

W. J. D. CROKE ON CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL.

The following is taken from the Rome correspondence which Dr. Croke writes for a syndicate of American Catholic papers.

All who have had any acquaintance with Cardinal Merry del Val must feel that he is a man of iron will. "He was born under a lucky star," some one remarked to a Cardinal on learning the news of his appointment. "Not so much born," was the answer, "as placed under it by his own strenuous willing." "Voll, voll, fortissima mente voll," he might say with Alfieri, who, by sheer will-power made himself a scholar, a poet, and the most eminent writer for the Italian tragic stage, as the readers of Vernon Lee's vividly human Countess of Albany should remember.

His strength of will—which by the way, is not clad in any complete Italian, and still less, in any Spanish disguise of courtesy—covers without, however, its being comprised in this, immense prudence and reserve. But not silence, for he is one of the most loquacious of men, and while his manners are those of London, he has a Castilian flow of eloquence in Spanish, English, French, and—I believe—German, which makes the eloquent style of the half-Spanish Wiseman (with whose life his career has so many points of resemblance) look like a stony mountain torrent. Only the ceaseless talking of Castelar (who as a brilliant observer has said, glugged and swamped Spain instead of saving it) does not dwindle into insignificance beside the pace, the colors, the sound, the rushing abundance of the new secretary's conversation.

His habitual self-suppression makes possible this amazing utterance, giving it zest for him; and only his long caution and flexible will-power could effectually keep him from indiscretions. But he has never sought out people; they have gone to him. Thus, given his position, every conversation has become a sort of consultation, for he was confessor, spiritual director, controversialist, polemical writer, lecturer or—better—conferencier, preacher. Hence his conversation has run on the safest topics, not personal to him, orthodox in themselves and edifying to the hearer; and if questions too adroit were set he had a ruthless dexterity for putting them aside which no Roman prelate has or uses.

An amusing instance of his literary style was given a few years ago, when he had to translate the reply to Leo XIII. to an English pilgrimage. The tired Pope spoke in brief sentences which formed tiny paragraphs. He stopped after each one. Mgr. Merry del Val, standing, delivered, as if without preparation, the reduction of a vast and ornate discourse. Leo XIII. had said: "Many (or 'some') of you are Irish." The Italians pleasantly call translators betrayers: "traduttore, traditore." Mgr. Merry del Val softened the adjective into "of Irish descent," or "Irish relationship."

WILL HE BE POPE?

Cardinal Rampolla had passed forty when, some seventeen years ago, he was called to be secretary of State. The intense self-devotion of that comparatively brief space of time brought him within an ace of the tiara. His successor is less than forty, and, if he be the first foreign secretary of state, he must inevitably create chances for his becoming the first foreign Pope since Adrian VI. (1522-1523). The papal secretariate of state is an institution substituted in modern times for the mediaeval chancellorship, and this first innovation in its history may well lead to a change in the traditions of the papal throne itself. What is certain is, that a man of youth, if but of indifferent health, of nervously strong, though delicate physique, of adamant will, and restless energy, kept in perfect control, who has proved successful in every other considerable charge entrusted to him, and who has always mounted by leaps, has been raised to an elevation, where it will long remain a surprise to behold a foreigner, and that the English and Irish leaven in his character has told for much in the choice.

Let us hope that no one has been so foolish as to declare that Cardinal Merry del Val will prove hostile to the United States, since even the Times has declared it to be an open secret that he is a persona grata, with the American government, which actually requested that he should be sent as delegate to the Philippines. I hope that I commit no indiscretion in saying that his warmest friend in Rome is an American of Americans. For the rest the American colony had a place with the English and Spanish at the private ceremony of his reception of the berretta.

THE DOINGS OF PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES IN TURKEY.

Referring to the recent troubles in Turkey, General B. Williams, a former resident of Washington, D.C. writes an interesting letter, illustrating the pernicious activities of the Protestant missionaries in Turkey. That the statements are reliable is questioned by no one who knows the general. I give here the most important features of his letter.

"Of all the people of southeastern Europe, the most honest, the most cleanly, the most generous, the most hospitable, and the least bigoted are the men that we Americans, looking through foreign political and American missionary eyes, call the 'unspeakable Turks.' I am not referring to the Turkish officials or upper classes, but to the ordinary, common, toiling, tax-paying man of the soil, the loom, and the shop.

"Ask any sane man who has been here and knows—your past and present diplomatic and consular agents, even your missionaries—they will, with hardly an exception, corroborate the above statement.

"Among the Turks you find no drunkards and no strumpets—you must look to the Armenians and Greeks for these—and the fact that the Sultan has from ten to fifteen millions contented Christian subjects does not evince much intolerance. He has, for example, more Greek subjects than the King of Greece, and they are all Christians. This talk of the 'fierce Moslem' is largely fancy. The Moslem does not worship Mahomet—does not look upon him as a God, as the Christian does upon Christ. Mahomet was merely a prophet, and they recognize that Christ was one, but they pretend that his teachings have been dethroned by the later revelations.

"And the bug-a-boo polygamy, there are not three hundred plural families in Turkey. How many are there in New York? The Moslem religion permits polygamy, but poverty, empty pockets, prevents it.

"If all this is true, why the frequent turmoils in Turkey? The answer is:

"First. The exceptional geographical position of Constantinople and the possession of the Bosphorus by Turkey, is a prize that Russia has fought, and will again fight, for, and which other nations will, if possible prevent her winning. The result is the corrupt use of money in Turkey by all parties, which accounts in part for the turmoil that often exists.

"Second. The machinations of Bulgaria and contiguous Macedonia. The pious missionaries are known to be mixed up in the intrigue, and Miss Missionary Stone was a cat's-paw in the hands of the conspirators. The ransom paid by Americans for her release was used to purchase arms and ammunition for the present insurgents.

"Third. The Armenians and the Missionaries! The Turk could handle the Russian and the Bulgarians, but when he has to fight for his life among the Armenians and Missionaries, it becomes a more serious thing. They are the curse of the country.

"It is pitiable to see the sleek Armenian bamboozling the witless missionary! The Armenians are members of the Armenian Church, with a few Roman Catholics and a few Protestants among them. The missionary thinks he is doing something to convert those people to his particular sect. His great weapon to accomplish this is the missionary schools, of which there are some 300 in Turkey being supported by certain soft-headed

missionary societies in the United States. And the Armenian students and graduates of these schools gradually imbue themselves with the idea that they are no longer Turkish subjects but a privileged class under the protection of the United States government. They, consequently, when opportunity occurs, foment political disturbances and are generally at the bottom of the internal intrigues of the country. The missionaries ask the United States to protect these schools, to urge the porte to recognize this protection, to have United States Consuls appointed at certain points where these schools are numerous, etc. And the United States is doing their bidding, in violation of treaties, of laws of common decency, and common sense. These Armenian schools are not attended by a single American student! What have we to do with them? Is it for Armenian schools our consular service was inaugurated? I say it is a corruption of the service, and that consuls should be withdrawn from places where there are no Americans, or American trade to justify their presence. The truth is well known to our government, but the powers that be have always bent their heads to the bigotry, the narrowness, the persistence, and the ignorance of the Board of Foreign Missions of our great and foolish country. If the auditing officers of the Treasury will submit a statement of the direct and indirect expense these schools and useless consuls, including the item of cablegrams, have been to the government, it will perhaps open the eyes of the taxpayers of our country."

E. L. SCHARF, Ph. D.

GOOD-BYE TO THE RAZOR.

A New York Physician Has Discovered a Formula For a Clean Shave.

According to Dr. W. E. Dreyfus, of New York, chief Chemist of the Department of Public Charities and Bellevue Hospital, the day for the razors is past. Dr. Dreyfus has finished his preparation of the hospital formula, which is said to be one of the most complete and extensive in the world. It is used as a basis every year for the national formula issued by the American Pharmaceutical Association. This year the formula contains 387 formulas, among them being some that are unique. One of these is a formula that consists of several ingredients that are to be made up in to a paste. According to the chemists, by allowing the paste to remain on the face for about two minutes it will give a result similar to that of a "clean shave." The formula is as follows:

Barrii sulphidi, 25 parts.
Saponis pulvis, 5 parts.
Talcii pulvis, 35 parts.
Benzaldehydi, quarter solution.
The formula also includes remedies for delirium tremens and a disinfectant for telephone receivers.

A newsboy saw a dime lying on the ground in the City Hall Park. A tramp sitting on a bench near by, saw the boy pick up the piece, and claimed it at once as his own.

"Your dime did not have a hole in it, did it?" asked the boy.

"Yes, it did," said the tramp, "give it up!"

"Well, this one has not got any hole in it so I guess I'll keep it."

CONSIDERATIONS ON CATHOLICISM.

By a Protestant Theologian.

Sacred Heart Review, CCLXXVII.

It must not be imagined that because the French Catholics were so profoundly devoted to the monarchy, and because this from the time of Clovis himself, and still more deeply from the time of Charles the Great has been indissolubly united both with religion and with nationality, therefore the Catholics imagined themselves slavishly bound to obey the mere arbitrary will of the monarch. On the contrary, whenever the States General had met, they had claimed and more or less carried out, a

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