

Our week...  
We come to thy altar, sweet Mother,  
With hymns, and with chant, and  
with prayer;  
Accept all thy children's devotion,  
And grant us thy loving heart's  
care.  
Thou hast tasted of earth's dearest  
sorrow,  
But never it's sin or it's stain,  
Immaculate Mother of Jesus,  
Immaculate ever remain.  
We come to thy altar, sweet Mother,  
With hymns, and with chant, and  
with prayer;  
Accept all thy children's devotion,  
And grant us thy loving heart's  
care.  
AGNES BURT.  
December 8th, 1893.

# NOTE AND COMMENT

The desire of a reunion of the Nationalist forces in Ireland is finding expression in resolutions passed by representative bodies all over the country.

The Limerick Board of Guardians has passed the following:-  
"We, the members of the committee appointed by the meeting of the Nationalist members of the Limerick Board of Guardians for the purpose of preparing resolutions to be laid before the next meeting of the board, have this day met and after due deliberation have agreed that the time has now arrived when it is essential for the safety of the Irish cause that all sections of the Nationalist Parliamentary representatives of Ireland, as well as the general body of Nationalists in this country, should unite and work in one party on lines of perfect independence of all English parties for the good of Ireland. That we now respectfully call upon all the Nationalist members of Parliament to arrange a friendly conference with a view to their reunion in one party on the lines above stated, and that the further consideration of this subject be adjourned to this day six weeks, pending the action of the Nationalist members in response to this resolution."

Tipperary's resolution read thus:-  
"We, the representatives of the people of Old Clanwilliam, believe the time has arrived in this memorable year of '98 when the leaders of all sections of Irish Nationalists should another discord and stand shoulder to shoulder, as of old, for the good of their bleeding country. The general weakness of the people for the past few years proves incontrovertibly the fatal consequences of disunion, and it clearly becomes the duty of every honest Irish Nationalist, a duty he owes to his country, himself, and those who will come after him, to put his foot down and say we will have no more of it. The dead past should bury its dead, the mistakes and differences of the past by whoever made should be forgotten, and the whole common sense of the country, which now becomes the truest patriotism, should be directed to Ireland's future welfare."

In view of the almost unanimous desire for unity, of which the foregoing resolutions are sample expressions, the members of Parliament and other delegates who attended the recent Nationalist Convention have passed a resolution accepting and approving the proposal of the Limerick Board of Guardians, and declaring that "believing a reunion of the Nationalist forces to be the safety of the National cause, we welcome the movement in favor of National unity, which has spread through the country within the past few weeks, and we request Mr. Dillon, as chairman of the Irish Party to do all in his power to promote such a conference." If disunion continues to exist in the Nationalist ranks the leaders of the Irish Parliamentary party will not be to blame for it.

Special reasons present themselves in favor of a speedy reunion of all sections of the Irish Party. The approaching sessions of the British Parliament will possess more than ordinary interest for Irishmen. In one form or another, the question of the financial relations between Ireland and Great Britain will be brought up for discussion. The proposed Catholic University project will come to the front, and so, too, will the land problem be raised. In the form of the establishment of a Board of Agriculture, and proposals to drive famine forever out of the

There is still another reason why national unity should be restored without delay. The elections for County and District Councils, under the new local Government Act, are approaching, and the selection of candidates must be proceeded with at once. Care must be taken that the machinery of this important instalment of Home Rule shall be controlled by the Nationalists. Only men well qualified for membership of these councils should be chosen, as upon the capacity and character of the men elected will depend the success or failure of the working of the Act.

From these considerations it is clear that the public men in Ireland, who either openly or covertly strive to prevent the restoration of unity to the Irish National ranks is an enemy of his country.

# PARAGRAPHS FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

Most men who drink are a tall defied notion that drink is good for them, while all are convinced that it does them no harm. If the young men of our cities would only be convinced that liquor for which they spend so much of their hard earnings was a positive evil to them physically and morally! If they only realized that they would be better men every way without it!

What is all our boasted civilization worth when half the deaths of the land are directly or remotely traceable to liquor; when the liquor interest, entrenched in our large cities, governs and controls the nation? These are physical evils for which the leading art has not yet found a remedy. There are moral evils with which civilization seems powerless to cope. This is one of them.--Western Watchman.

Not long ago there was a loud outcry about the survival of superstition in Ireland because of a case in which an ignorant peasant manifested a belief in the theory of fairy changelings. But we have heard very little as yet about the discovery that the belief in witchcraft still survives in superior England, and that not in an isolated individual case, but in a whole district--probably in many other districts as well. The parish of Yedham, in Essex, has got rid of its local witch by what the people doubtless regard as a happy accident. The witch was an old woman who, with her family, was boycotted for years and had quite a struggle to live because she was credited with the power of the "evil eye." Any

she was subjected to all kinds of evils. Her daughter died from the effect of the late excessive heat. A few days afterward the son, who worked as a carter, fell off the shafts of the wagon and was killed on the spot. Then the mother, who was eighty-five years of age, herself died of grief at the loss of her children. The villagers, however, were not satisfied with the cause of her death. She was a witch, and it was assumed that she died because she was tired of life, and that she had bewitched her son and daughter and had thus caused their deaths because she would not leave them behind her.--Catholic Standard and Times.

A Protestant missionary who has had considerable experience in the Italian field, Rev. Dr. Taylor, has just published a work, "Italy and the Italians" which gives us some interesting information regarding the results of Protestant propaganda in King Humbert's realm.

Since 1850, according to the work, Protestantism has been engaged in persistent efforts to win adherents for its various sects in Italy. Millions of dollars, it is said, have been collected and expended during the past 48 years in these Protestant Italian missions; and according to Dr. Taylor, the net returns of all this expenditure and the nearly fifty years of Protestant missionary efforts, are 5,000 Italians who now, outwardly at least, profess themselves Protestants; though probably not a tenth part of them are Protestants at heart.

At this rate of progress it would take Protestantism 5,000 years to convert the 30,000,000 of people who dwell in Italy; and the same believer in Protestant Italian missions must acknowledge that, judging by Dr. Taylor's showing, the Italian Protestant missions have been a very poor investment.

These are no worse an investment, though, than similar missions have proven in other Catholic countries. The same story which Dr. Taylor tells about Italy could be told about Mexico, Spain and other lands. There will be the same story to tell some day in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, if our Protestant friends commit the folly of spending money and sending preachers to those islands in the vain hope that thus they will win the Catholic islanders over to Protestantism.--Catholic Columbian.

Mr. John Phoenix, a staunch supporter of the "True Witness," and well-known in circles of Irish-Catholics of Montreal, gave a striking evidence of his memory for faces at the St. Lawrence Hall last week, when he recognized a distinguished priest, in the person of the Very Rev. Thomas E. Walsh, D.D., of Plattsburgh, N. Y., who was visiting Montreal for a few days.

Mr. Phoenix had met Father Walsh in the County of Kerry 38 years ago. Needless to say that Mr. Phoenix, was overjoyed at the meeting and proud of his townsman.

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Montreal, 6th December, 1895.

MADORE, GUERIN & PERRON,  
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