

verse in principle to that carried into effect by his predecessor, the memory of its successes? In the fall of 1879 Mr. Gladstone made his famous Scotch tour, and aroused public opinion to an extraordinary degree against the government. Disraeli who had in 1876 assumed the title of Earl of Beaconsfield, appealed to the country in 1880 on a distinctive anti-Irish platform, as far as domestic legislation was concerned, but was overwhelmingly defeated. Mr. Gladstone, yielding to the pressure of his friends, once more assumed the leadership of the government, and has held the position since. The scope and character of his legislation since his last acceptance of office are too well known to require discussion at our hands. Its results will be judged hereafter. With many of his recent actions, notably his policy of coercion towards Ireland, we have no sympathy. But it was entirely unfair and unjust to deny that his last Land Act, and his Arrears of Rent Act, have already done and will do great good. It may be truly said that no man passes through life without making at least one great mistake. In looking over Mr. Gladstone's career for his great mistake, we lay our hand at once on his pamphlets on the Vatican Council and the Infallibility of the Pope. These publications drew from leading Catholic divines crushing rejoinders and placed their author in a position humiliating to himself and annoying to his friends and admirers. The effect of the controversy his writings created was the very opposite of that which he expected, but he bore his reverse on the field of religious polemics with an admirable degree of calmness.

Mr. Gladstone is now seventy-three years of age, and may for some years still continue to lead the Liberal party. At present that party, composed of so many heterogeneous elements, is held together mainly by the influence of his great force of character, the prestige of his eloquence and the renown of his past success.

ORDINATION.

On Thursday the 21st inst., the festival of St. Thomas, the apostle, His Lordship Bishop Walsh conferred the Holy Order of Priesthood on the Rev. Donald McRae, whose promotion to deaconship we last week noticed. The Rev. gentleman's ordination as Priest took place in the Bishop's chapel. His Lordship was assisted by Rev. Father Tierman, who acted as Archdeacon. The other clergy present were Rt. Rev. Mgr. Bruyere, V. G., Rev. Fathers Walsh, Cornyn and Coffey of the Palace, Rev. Father Hodgkinson of St. Thomas, and Rev. Father Brady of Mount Carmel. Amongst the laity present were Mr. John McRae of Glencoe, Ont., brother of the candidate for orders, Mr. Philip McRae, Mr. John McRae also of Glencoe, and Mr. and Mrs. Alex. McRae of Brechin, Ont., all relatives of the Rev. Father McRae. The altar of the chapel was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the ceremonial as usual exceedingly impressive. We tender Father McRae our hearty congratulations and wish him many years of good service and happiness in the holy ministry.

TIMELY WORDS.

His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec recently delivered in the Basilica of that city a forcible discourse on the subject of balls. His Grace drew attention to two principal dangers incidental to modern social assemblies of this character—immoral costumes and immoral dances. He reminded his hearers of the pastoral of Mgr. Turgeon wherein these dances were condemned as a *mark* of the devil, a stumbling block and a scandal, and declaring unworthy of sacraments those who gave themselves up to such practices or permitted them in their houses. He spoke in strong language of the evils of human respect. Grievous faults were often committed under the pretext of following fashion or custom, and through a fear of being considered singular. Human respect, His Grace pointed out, is folly and impiety—folly because, through fear of human reproach or condemnation, we expose ourselves to everlasting pain, impiety because putting on one side the opinions of men and the suggestions of Satan, and on the other the teachings of Jesus Christ, we give preference to the flesh and to Satan. His Grace then spoke of the Masonic Ball, which took place in

Quebec last winter and then reminded his people of the censures pronounced by the church against the order of Free Masons. He declared that any Catholic joining that body is *ipso facto* excommunicated, for no one can be a Catholic and Free Mason at the same time. He added that no Catholic can in conscience assist at balls or other like demonstrations, organized by Masons as such, because the presence of Catholics on such occasions would be an endorsement of their society and an encouragement to continue to promote its objects.

THE LATE FATHER STAFFORD

The Month's Mind of the late revered and long-to-be mourned priest of Lindsay, which took place some days ago, was a ceremony of deepest impressiveness and touching solemnity. His Lordship the Bishop of Peterboro' celebrated a Pontifical High Mass of Requiem, at which nearly all the clergy of his diocese and others from a distance assisted, together with a very large concourse of the well-stricken flock of the good, the gentle, the zealous and self-sacrificing priest whose loss they bewail. At the end of Mass, His Lordship addressed the congregation a few words of kindly reference to the deceased priest, which deeply touched all present. His fellow-priests were reminded by the good bishop's words of the loss of their tried friend, trusted counsellor and faithful co-operator. His people remembered the good pastor who sacrificed all for his flock—health, strength, even life itself.

No one reviewing the life, with all its noble deeds, of this faithful priest could fail to be convinced of the truth that it is grand. To see the soul in human eyes shine out divinely, great; To see men strike against the night of earthly wrong and sin; And search it with the searching might That speaks the God within. And that the men who—

—leave not sign nor groan, Who show the mark of wound and scar To God and heaven alone, Who bear their burdens, calm and strong, Through all that life endures— These too are heroes.

It is self-sacrifice that constitutes true heroism. A man may be successful on the battlefield, brilliant in the senate, a genius in the Cabinet, and yet be lacking in that essential requisite of heroism. Father Stafford was one of the many men endowed with that heroism to which the Church of God alone can elevate our humanity with its weaknesses and selfishness. Unselfish to an extraordinary degree in this age of greed and self-seeking was the late priest of Lindsay. His works are monumental attestations of his self-sacrificing zeal. He left behind him in Lindsay, church property not less than \$100,000 in value. There is the large, solid and well-appointed parish church, the commodious presbytery and the magnificent convent. This last structure alone cost more than \$50,000. Planned and built under the immediate supervision and direction of the late Father Stafford, it is one of the finest in the Province. It is in charge of the nuns of Loretto, who, under the guidance of their late pastor, were enabled to acquire for their institution a reputation that gives it a foremost rank amongst like establishments in Ontario.

The people of Lindsay are proverbial for their generosity, and contributed to the support of their pastor with no stinted hand. Out of their contributions for his support Father Stafford took barely what was necessary for his respectable maintenance, applying the remainder, amounting to more than \$2,000 per annum, to the diminution of the debt on the convent. But a small amount is now due on the convent, and this the present worthy pastor, Rev. Father Lynch, whose appointment we chronicled with pleasure a few days ago, has undertaken to pay off in the same way.

Father Stafford had made a will, but left nothing to his relatives. In fact, he had nothing to leave, if we except his fine library and household furniture. He directed that a price should be fixed on his furniture, which is to remain in the house and thus become parochial property. The price set on the furniture is to be devoted to the purchase of books, which, in addition to his own library, he wished to be made the beginning of a Parish Library for his beloved flock, whose welfare was with him uppermost even at the moment of death.

The good priest did not leave even money enough to cover the expenses of his funeral, which were borne by the people of Lindsay. Be it said, to the credit of his aged mother, brother and sisters, though to those who know them mention of the matter is unnecessary, that they have been quite pleased with the directions of the will. Its terms reflect more lustre on the honored dead and on his living relatives than could possibly any other disposition of his scanty means. Father Stafford was loved and revered in life. In death he will not be forgotten. He has left a name and an example that will be cherished by all who admire genuine piety, unaffected zeal, and veritable disinterestedness.

As Water Commissioner Mr. A. B. Powell has acted in such a manner as to deserve the support of the electors at the coming election. We hope the returns will show such a majority for him as will prove the citizens appreciate a good and honest administration of civic affairs.

HOME RULE.

Mr. Forster has demonstrated his fixed hostility to the promotion of Irish interests by his recent emphatic declarations against Home Rule. He declares that no government could withstand the popular fury that the adoption of a liberal Irish policy, looking to local self-government, would surely evoke. The great question is not, in our estimation, whether a government declaring itself in favor of Home Rule would fall or not; it is whether Ireland is or is not entitled to self-government. Mr. Forster, while Secretary for Ireland, ruled that country not as an integral portion of the United Kingdom, but as a mere dependency held by the right of conquest. He governed it not by Irish ideas, but on ideas inspired by British supremacy and the rights acquired by force. He now discusses the question of Home Rule for Ireland, not from the standpoint of Ireland's weal or woe, but from that of political expediency, and the interests of Britain, as supposed to be bound up with the maintenance of the legislative union in its present form.

Mr. Forster was long enough at the head of Irish affairs to know, but is yet, it appears, candid enough to refuse to admit, that the Irish question has advanced to the stage that, if legislative independence be not granted, there must be total separation. Mr. Gladstone has himself admitted again and again the reasonableness of the principle of Home Rule, and the British Parliament has shown itself incapable of meeting the requirements of local legislation in the three kingdoms. On all Irish questions the voice of Ireland's representatives are frequently disregarded and misapprehended into law which they and the people they represent reprobate and condemn. The result is dissatisfaction and animosity, often culminating in deeds of deplorable injustice and violence.

If British public men think that the bonds of connection between the two countries are to be strengthened by the maintenance of the present unjust system of government in that country, they must inevitably meet with disappointment. Mr. Forster cannot lay any just claim to statesmanship, or even ordinary political sagacity, when he advocates the continuance of a system condemned by every fair-minded man in Britain and execrated by the world at large.

A MODEL REVOLUTIONIST.

The death of Louis Blanc some weeks ago removed from the world's stage a revolutionist of the most approved character. He was an adventurer, literary and political, from boyhood. At nineteen years of age he contributed incendiary productions to the daily press of the French metropolis. He soon after became editor of *Le Sens*, and subsequently established the *Revue des Progrès*, a journal of pronounced socialist principles. His treatise on the "organization of labor," published in this paper, attracted widespread attention, and gave him immediate prominence in the socialist school of writers. His next work was *L'Histoire de la Révolution*, a review of the reign of Louis Philippe for ten years, from 1830 to 1840. In this work he unmercifully lashes the administration of that pusillanimous and treacherous monarch. The book attained a high degree of popularity and ran through several editions. Its influence on the public mind was very great, and largely contributed to the downfall of the monarchy in 1848. Louis Blanc's history of the French revolution, commenced before *L'Histoire de la Révolution*, was not completed till 1862, when it appeared in twelve volumes. It was also very extensively read, and confirmed its author in popularity with the revolutionary classes in France. The revolution of 1848 brought him into political prominence as a member of the Provisional government. That Government soon transferred its powers to a National Assembly. But the socialists, seeing that their peculiar doctrines were not likely to be reduced to practice, even under a republican form of government, revolted. Their revolt occasioned bloody struggles in the streets of Paris in May and June, 1848, in which Louis Blanc was accused of complicity and banished. He went to England, where he resided till after the fall of the third Napoleon, in September, 1870, when he returned to Paris. Against every dictate of prudence and patriotism he advised the continuance of the war with Germany. But in this he was as patriotic as the other leading republicans, who, by an insane selfishness and thirst for notoriety, caused to be inflicted on France evils it could never have suffered under a monarchical form of government. The war with Prussia was followed by the awful insurrection of the Commune. The Communists in their revolt were guided by the doctrine so often taught and advocated by Louis Blanc, that property is robbery. But he and others like him, the real authors of the outrages and brutal excesses of the deluded followers of Billaury, Cluseret, and Rigault, took care to keep themselves in positions of safety during the troubles. Some time after the rebellion had been extinguished in the blood of the country's noblest sons, Louis Blanc, as leader of the extreme, or "red" republicans, set on foot a movement

for the amnesty of the blood-thirsty criminals who on account of participation in the Communist revolt had been banished to New Caledonia. This movement was but too successful in its results. The latest agitation in which he took prominent part was that for the removal of the seat of government from Versailles to Paris. In this too the radical element was successful, and the momentary popularity of Louis Blanc greatly enhanced.

He has now disappeared, but cannot be mourned by any patriotic Frenchman, for he was in no sense either a patriot or good citizen. France has, to her grief, produced too many such men as Louis Blanc.

LAMENT OF ISRAEL'S CAPTAIN PRINCE.

The following lines are taken from Rev. Eneas Macdonnell Dawson's latest poem, "The Last Defender of Jerusalem," an able, spirited and most interesting composition:

Sad scenes are these to vanquished Israel.

Thus speaks the fallen Chief his grief and

"O darkest day, loved friends, that e'er

unrolled

Relentless Fate! Doomed are we to be-

hold,

We here in bonds, the hateful fiendish

deeds

Of heathen Rome, that thousand victims

speaks.

In hatred of our name, and with her gods

Confronts the God of Israel! No odds

She knows 'twixt Him who, awful, reigns

in Heaven,

And the dumb idols to her blindness

given.

With rites detestable she dares profane,

With victims' blood, spices and incense

vain.

The worship of our fathers: in her hand

The corner-stone, erst in Juda's land

Sweet odors poured, the angels bore on

high.

Rich fragrance, offerings meet to ascend

the sky.

Titus thanks God! vain mockery of

praise,

Whilst incense to his idols he can raise,

Holy and impure at once basely thrown

To his stocks and him who's God

alone!

How foul the revels of the Roman

horde!

All sorts of meats unclean defile their

board.

They glory in excess and pride in games,

Marked by such dastard cruelty as shames

Humanity. Of beasts the savage fights,

Will beasts devouring men, their chief

delights.

To cheer them Africa's fierce tigers play

With limbs of tortured captives; in the

fray

Lions starved commingling wildly

tear

Each victim quivering in extreme des-

pair.

Alas for Israel! are barbarous thrown

Her brave defenders to the brutes that

own

No mercy. Some, in fragments rudely

born

By ruthless soldiers, whilst are fiercely

borne

Others, not few, to instant death. No

end

To sanguinary deeds. Even willing lend

Their aid to slaughter's work they who

had fought

When o'er us victory was won, dear

bought.

Whom woful war, with beasts and mur-

derers, spares,

The pious Titus sells, like common wares,

And trading Egypt, eager, counts his

gains

From Juda's sons, rejoicing in their

pains

Some saves he, not for love he bears our

race,

But to ensure lost Israel's disgrace.

To Rome he means that we should

humbled go.

And there of Caesar's triumph crown the

show.

Thus glorious Titus in his conquering

powers

Defeat meanwhile, and continually ours.

O'er all these eastern climes unquestioned

sway

Vespasian holds. Ere long speeds he

away

In navies grand, that on the midland tide

Spreads far their swelling sails, and

proudly ride

Triumphant; hastes he to Rome with rich

spoils

Of subject nations—such of warlike toil

The Roman prize. With these, when

winter's o'er

Will join the trophies sad of Titus'

power.

Madly then will Rome, to slavery con-

signed,

Joy in his shame, blindness with chains

combined.

Yet comfort, ye, my friends, the book

of Fate

Anew shall be enrolled, and from that

date,

Not distant far, divided shall appear

That Empire grand the vanquished

nations fear.

Ere many days have sped, around these

shores

Defiance will be thrown to Roman pow-

ers;

A conquering prince will rudely trample

down

Rome's tyrant, and the Imperial crown

A mockery shall be, and men will scorn

The name of Roman now so proudly

borne.

Not yet a captive Israelite would say:

When name and Empire both have passed

away

Of haughty Rome, a people, yet to be,

Will conquering come, althwart the foam-

ing sea,

And glorious liberty, till then unknown,

These lands throughout will plant her

golden throne.

Mr. Stephen O'Meara is again a candi-

date for aldermanic honors. He has

proved himself the past two years one

of the best and most useful men in that

capacity that ever sat at the Board, and

we hope the electors will at the coming

elections show their appreciation of his

services by placing him at the head of the

poll.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It would appear after all that the police authorities have as yet obtained no satisfactory clue to the murderers of Lord Cavendish and Under Secretary Barke. The Lord Lieutenant has, we are now told, issued three new proclamations offering rewards for information relative to the Phoenix Park murders, namely, £5,000 for information leading to the conviction of the assassins, the authorities promising to ensure that the names of the informants will not be divulged; £1,000 to any accomplice in the crime, not the actual murderer, who will give information leading to the conviction of any of the actual murderers or accomplices; £500 for information leading to the identification of any accomplice or of the horse-car on which the assassins rode, or of the assassins' clothes or weapons, the money to be paid on corroboration of the information given by that in the possession of the authorities, even though no person be convicted. Persons desiring to tender information under the proclamation offering £500 reward can communicate with the police anonymously, and will receive an answer by advertisement. The latter offer is open to very decided objection and could not be made in any freely governed country.

From the Catholic Telegraph we take the following:

If the Irish have been conquered by the English, it is worth while for an Irishman to bear in mind that Ireland was conquered by one of the noblest and bravest nations ever the sun shone on. We gain nothing by trying to belittle a foe man worthy of our steel. Had the things been done in any State of the Union, which have been done of late in Ireland, the calm forbearance of England would stand out well by the contrast.

In these few lines there are several false assumptions which fairly surprise us. It is announced (1) that the Irish were conquered by the English, (2) that the Irish seek to belittle the English; (3) that the injustice to which Ireland has of late been subjected would under certain circumstances be inflicted on particular States of the American Union. Assumptions so untenable and so contrary to historical truth it has never been our lot to read in any journal claiming to be an organ of Catholic opinion.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN LONDON.

The festival of Christmas was celebrated with even more than usual éclat in the Catholic churches in this city. Pontifical High Mass had been announced for 6 a.m., but long before that hour the Cathedral was thronged. The altar was profusely and tastefully decorated, the floral display being particularly fine. A few minutes after six His Lordship entered, accompanied by his attendant priests. Rev. Mgr. Bruyere acted as assistant priest, Rev. Fathers Coffey and McRae as deacons of honor, Rev. Fathers Walsh and Cornyn as deacons of office, and Rev. Father Tierman, as master of Ceremonies. The service was throughout of a very impressive character. The musical portions of the mass were certainly fine. Mrs. Cruickshank presided with her accustomed ability at the organ, and Mr. Drumgoole was particularly happy in the Christmas hymn, which was rendered at the offertory. After the consecration Mr. Frank Coles, with more than ordinary success, gave a selection from Gounod.

After Mass His Lordship addressed the vast congregation in a few words of fervid exhortation. He spoke of the nature of the Christmas festival. It commemorated an event which characterized as the foundation of Christian hope, the main source of Christian joy, the expectation of salvation. He described the incarnation as the greatest of God's works, and one that should excite in us feelings of thankfulness and hope as well as a determination to co-operate with designs therein manifested. He prayed that day might be one of real joy to them all, the forerunner of everlasting bliss.

At 10.30 Rt. Rev. Mgr. Bruyere sang High Mass, attended by Rev. Fathers Tierman and Coffey as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. His Lordship the Bishop assisted in cope and mitre, attended by Rev. Fathers Walsh and McRae. After Mass the Bishop again spoke. He treated the subject of the incarnation of Christ in an eloquent and exhaustive manner. He began by showing the effect of original sin on mankind, and traced in terms truly pathetic the sad career of the human race from the fall of Adam till the coming of the Redeemer. None but a God could relieve man from the thralldom of sin, and the Son of God accordingly became the Son of man, that the sons of men might even dwell for some time on the life of Christ and the wonders which he wrought. The very character of his life, like that of his miracles, established his divinity. He came into the world at Bethlehem in poverty and suffering. The God who had commanded the thunders and lightning of Mount Sinai now became the slave and servant of all. Ought not this stupendous manifestation of mercy excite in human hearts a purpose to put to profit the graces accorded us through the incarnation? It should excite in our hearts the deepest love for God and a resolution to do all in our power to obtain eternal possession of Him, the blessing which, with everything else of good, temporal and spiritual, he earnestly wished them.

In the afternoon His Lordship visited the Sacred Heart Academy and the

Mount Hope Orphan Asylum, giving in both places an instruction listened to with great attention. His Lordship also officiated at Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament in both institutions. At St. Mary's Church, Rev. Father Cornyn officiated at all the services. At High Mass, the reverend gentleman delivered a brief, but forcible exhortation. The musical renditions were ably rendered by the choir, Miss Laura Nangle and Miss Nellie Murray, pupils of the Sacred Heart Academy, executed in very acceptable manner some choice selections. The collections in both churches reached the handsome figure of \$1,300. During the week ending with Christmas day about 1500 persons approached Holy Communion.

A Brave Sister of Charity.

Detroit, Dec. 21.—A fire was discovered at 2 o'clock Wednesday morning in the chapel of the Mercy Hospital, in the northern part of Big Rapids. So rapidly did it spread that the Sisters could do nothing towards extinguishing it. The building, a large frame structure, in twenty minutes was one complete mass of flames. There were many exciting scenes. It was a long time before any assistance reached the Sisters and the seventy inmates, but the Mother Superior was equal to the occasion. Ward after ward was visited and the occupants told of their danger. Those able to help themselves escaped by the windows and doors, whilst those unable to move by reason of broken limbs or sickness were assisted from the burning building, and thus every life was saved, though the sufferings of many were terrible. The doors of the various houses were opened, and the patients readily provided with temporary shelter. Later on an old building was secured, and thirty or forty patients removed thereto. Among the contents destroyed having no insurance was the well known library of over 2,000 volumes, contributed during his life time by Father Casick; also a few rare paintings.

FIRE IN PEMBROKE.

The flourishing town of Pembroke, on the Ottawa, was on the morning of the 20th visited by a serious conflagration. The fire broke out in the Ottawa Hotel, better known as the Copeland House, which spread with great rapidity, the whole building being in a few minutes enveloped in flames. The house was well filled with guests, servants, etc., whose frantic endeavors to escape, mingled with loud and pitiful appeals from the women, made the spectacle an awful one to behold. Every effort was made by the citizens to assist in rescuing the inmates and saving the adjoining buildings, which, owing to their proximity and inflammable nature, were in imminent danger, but not until the whole block was destroyed could the fire be got under control.

The total loss is estimated at \$100,000, divided among the following parties:—J. Copeland, T. & W. Murray, Edward Behan, V. Charron, R. B. Gray, E. Martin & Co., and Frank Thompson. Total insurance, \$25,000. Three lives were lost in the fire, two boys, servants at the hotel, and James Cameron, agent for J. R. Booth, of Ottawa.

William McKay Wright, ex-M. P.