entered the parish church from the roof of an adjacent shed, and stripped the building of its most valuable contents.

RITUALISM.—Mr. Balfour intimates that he will recommend to the King the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the disorderly practices in the Church of England.

A STATUE OF CHRIST

(By a Regular Contributor.)

A despatch dated New York, 15th March, reads as follows:

The dedication of a great statue, of Jesus Christ, on the boundary line between Chile and Argentina, has been made the occasion of impressive ceremonies in which high officials of both countries participated.

What a magnificent text for a sermon, for a lecture, for a volume. The statue of Christ on the frontier of two nations, the emblem of peace, of friendship, of love, of harmony, of Christian unity.

It was He who said to the waves, "Peace, be still"; He it was who said, "Love One another"; He it was who said that "whosoever loveth the sword shall perish by the sword."

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CHRIST'S OMNISCIENCE

(By a Regular Contributor.)

"Christ led a humble and unostentatious life; He preached by example as well as by word, and He never taught that His Church should be what the Romish Church of to-day is—namely, a theatre of pomp and an institution of new-fangled doctrines."

Without squandering space on this Doctor's calumnies and historical inaccuracies, in his first remark, we will confine our attention to the last sentence of the above-quoted passage.

Either Christ was the Son of God, co-equal with the Father, or He was not. If He was not, then He was not what He represented Himself to be; He deceived His followers; He was an impostor amongst men; and all the system—great and wonderful as it may be—which He built up, is only a mere human institution, a gigantic fraud.

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startling assertion for a Catholic writer? Not half as much so as are the absurd suppositions of Rev. Dr. Harris. It depends on what nature you mean. A miracle is decidedly a violation of the laws governing our nature, which belongs to created beings and created things; but it is in strict accordance with the laws governing the divine nature, or the nature that belongs to the Creator of all beings and things.

Christ compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed that is sown by man; it grows, becomes a plant; finally the birds make their nests in its branches. If the Kingdom of Heaven is such, the Kingdom of God on earth—His Church—is similar.

Father Fidelis (I. Kent Stone), in his beautiful chapter on "The Primacy and Prophecy," puts the matter in a few clear words. Let his words answer that Doctor of Divinity, who seems to admit the possibility of Christ's knowledge being limited.

It might be advisable for Rev. Dr. Harris to revise his theological studies, if ever he really studied theology; and at the same time to take in a few ordinary lectures on both profane and sacred history; he might be led to understand the nature of the Founder of Christianity and the perfect harmony and unity of the Church that He has given to the world.

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WORTHY SONS.

Mr. Charles Gavan Duffy, one of the officers of the Federal Parliament of Australia, is a son of the ex-Premier, ex-Speaker, and 48 insurrectionist.

OUR T

ST. PATRICK'S D rick's Day in Toronto honored than this year were sung in the Church. Saint was extolled from the shamrock was even dance, and all seemed claim relationship even with the Emerald Is orations and musical the programme for the Erin's children and the felt that the day at least tears for the time bet and naught but smile where seen. The bright the present Erin and come of still greater b felt in the spirit hour, and it was w faith and hope in the through all the happen joined in the National Save Ireland."

WITH THE HIBER

Massey Hall a great g ed the Hibernians on night, when a program the great order was pre Hall itself was in leep occasion; a backgro across which in letters the welcome "Caed M faced the audience, and form were seated some of the children of the s girls in white formed t were flanked by the boy suits; green flags hung lars, and palms and fe between the footlights ar boxes. In the centre form a beautiful gold throughout the evening the shamrock was displa on the breasts of the ar in the hands of the ar John T. Keating, of orator of the evening, h address, was present basket of the dainty Those who took part i gramme were Miss Mad hampt; Mrs. Annie Har Teresa Flanagan, Miss Miss Theresa McAvoy, Paul and R. Ruthven M the children, under the accompanied on the gre Miss Agneta Tone Breen. The entertainers have been chosen on account of class standing, and all what was expected from chorus of children sang spirit, and after "O'Don encore was demanded. McAvoy showed ability o order in the management instrument—the violin—and drew from the harp, cho only a child of Erin co Mrs. Hargrave simply t dence by storm when ing of the Green" she r the bunch of shamrocks pressive notes told of this lady is a singer wh Irish sentiment in a way the hearts of her listeners would like to hear her Teresa Flanagan, always was a welcome songst Miss Nellie Byrne surpr who had not before heard music and power of her v. J. A. Paul sang "Kittar "The Minstrel Boy" in a while Mr. Ruthven McD the honors with Mrs. H winning his way into the his hearers. The chairman of the e A. T. Hannon, read tele greeting from the Hiber Montreal and Cornwall, interesting resume of Irel istry introduced the orate evening, Hon. John T. Ke Chicago, Ill., ex-National A.O.H. The eloquent ad listened to throughout w most interest, the only r that owing to the size of the voice of the speaker times lost. Mr. Keating er from whom the word the utmost case, and his c irresistible. One feature of the en was the absence of the "f who in reality was never simply grotesque. The H Toronto have done their mimating this feature from tertainment. The evenin out was the finest of the evenings this Association the city.

THE CELTIC LEAGUE

drew's Hall received its plement of Irish men and St. Patrick's night, when