

The Catholic Record

Price of Subscription—\$1.50 per annum. United States & Europe—\$2.00. Publisher and Proprietor, Thomas Coffey, L.L.D.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1914

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

Home Rule is not yet an accomplished fact. But the passage of the Bill by the House of Commons is practically the end of a heroic struggle unparalleled in history.

The Act of Union passed in 1801 was the result of bribery, corruption and fraud, the most enormous, says Lecky, in the history of representative institutions.

Under this Union a form of government has grown up which it is quite safe to say not one Unionist in a thousand understands.

Time has accentuated rather than attenuated the administrative separation since the Union, with the single exception of the Act of 1817, which amalgamated the two Exchequers.

Successive statutes of the Imperial Parliament in the nineteenth century have created one department after another until their total number reaches, to quote Mr. Birrell, 'at least forty-five.'

This is not a quotation from Mr. Dooley or Mark Twain; it is from an article in the Nineteenth Century by J. H. Morgan, Professor of Constitutional Law, University College, London.

Not even the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Minister responsible to Parliament for the government of Ireland knows even the exact number of departments of Irish Government; still less definite is his knowledge of the limits of their jurisdiction.

Professor Morgan continues: 'Ireland has her own Viceroy, enjoying prerogatives which are denied to the governors of the greatest of our Colonies, her own Privy Council, her own Lord Chancellor.

The one function of the Chief Secretary about which no doubt as to his responsibility, although considerable doubt as to his power, exists is the Irish Estimates.

There is, however, one group of departments over which the Chief Secretary's control is supreme and undisputed—the departments concerned with the administration of law and order, the police, the prisons, the Crown Solicitors, the Petty Sessions Clerks and the Resident Magistrates.

We have quoted thus at length because very few realize the amazing network of autocratic and irresponsible Boards and departments which go to make up the present bureaucratic administration of Irish affairs.

There are those who honestly ask why Ireland has not settled down contentedly as Scotland and Wales. Ireland is not governed as Scotland is governed nor as Wales is governed.

After giving an idea of the crazy patch-work of Irish Boards and departments, the London Professor of Constitutional Law thus concludes his article:

Autocratic power, irresponsible administration, and control of positions of emolument naturally make the Ascendancy party 'loyal' to the present condition of things.

What difference will Home Rule make in Ireland? Using the Irishman's privilege we may answer by asking, What difference did responsible Government make in Canada?

It has brought to the doors of the Irish farmer instruction in the technique of his craft; teaching him the use of feeding-stuffs, fertilisers and potato-spray, the arts of butter-making, dairying, horticulture, and poultry-farming.

The success of the only representative department in Irish Government has been marvellous and it is a pledge and a promise of the difference Home Rule will make in every department of Irish Government.

A co-operative meeting is an unique phenomenon in Irish life. There the militant Ulster man sits down with the Irish Leaguer of the South and West, the Chaplain of an Orange Lodge with the Munster or Leinster Parish Priest; and the only rivalry between these strangely assorted colleagues is in the effort to do most for the common cause.

This again is a pledge and a promise of what will occur on a larger scale when north and south and west meet in friendly rivalry to further the common interests of their common country.

SIGNIFICANT

We have been surfeited with threats of bloody war if the 'deadly earnest' and 'grimly determined' Orangemen of Ulster were allowed to escape the bureaucratic control of their parasitic friends and take a freeman's part in governing their country.

The 'Ulster Scot' is an Irishman, nevertheless, even if some of his forebears a few centuries ago were absent for a while in the Irish colony which gave its name to all Caledonia.

The deep sense of responsibility, the dignified self control of Nationalist Ireland all through the time of bitter provocation is fittingly reflected in the magnanimity with which the Nationalist press greets the triumphant culmination of an age-long struggle.

The Freeman's Journal, in an editorial headed 'Ireland's Day' says: 'The feelings that will be stirred throughout the Irish world by the passage of the Home Rule Bill will not be the sentiment of a vulgar triumph in a petty, political conflict, but the generous sentiments of an ancient nation to which has come a second spring and a second birth of liberation won by a moral force.

Even from the centre of factitious intolerance the Belfast News thus worthily voices Nationalist sentiment: 'We congratulate John Redmond and his party, Ireland's gallant party, to whose ranks Belfast contributes honored and brilliant representatives.'

'We congratulate the Nationalists of this country. They are the men and women who have really won the fight; and we congratulate no less heartily the small minority of those Irish countrymen of ours who have strenuously opposed the cause of self government, because they will share to the full in the blessings that will eventually and inevitably flow from the establishment of an Irish Legislature.'

Here in Canada the Toronto Globe points out that the origin of the Irish question dates back centuries before the Reformation. It is true. There is, however, no doubt that the trouble was intensified, embittered and prolonged by religious differences.

'Seven centuries of oppression and suppression have not extinguished Irish nationality. The great event of yesterday gives the Irish Celt the opportunity of proving to the world that he has the capacity for self government and the enterprise to make Ireland a prosperous and happy nation.'

'The greatest parliamentary struggle of the century, if not of all time, is closed with the passage of the Irish Home Rule Bill as Erin her very eve of its enactment.'

The Globe and the Citizen on opposite sides of politics are fairly representative of the best type of Canadian journalism. And we are optimistic enough to believe that they are also fairly representative of the best thought or at least the best trend of thought in Canada on this and many other questions.

The exotic political views of certain of our papers which feel constrained to tail up in the procession of the English party press are un-Canadian and ephemeral.

In the following letters we shall allow Father Fraser and Father Salton, his predecessor in the mission field of Taichowfu, to speak directly to those of our readers who have generously assisted in their glorious work in that far-off portion of the vineyard of the Lord.

Dear Mr. Coffey,—A translation of the enclosed letter written to Le Petit Messager by Father Salton, who did pioneer work in this district before my arrival, will be interesting to the readers of the CATHOLIC RECORD.

Last Saturday I baptized forty-one persons who were from nearly as many different towns. This week I am preparing a whole church full for First Communion. God be praised that He is making use of a worthless servant to procure Him such glory! Last Sunday, Easter, so many converts attended the serv-

ice that the big doors had to be thrown open and benches placed outside. Most of these people came from great distances, 10, 20, 30 and even 60 miles on foot.

AT TAICHOW
FOUR YEARS AFTERWARDS!
FATHER SALON'S LETTER

An annoying affair made it necessary for me to descend the river Ngen-kiang and cross an arm of the sea in order to meet Moneigneur at Haimen. He was on the point of leaving for Taichow with Fathers Pech and Cheng Cherub. I was invited to join their cortege and talk on the way.

Four hours by steamer brought the party to Taichow-fu. A delightful trip through charming scenery; as for the climate Father Salton says: 'It was the climate of Nice with its roses in the month of January.'

'Arriving at Taichow, what struck me at the first glance was the unaccustomed development of commerce, the evidence of prosperity. Four years ago we had just one miserable little steamer which we nicknamed the 'Rafail'; now five companies rival each other in speed and business.

'In the midst of the crowd we soon distinguished Rev. Father Fraser, parish priest of Taichowfu, surrounded by a joyous phalanx of children and young people who are to form the guard of honor for His Lordship. In stately procession we approach the Church whose bells ring out a joyous welcome.

'And I, throughout the whole office, and afterwards throughout the whole day, I went back in spirit to the past. I saw again the Taichowfu of four years ago, at the beginning of my ministry. The church is indeed the same with its coquetish little air and white-washed walls, with the attractive image of the Virgin in its niche; and the residence also is the same with the same spruce little house with the same little lawn in front.

'And now? Thanks to the present parish priest, Father Fraser, thanks to the zeal and tenacity which are his characteristics, thanks also to the generous help extended him by devoted friends, now at Taichowfu there is a school for boys that numbers 100 pupils, there is a convent of native Sisters where 4 nuns teach a large number of young girls, there is a catechuminate for women under construction.

'In my time at Taichowfu I certainly had no trouble in finding leisure. Now two priests are over-worked and Father Fraser calls for help. 'Whilst he organizes works, carries them on and develops them

here, Father Fraser sends his native assistant, Father Yao, to cultivate the field of Tien tai. Tien-tai is the Chinese for 'the Altar of Heaven,' so named doubtless because of the numerous bonzeries which shelter themselves on the heights in the midst of charming sites of pagodas. It is one of the most ancient citadels of Buddhism.

'Tien-tai, which always gave such Christian hopes, seems in a fair way to realize them. Father Luke Yao, young and full of zeal, calls forth everywhere numerous conversions; the pagans quit the road to the pagodas to become Christians. These catechumens are sent to Taichow where Father Fraser welcomes them cordially, instructs them zealously, prepares them for baptism and sends them back Christians into their own country.

'For myself, who have labored at the beginnings of this Christian mission to day so prosperous, I meditate with love on the words of our Sacred Books: 'One indeed sows, another reaps.' Others have labored and you have entered into their labors, that he who sows may rejoice and likewise he who reaps.'

TEMPERANCE IN QUEBEC
From the Courier of St. Hyacinth we learn that fourteen licenses have been cut off since the Anti-Alcohol Congress of last September. The temperance people in the sister province are unremitting in their systematic and intelligent crusade against the evils of the liquor traffic.

Despite the growing list of no-licence districts there were still in 1913 in the Province of Quebec 1,247 licensed hotels, restaurants and clubs, etc., and 808 shop-licenses, making a total of 2,055, of which 1,256, or over 61 per cent., are in the district of Montreal.

THE END OF THE STRUGGLE
The Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland, designated by Gladstone 'the blackest transaction in the history of man,' by Lecky as 'a crime of the deepest turpitude,' by Mr. Redmond as 'the greatest failure in history,' was dissolved by vote of the House of Commons on May 25th.

The Union of 1801, carried through by means of wholesale and shameless bribery and corruption, wrought untold misery to Ireland without corresponding benefit to Great Britain. Ireland never acquiesced in her betrayal, and the passing years, so far from drawing her closer to England, found her more sullen and disaffected. The Union epoch is marked by three attempts at armed insurrection, and through a movement more or less constitutional Ireland has constantly proclaimed to the world that she was a separate

national entity, and refused to be amalgamated with a foreign people. England suffered before the nations because here at her very heart was a people that she could not govern despite all her vaunted statesmanship. She might subdue them by brute force, but she could not win their hearts. A disaffected Ireland was a source of weakness to her at home, and the exile Gael presented an insurmountable barrier to her foreign policy. No words can express what the Union cost England in strength and prestige. On the other hand Ireland paid in tears and blood for Pitt's devilry. For more than a century she has been in very truth a corpse on the dissecting table. Her people fled from her as from a land accursed, until her population dwindled by more than half. Her industries were still-born; her genius was dwarfed; her entire national development was arrested. Abnormal circumstances used up the energies that should have been directed into more fruitful channels. With her eyes centered on the battle at Westminster it was impossible for her to apply herself to the work of uplifting the nation from within. One of the worst consequences of the Union was that it blighted her own self confidence. It was not the men and the money, the blood and the tears, that counted so much—it was the paralysis of national effort that condemned the Union as a thing accursed.

England and Ireland have paid the penalty for Pitt's colossal blunder. England, no less than Ireland, will benefit by its undoing. The Union was never a Union in anything but the name. The new relationship of the two countries will cement a real union of hearts, founded on mutual respect and good-will. Ireland, her national aspirations realized, will no longer be a source of weakness, but of strength, to England. The memory of past wrongs will be buried fathoms deep in the sea of Irish gratitude, and the Empire will have no more loyal subjects than the citizens of a self-governed Ireland. It will have a far reaching effect, moreover, on the foreign policy of the Empire, for once Ireland has been given a just measure of liberty, all cause of Irish resentment towards England will be removed. Untold Home Rule will usher in an era of untold prosperity and development goes without saying. For the first time in history the genius of her sons will have an opportunity to exercise itself in native fields, and who that knows the intense love of country that is so characteristic of Ireland's sons can doubt that they will devote themselves unflinchingly to the uplifting of their native land. They have the talent to rule wisely and well, as the nations of the earth can testify. With all confidence, then, do we look forward to the future, secure in the knowledge that the vote in the British House of Commons on May 25th was a good day's work, not only for Ireland that we all love, but for the Empire of which we are all justly proud. COLUMBA

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
SERMON
BY REV. DEAN BRADY, BRANTFORD
'They shall remember Thy Name throughout all generations.' (Ps. 44, 8.)
After some words of welcome the reverend preacher said, I shall try to be brief, as your day will be a busy and arduous one.
'They shall remember Thy Name throughout all generations.' There is no denying it God and His religion must triumph and it is for you Knights of Columbus, and for us all to ask ourselves what is our share in the triumph of God's kingdom on earth. The Egyptians resist God's mandate borne to them by Moses, and seven times He struck them with seven plagues, which made them fairly wither with fear. Their proud Pharaoh was glad to see the Israelites depart, for all the first born of the nation had been slain by the angel of death.
And when the Sun of Christianity dawned upon the world, and when the Lamb of God, marked with His Blood every doorway in every Christian generation, other Pharaohs rose up a thousand times more ferocious than the Pharaoh of old. They met their defeat for 'They shall remember Thy Name throughout all generations.'