

THE MOTHERLAND

Latest Mails from ENGLAND IRELAND and SCOTLAND

The refusal of the Belfast Corporation to make an annual grant in aid of the Mater Hospital, Belfast, is commented upon. The Hospital is open to all sections of the population. But while the Corporation are promoting a bill to enable them to make a grant to the Victoria Hospital, which is to be under exclusively Protestant government, they refuse to make any contribution to the Mater.

A meeting of the residents of Lisdoonvarna has been held to protest against the attempted establishment of a monopoly in the sulphur springs, upon free access to which the prosperity of this popular health resort depends. It was one of the few prosperous ones now in Ireland, and the action of the Representative Church Body in reference to it is hard to understand. The promoters of the meeting point out that the people of Lisdoonvarna have by their unaided efforts succeeded in establishing the watering place in public favor and making it a boon to the public at large. The Representative Church Body have not spent a penny upon the place. Yet they now seek to appropriate the improvements effected by the local improvement committee at considerable expense, and to establish a monopoly in the springs, the free unobstructed use of which the public have enjoyed from time immemorial.

The Irish Dairy Association at a meeting held in Cork, passed resolutions affecting in an important manner the safeguarding of the improvement of the butter interest of the country. Amongst the recommendations made were to the effect that a court of reference on which Ireland should have representation should be established to fix the standard of purity, etc., that dairy products should be examined at ports so as to prevent the importation of adulterated products, and the mixture of margarine with butter as well as the artificial coloring of margarine should be prohibited by law, and that fraudulent sale of margarine as butter should be met not by a fine as hitherto, but by imprisonment without the option of a fine.

An attempt having been made by the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava on behalf of the Landlords' Convention to deprive the tenants of Ulster of the benefit of their ancient and cherished Custom the first legal pronouncement has gone decidedly in favor of the tenants. After five days' legal discussion the Commission has decided in favor of the tenants. Mr. Bailey has spared no pains to elucidate and explain the law bearing upon the knotty questions which were involved in the consideration of this question. No subject connected with the administration of the law in Ireland requires more patient thought and more careful consideration to comprehend. Mr. Bailey has dealt with the various elements of the Custom and its application in the fixing of fair rents in Ulster with exhaustive perspicacity, and he has contributed one of the clearest expositions, from a legal point of view, of the rights which pertain to the tenants of Ulster that has yet been given by any of the Land tribunals.

That the temperance cause is making steady progress in Ireland is evident. Those who can go back in memory for thirty years easily recognize the gratifying change that has taken place. Even on public holidays there is almost a complete absence of drunkenness. The principal centres of population can compare favorably with those of any other country. In Dublin the Sacred Thirst Branch of St. Patrick's League of the Cross, which held its eighteenth annual meeting last week has done, and continues to do, splendid work. The report submitted by Mr. Michael Dunne, B.L., shows a record of steady achievement and unbroken success.

The papers publish a significant and sympathetic note from Mr. Edward Carson, Q.C., to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, enclosing a cheque of £10 towards relieving distress in the West of Ireland. "I am sorry," Mr. Carson pointedly adds, "that I was uninformed that the matter of the distress would be brought up in the House of Commons last week, or I would have been in my place to show my sympathy with the attempt to relieve this most deplorable calamity."

Mr. Gerald Balfour's snar at the poor contained in his reference to champagne and the Riviera has caused great indignation in Ireland. The Lord Mayor of Dublin has strongly condemned the inequality of the Government last year reported that the crop was one-half less than it should be in an ordinary year, that he has urged these reports upon the notice of the Government, and that nothing has yet been done. The people have no food, and unless they receive State assistance before the end of three months there will be more people in their graves and more starvation than in any year since 1848. The Lord Mayor further says he has received numerous letters, not from

parish priests alone but from Protestant clergymen, from rectors, resident magistrates, telling him of the deplorable state of conditions. He desires to arouse the country to the existing affairs, and to tell the people of Dublin that Manchester is doing more for their countrymen than Dublin has done. He expects to go to Cardiff in six months on the invitation of the Mayor, and will confer with the officials there with a view to the establishment of a distress fund in that town.

ENGLAND. A Drama by Mrs. T. P. O'Connor. Exceptional interest has been aroused in theatrical circles by the announcement that a drama of Irish life by Mrs. T. P. O'Connor is about to be produced. It is understood that the main episode of the play is founded upon fact, and deals with events now of historic political interest, though occurring within the memory of the present generation. The play will probably be produced within the next month by Kyrie Hall at Liverpool, and it will next be acted in Dublin. The manuscript is said by more than one expert in dramatic work, and to be decided success and great things have been predicted for it on the stage.

The Pope and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The following letter was read at the quarterly meeting of the London St. Vincent de Paul Society:

To Our Dear Son, A. Pages, President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris, Leo XIII., Pope, Beloved Son, health and Apostolic Benediction. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul devotes itself entirely, in its spirit and by its rules, to relieving the sufferings of the wretched; it is whole care, to imitate and reproduce the boundless charity of Christ; and, consequently, it has always been, and it is, the object of Our most affectionate interest. Therefore We receive with heartfelt satisfaction the letters by which from year to year you attest your reverence towards Ourselves, and you recount the progress constantly effected by your works with the aid of Divine goodness. But the reading of the letter which was sent to Us recently has been even more pleasing to Us than usual, particularly on account of two things, which it is known to all We have greatly at heart. We have, indeed, learned that your organization is being developed amongst the English people, and that you are actively engaged in ameliorating the condition of the suffering poor by founding societies of mutual aid for working men. From these two facts the best results may be hoped for—the one will certainly move the hearts of those who are not in communication with Us, and will strongly urge them to hasten the moment of reunion, the other will avert from civil society the danger that is created by the subversive maxims of the Socialists, and is approaching nearer every day. Accordingly We return thanks to Almighty God for having aided so liberally your plans and your labors; We accord to you the praise you so well deserve; and We add to it, as a further stimulus, Our exhortations to extend your labors to wider fields of action. Finally, as a testimony of Our good-will, and as a pledge of divine favor, We grant to you most affectionately the Lord's apostolic Benediction, to you, dear Son, to the chosen men who form your council in the government of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and to all the members of the society.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, 10th of February, 1898, the twentieth year of Our Pontificate.

Leo XIII., Pope. The Catholic Relief Bill. The following is the text of the Bill to abolish disabilities still affecting Roman Catholics in the United Kingdom which has been brought in by Lord Edmund Talbot:

"Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:— 1. Notwithstanding any Act of Parliament to the contrary it shall be, and shall be deemed to have been lawful for Jesuits and members of other religious orders, communities, or societies of the Roman Catholic Church (described in certain Acts of Parliament, including the Roman Catholic Relief Act, 1829, as the Church of Rome) bound by monastic or religious vows to reside in the United Kingdom. 2. It shall be, and shall be deemed to have been, lawful for Jesuits and for members of other religious orders, communities, or societies of the said Church bound by monastic or religious vows to take and accept any property in like manner as if no Act of Parliament had been passed for the suppression or prohibition of or imposition of restraints and disabilities on same, provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall extend to any property in respect of which it has been judicially determined that it was illegal for Jesuits or for members of other religious orders, communities, or societies as aforesaid to take or acquire same. Provided

also that nothing herein contained shall extend to any property given by deed or will, or otherwise, to Jesuits or members of other religious orders, communities, or societies as aforesaid, which property is now in the actual possession of the person or persons beneficially entitled thereto, on account of the gift of the said property having been void under the law as existing before the passing of this Act. 3. There shall be repealed as from the passing of this Act so much of any Act of Parliament as makes any provision for the suppression or prohibition of, or for imposing restraints and disabilities on, Jesuits or members of other religious orders, communities, or societies as aforesaid, and also, and more particularly, the enactments set forth in schedule hereto to the extent in the second column of that schedule mentioned. 4. The expression 'property' in this Act shall mean both real and personal property. 5. This Act may be cited as the Catholic Relief Act, 1898."

The annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society of England, was held at Archbishop's House, London. The Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster presided, and amongst a large company present were his Lordship the Bishop of Portsmouth, his Lordship the Bishop of Olfon, his Lordship the Bishop of Exeter, and the Rev. Father Coleman read the annual report. It was satisfactory to announce a steady increase in all classes of publications. While they had done something to comply with the growing demand for volumes suitable for schools and home libraries, they had always kept in mind the importance of adding to the number of cheap publications suitable for distribution; and numerous additions had been made to the list in each of these directions. It should, however, be mentioned that the list of leaflets for distribution had been considerably augmented, although there was ample room for further extension in this direction. They had to record the discontinuance of the Catholic Magazine. This was undertaken as an experiment which had not proved successful. The recent attitude of certain Nonconformists, of whom Mr. Hugh Price Hughes and Dr. Horton were types, had rendered it more necessary than ever to counteract mis-statements directed against the Church; and the Society was becoming more and more recognized as a leading body in the religious and social movement. In last year's report they expressed a desire to originate a staff of lecturers who would visit various parts of the country and deliver lectures on Catholic subjects to mixed audiences. This had already been carried out to a small extent in some of the local centres of the Society; and an arrangement had now been made by which Mr. Robert E. Doll, an experienced and qualified speaker, would be prepared to deliver such lectures under the auspices of the Society. The committee were anxious to impress upon members the importance of obtaining fresh subscribers to the work. It should not be difficult to double the present subscription list and by so doing to render the work of the Society far more extensive than it could hitherto become with its present limited income.

Mr. Hollams, King (hon. tresor), read the financial statement, showing that the Society was in a fairly good position in regard to liability and assets. The principal cause of dissatisfaction was the non-payment of subscriptions, a very large number of people on the list as subscribers not having paid for the present year. Many had not paid for several years, or noticed the repeated applications made to them. There was also a slackness as regards new subscribers coming forward.

SCOTLAND. Old Scottish Bells of the Faith. At a meeting of the Dumfriesshire Antiquarian Society Mr. James Barbour, architect, read a paper on the church bells of Liffelywood and Kirkmabock and the church and municipal bells of Liffelywood. With reference to the Holywood bells, which belonged to the old monastery of that name, and are now in the Parish Church tower, the earliest mentioned of them is contained, he said, in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account (1789), where it is said—"The present church has two fine bells, taken out of the old building, one of which, by an inscription and date on it, appears to have been consecrated by the abbot, John White, in the year 1154." That reading had not been accepted for over a hundred years, but it had long been known to antiquaries, since the oldest dated bell known to exist in England was marked 1298. He had himself taken a rubbing of the inscription, which he translated as follows: "I, Welch, abbot of Holywood, caused me to be made in the year of Our Lord (one thousand) five hundred and five.

One Source of Pain and Suffering Under Human Control. The remedy known as South American Kidney Cure never fails to give relief in six hours in all derangements of the kidneys or bladder. Bright's disease, diabetes, inflammation or ulceration of the kidneys, neuralgia, consumption, hemorrhage and catarrh of the kidneys, inflammation of the bladder, etc. It purifies and regulates the urine, removes sediment in urine and prevents scaling. It is worth a thousand times its cost for curing the most obstinate cases of enlargement, inflammation and ulceration of the prostate gland.

A LETTER FROM SPAIN.

(WRITTEN FOR THE REGISTER.)

Some fourteen months ago the readers of THE CATHOLIC REGISTER were favored with a description, however humble and unpretentious, of the immense and equally profitable and productive Spanish thread factory which the Messrs. Coates & Co., of Paisley, Scotland, had erected by the verdant banks of the Forth—"Las Navas Hilarteras del Tor"—in the centre of one of the most picturesque Pyrenean regions of North Catalonia, Spain. The genial weather of this year's spring, and the repose from literary labors during the Easter holidays, combined with the still greater inducement and attraction of being present at the truly imposing ceremony of the benediction of the new Roman Catholic Church, which this truly popular and no less truly literary company have erected and endowed for their countrymen as well as Catholics, within their own grounds, influenced me to return to the scene of my former visit and renew the acquaintance then made of dear and repeated friends, whose kindness and hospitality, I can neither easily forget or still adequately recall. And although I missed the kind familiar faces and courtly and courteous presence of its former director, Mr. R. Cornthwaite, I found to-day to replace him as my host and co-cere, a worthy substitute, Mr. R. Scott, who is one of the most efficient, intelligent and respected of its staff, for his popularity has won for him the esteem and respect not only of these humble peasants who daily labor under his superintendence and direction, but he too has earned the friendship of no less a personage than one of the leading and revered figures in the episcopate of the Peninsula—His Excellency, the Bishop of the diocese and Senator to its national congress—as well as that of the clergy and laity of this district. Eighteen months ago amidst scenes that inundated with torrents of gladness this mountainous district, amidst feasts the remembrance of which the poor of the whole district can never blot out from their memory, when the directorate ceased and faded them with a banquet that left nothing to be desired, no want to be satisfied, the illustrious prelate, Dr. Morgades y Gall, solemnly blessed the foundation stone of this beautiful new church, which to-day delights the eyes and gladdens the hearts of the old, diminutive and rudely constructed chapel and hermitage, in the picturesque, verdant one of the heights of those adjacent hills, that overhang the factory, and in which our sainted Mother Mary was honored and venerated under the title of Our Lady of Borgona, thus adding to her long list of sanctuaries in her honor that crown every hill-top and dot every landscape of the Spanish Peninsula for Spain for beauty of design, loveliness of situation and solidity of workmanship. To the generosity and high-minded liberality of a Scotch Protestant firm is not only due this pleasing magic transformation, but also the material blessings their welcomed exchequer and a happy, propitious advent have carried to regions of barren hills and trampled wastes, poor, solitary, ragged and inhospitable, in the establishment in its midst of a thread factory at once fairly-located in splendour, and colossal in strength, which the last five years has been unceasingly the centre of labor, another ever-flowing fountain of golden and silver wealth for the thousands who participate in the sunshine of its presence, in the wonderful trophies of its industry.

None more heartily, none more sincerely gave the welcoming "bienvenida" to the Christian philanthropy of this foreign syndicate of Messrs. Coates & Co. than His Excellency the Bishop of Vich, in whose diocese the factory is situated. When once he was convinced that they came solely to manufacture and dispose of their vast Spanish thread, and that in the smallest way to be the propagandists of a religion alien to the people, hostile to their convictions, distasteful to their traditions and opposed to the customs and natural religious habits of this truly Catholic province. With this assurance, then, that their industry would never be tainted with the nauseous odor of bigotry, and that it would never be made the cloak of proselytism, or its directorate or its managerial staff become the patrons and supporters of a religious tyranny to its Spanish artisans; in fact to use the expressive words of His Excellency that at once dissolved carrying the "negro garbanzo," or blackness, with it might throw out its roots, even in a hostile soil. Dr. Morgades not only laid the foundation stone, but for two years watched carefully and paternally over the progress of the works, and to-day (Easter Monday) had the extreme happiness of raising within its spacious aisles and beneath its lofty dome his voice in thrilling tone and eloquent sentences, as "Te Deum" of great

include Almighty God and to His Immaculate Mother, for the spiritual and material happiness of British capital and British liberality had brought into their midst, scattering over their homesteads material benefits that years ago would scarcely be dreamt of. Spiritual blessings that would be deemed visionary and unattainable, schools established for their children, an hospital for their sick, sanitary and spacious homes for themselves and for their families, and finally to crown the litany of their good and noble works, a church in the form of a Latin cross, spacious and highly ornamental, in which the Unbloody Sacrifice of Calvary will be daily offered, in which the divine prisoner of love, our Lord and our God, the eternal Son of the eternal Father will ever find a hermit home in the tabernacle of their beautiful and artistic altar, over which rises to complete its beauty a masterpiece of the artist's chisel, the exquisite statue of our Lady of Borgona. The ceremony of benediction was announced for 10 o'clock, a.m., and to the minute the illustrious prelate was seen approaching. His arrival was the signal for an outburst of popular enthusiasm, which neither the solemnity of the ritual nor the sacredness of the site could suppress, so dearly loved is this patriotic prelate by rich and poor, equally by his clergy as by the laity, not alone by those scattered over the vast diocese of St. Olive, but by the entire people of his native province. The town councillors and "alcaldes" of the neighboring "aldeas" of St. Vincent de Torrello, the priests of the adjacent district, together with the very Rev. Jose de Viloson of the monastic church of Santa Maria de Ripoll, received him at the entrance of the church, and at once the ceremony commenced. His Excellency, crosier in hand and mitre on head, performed personally the blessing in order to at once prove his gratitude, not alone in converting this district of once clamorous poverty into a region of "milk and honey," but particularly to evidence that the generous liberality of Messrs. Coates in adding spiritual blessings to the material happiness of the district found a response in Spanish hearts, and was therefore sought to be fully appreciated by him, at a value which this world cannot estimate but which eternity will reward. The presence of a congregation that not alone thronged to overflowing the new church, but even crowded along its terrace and filled its approaches with the ever-increasing vastness of its numbers; at once bespoke the local interest the ceremonies had evoked in the great district, in a locality in a mountain region, and as a sweet evening landscape, and surrounded on all sides by the poetry of nature. The ceremony being concluded, high Mass, solemn pontifical, was commenced, the celebrant being the very Rev. Ramon Vila, chaplain of the sanctuary. At the Gospel, His Excellency arose in the pulpit, and taking his text from the gospel of St. Matthew, the gifted prelate for over an hour held captive the vast audience by a sermon in the provincial dialect, in the tongue of their ancient country and sainted abbots and bishops, overflowing with a sweet convincing eloquence that is rare, with a brilliancy of description that was admirable, with the logic of facts that was unanswerable, as he treated of the great problem of the hour, the vexed perplexed question of the day—"the social question." He dwelt on the relation of man and master, of lord and serf, the necessity of labour in order to obtain the means of subsistence, since those days at creation's dawn when man was condemned to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow; the example of 2,000 years afterwards shown by our divine Saviour himself during his hidden life of eighteen years in St. Joseph's workshop of Nazareth; in the fulfilment of this precept given to our first parents; the subsequent division of the human family after the fall; unto those who actually labour and those who by capital contribute to its support and continuance; the absolute necessity of harmony between these great elements, in order that peace, wealth and tranquillity may flow to both. Each fully aware of the solidity of a master mind was laid clearly and concisely before the minds of the vast audience, so that the most illiterate could reflect on the prudence and wisdom which his teachings inculcated on the poor and the labourer, whilst from the rich and the affluent he sought a generous and an honest sympathy and assistance with the working man, the employer of labour, a broad-minded charity and a kindly consideration for the employees. And when to-day he eloquently and earnestly solicited others to follow the footsteps and imitate the example so laudably furnished by British capitalists in their midst, for their liberality and Christian philanthropy. He said the generous cordiality that existed between the employer and employee afforded a panacea for the clamorous discontent in the workshop, for the incessant strikes of the factories and foundries of other districts, and which when timely applied, as is known within our view, visibly turns at once wells of bitterness into springs of freshness and content, and of commercial life, and thus robbing the "May Day" procession, the assemblages and demonstrations of labour of their terror and of those oft well-founded fears, which in the past had possessed unshaken the "hated bourgeois." His

Excellency having descended from the pulpit the high Mass was proceeded with, and at its conclusion the orchestra, including a "Bible" to our Immaculate Mother, followed with a "Te Deum," in which the congregation joined with a joy, a happiness and a satisfaction which at once displayed the flavor of gladness that this glorious event had carried to their souls. A few days after this auspicious event His Excellency Dr. Morgades y Gall was unanimously selected as Senator to the National Congress, to take his seat in the blue benches of its House of Lords with the nobles and exalted of the land, as the chosen representative of the ecclesiastical province of Tarragona, a selection that at once demonstrates his popularity and fitness to be the spokesman of his native province in the highest assemblage of the nation. "Ad multos annos!"—JUAN PEDRO.

The Doctors are Angry.

A good reason for feeling dissatisfied is when you fall, and that is what the Doctors did in their attempt to secure a case of Acute Muscular Rheumatism and Ulcerated Stomach. Mrs. Eva Partridge, 23 Woodbine Crescent, Hamilton, Ont., says she had a most healthy man's Kitchener's Cure for Rheumatism, with life comfort, after 4 years of Rheumatism suffering, 6 months of which she lived entirely on liquid food, and that four doctors failed to cure her. Write for particulars and chart book, free.

Americans Repulsed from Cuban Soil.

A special despatch from Havana dated May 14th says: Four American ships opened fire on Cienfuegos yesterday morning and attempted to land men and arms in barges. The Spanish troops, assisted by the forts drove off the invaders. The Americans destroyed the cable station. A second attempt to land was also frustrated. Altogether 14 Spaniards were wounded. The Americans must have lost heavily. The fighting continued eight hours.

A despatch received in London on the same day says: Cienfuegos has been again bombed by the American fleet. Warships appeared off the city yesterday and engaged the city's defences with a well-directed fire. The bombardment of Cienfuegos was simultaneous with that of Cardenas. Six warships took part in it. The Americans landed a boat at Cardenas, capturing a signal station there. The American warships then entered the bay and opened a hot fire on the batteries on shore. Many shells dropped in the city. The Spanish gunboat Antonia Lopez, which replied, was sunk by a shell. The Americans attempted to land, but were driven off by the Spaniards. The United States gunboats Wilmington, the torpedo boat Winslow and the auxiliary gunboat Hudson were engaged. One officer and three men were killed and several were wounded.

The United States gunboat Hudson brought into Key West on Thursday morning May 14th the bodies of our dead men. They were Ensign W. Bagley and four others of the torpedo boat Winslow, who were killed in the engagement in Cardenas harbor yesterday afternoon. The bodies were covered by the Star and Stripes. The Hudson also brought in Captain Burdow, of the Winslow, who is slightly wounded, and several others of the Winslow's crew, who are wounded.

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