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AN UNEXPECTED APPRECIATION.

The Church Times, one of the leading organs of the English established religion, pays a remarkable tribute to the loyalty of the Irish character both in regard to religion and politics.

With regard to the failure of the sects to secure foothold in Ireland The Church Times says:

Ireland here is marked contrast to England; the Reformation never really took root in Ireland to any extent; it is unnecessary to discuss the reasons why, but as a rule the original Irish all held to the "old religion," and hold to it still. They are unanimous in their attachment to it — an attachment which has borne severe and terrible tests from the campaign of Cromwell until the Emancipation Act of 1827 (1829—Ed C. R.). Here is a striking instance of the steadiness, the tenacity of the Irish mind in the spiritual sphere, it has never faltered, never wavered in its fealty to the Roman Church for a day, through evil report or good report, through all the centuries. This firmness shows that the Irish are not a flighty, changeable purposeless people, as some would have us suppose them to be. No; they are in no sense carried about by every blast of vain doctrine; but quite the contrary. We are not discussing the merits or demerits of the Roman Catholic Church in this article at all, all we contend for is that the original Irish people love her as their spiritual mother; they have always held to her, and always will hold to her, if we can forecast the future from the past, with the most affectionate fidelity.

The Irishman's religious loyalty gives fixity to his political opinions. Continuing the writer says: "The Irishman has in all great questions, both religious and political, a single eye and a single aim. His method of action is collective and concerted. The discipline of the Roman Church has taught him that. He is, moreover, patient as well as persevering. He knows that a generation is not a long space or period in the life of a Church or a nation, and therefore he is prepared to wait. There is an Irish proverb which well expresses his mental attitude. It is this: 'The first thread is not of the piece.' His own vast experience has taught him this, as later on he has often succeeded when first experiences have only foreshadowed failure and defeat. The moral of it all is that as regards determination of desire, perseverance in pursuit, patience under disappointment, and undying hopefulness of ultimate success, the Irishman is a far deeper man than strangers take him for. This view of him may be new to some, perhaps to many, but we believe it is founded on fact, and the more it is realized the better."

IRELAND IN WESTMINSTER.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, in this month's North American Review, strikes a note that will carry dismay to whatever part of Mr. Chamberlain's anatomy polite usage may call his heart, when he says that any attempt to reduce the Irish representation at Westminster would unite Ulster with the South and make all Irishmen a political unit. Prof. Smith understands respectable English opinion in regard to Mr. Chamberlain's bluster. The London Speaker, one of the most reliable publications in the Kingdom, writes as follows with reference to the Brummagen plan of cutting down Irish Parliamentary representation:

"The first thing that strikes one about this particular agitation is that it is a puerile expedient for dealing with the difficulties that have provoked it. Mr. Balfour has found himself more than once this session at the mercy of the Irish Party. That Party, led by a politician whose superior Parliamentary tactics is not to be found, compact and disciplined, boats of four or five of the best speakers in the House of Commons. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that it has several times been able to get its own way, and more than once inflicted very severe humiliation on the Government. Mr. Balfour apparently thinks that if he goes to the trouble of introducing and carrying a Bill to reduce the Irish representation...

mysterious way draw the teeth of this formidable party. But we do not think there is much danger of the execution of these threats. A Redistribution Bill involves more trouble and grit than the present Government has hitherto displayed. That the proposal will be welcomed by the Unionists is only another illustration of the hypocritical nature of their protestations of allegiance to the Act of Union, which they are ready to break for the convenience of an English party."

HOW IRISH CRIME IS MANUFACTURED.

The English newspapers are discussing with frank confessions of shame for the misgovernment of Ireland, the revelations made to Parliament by Mr. Dillon, and fully admitted by the Irish Chief Secretary, regarding the detective record of Sergeant Sheridan, of Mullagh, County Clare. Sheridan made a great name for himself as an agrarian criminal, but the Government is now forced to admit that he was the author of the crimes himself, in the interest of Dublin Castle. Mr. Wyndham, Chief Secretary, made this confession in Parliament:

"Now, I have no hesitation in saying that he did procure the conviction of four innocent men," (Irish cheers).

Even the Liberal Imperialist Daily Chronicle has to protest against what it describes as "the atrocious case of Police-Sergeant Sheridan." This, it says, is no new thing in the history of Ireland. "What is new is the courage and honesty of the Chief Secretary in exposing the abomination and inflicting the utmost possible penalty. Sergeant Sheridan was a clever and unscrupulous constable, who went about searching for crimes, which he always discovered because he instigated or imagined them himself." His system had remarkable results. Within a short time he secured the arrest of four innocent men and the condemnation of three, and his influence over other young policemen, according to The Daily Chronicle, "was so great that he tempted them to pursue his methods." In bringing this case before the House of Commons Mr. Dillon maintained that many of the so-called outrages in Ireland are really instigated by the police. It is for the police to clear themselves, or for the Government on their behalf.

The Daily News deals in detail with the "sickening" revelation of the methods of the Castle, as revealed in the exposure of Sergeant Sheridan. "A young peasant, it turned out, had been sentenced to two years' imprisonment for mutilating cows. He served his time, but the outrage was the work of Sheridan himself. A man named Ray was sent to prison for three years for setting a hayrick on fire. This was another of Sheridan's convictions, and the Government compensated Ray, but the unfortunate man only lived for four months after his release. Could anything more sickening than this inside view of the manufactory of agrarian crime be imagined? Here is a young man who, as Mr. Wyndham puts it, goes out to find a crime, and discovers it, not once, but three times. Sergeant Sheridan himself committed the crime in one instance at any rate. Two of the men arrested are convicted, after the usual course of jury-packing, and the best that the Irish Secretary can say for the evidence on which the Courts despatched the allowed cow-torturer and the rack-burner to prison is that at the time it was not obviously false on the face of it. 'Not obviously false'—but the jury is packed, the prisoners are not allowed the benefit of the doubt, and Sheridan's reputation as a brilliant and dashing officer is established."

MR. EDWARD BLAKE.

An opportunity to attack Hon. Edward Blake is very welcome to the Canadian Gazette, published in London. It rejoices when a tea-pot gossip like The Toronto Saturday Night, tells the member for Longford that he is not a nice Canadian gentleman at all. It is all the same to Mr. Blake what The Canadian Gazette and The Saturday Night think of him. His honesty and his honor are as much the pride of the Canadian people today as when he served them in the Parliament at Ottawa.

FRANCE AND TURKEY.

However vehemently we condemn the part official France is taking against the religious orders, candor will not deny to the French Government due recognition of its course towards the Sultan. France is to-day the only member of the concert of great nations that dares to protect its own subjects in Turkey. It may be that the real cause is to be sought for in the other nations rather than in France. They cannot risk the hazard of a war in Europe while their own hands are all engaged in more or less desperate domestic tasks. Russia is exterminating the Finns, Germany has an evil legacy in the problem of Poland, and Italy is still engaged in the...

would go on forever," America has slain her victims, but the ghost is extremely troublesome. Only for France, whose hands are free to raise the sword, Abdul Hamid could feel that he might do just as he pleased with Christians of all nations and their property. What the outcome of the present rupture of diplomatic relations may be none, of course, can tell. The Czar may induce his ally to accept a way out short of war. France at least is unafraid of the Turk. Apart from what the diplomacy of the other nations may desire, it would certainly meet the fervent wish of the united people of Christendom to see the French republic shake the monster who now rules in Constantinople out of his shoes.

AT IT AGAIN.

Complacent as usual when uttering something counterfeited to the public, The Toronto Mail says:

"Quebec's petition against the coronation oath scarcely does justice to the facts. It says to the British Government: 'You persist in retaining in the formula of the Royal oath declarations which are contrary to the Catholic faith.' As a matter of fact, the British Government endeavored to eliminate the objectionable declarations. The amended oath was, however, rejected by the Roman Catholics of England, because it retained the affirmation of the Protestant succession. Seeing that the nation would not consent to abandoning that feature of the oath, and that the only possible change would please nobody, Lord Salisbury gave up the effort to modify the declarations. Possibly a modification will be agreed upon later on."

From start to finish The Mail's remarks are false. The Catholics of England said nothing of the kind to the British Government; but on the contrary every word said by them or in their behalf endorsed the fullest affirmation of the Protestant succession. The authoritative protest signed by Lords Stanmore and Langstaff in its second paragraph stated that the Act of Settlement affords "adequate security for the Protestant succession of the Crown."

The Mail knew this. And the ridiculous thing is that in stating the contrary it apparently imagines the reading public at its mercy in regard to learning the truth about the events of the day. The paper is very stupid.

ENGLAND'S CATHOLIC WORKINGMEN.

A scheme has been initiated by a number of prominent Roman Catholics to unite the Catholic workingmen of England into one organized body. The movement has received the hearty approval of the leading members of that denomination, and in a letter commending the scheme His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan says that "the idea of uniting the working Catholic men of England in a league has been several times under consideration. If a leader were forthcoming for such an arduous work, I should be more glad than anyone to help and bless him." A conference will be arranged in London to give practical effect to the wishes of His Eminence.

CATHOLICS AT OXFORD.

Catholic names stand highest in the list of the recent Oxford local examinations. No fewer than 10,091 candidates sat for the examinations, 6,907 of whom obtained certificates. The highest position in the honors lists of boys and girls has been won by Catholics. Charles H. Boyd, of St. Ignace's College, Stamford Hill, stands first in the first class, whilst Miss N. Sheridan, of the Convent of Notre Dame, Everton Valley, heads the successful girl candidates with the second place in the second class. The exhibitions of £30 offered by the delegates of local examinations to the boy and girl candidates placed respectively highest in the honors list falls to these two scholars. It is gratifying to notice also that these successes are well supported by the large number of Catholic students who have secured places in the honors and pass lists.

THE LATE MR. BOYLE.

The Montreal True Witness notes with satisfaction that steps have been taken in Toronto to recognize the life work of the late Mr. Patrick Boyle. The Register has received letters from several quarters in the Province, intimating that subscriptions will be sent in as soon as a list has been opened.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Catholic Standard and Times: To what a depth of moral degradation has the habitual recurrence of divorce reduced the non-Catholic masses here when not a word of protest is heard against the scandal of an old married man putting away his wife of many years for no other reason but that his mind had become affected. The man is a millionaire and still maintains an expensive household. Whether they mis-

are sane or not. This particular example of the tribe had become infatuated with a young and handsome woman, and if a jury of honest men had to try his case they might find no great difficulty in adjudging this fact to be a proof of decided insanity. The most melancholy feature in this ugly drama is the readiness with which the attentions of such a patriarch were received and the matter-of-course fashion in which nuptials under such shameful circumstances are regarded by that section of society commonly referred to as "the smart set."

His Lordship the Bishop of Perth, West Australia, has lately rendered signal service in defence of Catholic truth Carlyle's work, "Heroes and Hero Worship," in which Catholic history and Catholic doctrine are coarsely and bitterly misrepresented was made a text book in the Adelaide University, and that coming to the knowledge of Dr. Gilmev he protested against the outrage in a letter to the University authorities. It is very much to the credit of these gentlemen that, in a reply from Chief Justice Wray, the Chancellor, His Lordship was informed that "the University has given effect to your request by notifying that candidates for the highest public examination in November may substitute for Carlyle's 'Heroes and Hero Worship' Macaulay's 'Essays on Chive and Warren Hastings.' This alternative will, I trust, be altogether unobjectionable."

The troubles of the King in regard to the Catholic faith will be renewed at the Coronation. The ring used on this occasion is of plain gold, set with a large ruby on which is engraved the cross of St. George. By the master of the jewel-house it is handed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who, placing it on the third finger of the sovereign's right hand, says, "Receive this ring, the sign of kingly dignity and of defense of the Catholic faith, that as you are this day consecrated head of the kingdom and people, so, rich in faith, and abounding in good works, you may reign with Him who is King of Kings, to whom be glory and honor for ever and ever. Amen." The Catholic part of the English people can never be buried out of sight as long as the Kingdom lasts.

The advent of the Benedictine Monks of Solesmes to England, where the ex-Empress Eugenie has given them a temporary residence will be of inestimable advantage to lovers of pure Gregorian chant. It was only last June that His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. gave the seal of His authority to the Solesmes chant. All scholars of medieval music are agreed that the Gregorian Antiphony of St. Gall's was written at the close of the 9th century by Irish monks, who incorporated many old Irish melodies as adaptations to the various Antiphons. This Antiphony was deciphered by Father Lambillotte, S. J., but has been more accurately edited by the Benedictines of Solesmes in their "Paleographic Musicals."

It is generally corroborated that many members of the Orders and Congregations will go to Belgium. The Jesuits, Redemptorists, Eudists and others have bought property near Ghent, Alost, Mons, Namur and Brussels, but it is denied that the Dominicans are about to found a monastery across the Belgic border. Some of the French religious have made stipulations about property in Belgium, to the end that in the event of their being authorized to remain in France they may be able to cancel contracts. In the meantime, and while awaiting the application of the new law, many religious have abandoned their distinctive badges, and wear the ordinary ecclesiastical garb.

The Manchester Guardian discussing the session of Parliament which has just concluded says of the Irish party: "They are the most perfect example recent sessions have afforded of what a small, compact party knowing its own mind can do. From first to last they have dominated the session."

It is announced from Signaringen that Father Louis Lauer, Minister-General of the Order of Franciscans, is dead.

MR. HALL CAINE'S "ETERNAL CITY."

There are, says The Catholic Times, in Mr. Hall Caine's new novel, "The Eternal City," points which require close examination from a reviewer before being subjected to definite criticism. In the first place, it will be questioned whether his picture of the Pope does not fall far short of that majestic grandeur which belongs to the character of the present occupant of the Papal See, the greatest man of his age, whether we do not in fact get the impression of a weak and almost vacillating Pontiff rather than the idea of a man of iron will, born to rule, such as His Holiness actually is. In the next place the plan of representing the Pope as a reformed man

of the world, a widower, and the father of the hero, is likely to jar on the Catholic sense of reverence for the head of the Church. Thirdly, objection will be taken to the pages wherein the Pope is made to act as he would not have acted with regard to a confidential communication. Fourthly, the suggestion that the Jesuits have been secretly anxious to form a league against the Government will be regarded as an attempt to lend color to a false charge. Fifthly, there are a couple of references to the personal appearance of the clergy which will not improbably be deemed a disfigurement to the book. Lastly, it will be regretted that the claim to the Temporal Power has been treated as if it were a question of Papal ambition for a great worldly empire and a hindrance to the alliance of the Church and Democracy rather than, as it actually is, a mere demand for the restoration of rights that have been violated by force and fraud. But the recognition of imperfections will, if we may say so, be swallowed up in appreciation of the noble spirit which the work breathes as a whole. There is a genuine love of wonderful breadth and depth, for suffering humanity's resplendent faith in God and in the future of mankind, a sympathy with Catholic ideals, and a sensitiveness to what the Church holds sacred so thoroughly as to render it difficult to imagine that Mr. Hall Caine is not one of ourselves, a keen insight into Italian society and politics, and very brilliant craftsmanship. The book will undoubtedly be read with avidity by the public.

A NEW JESUIT SAINT.

A Rome correspondent describes the solemn proclamation of the decree in the Cause for the beatification and canonization of the Ven. Claude de la Colombiere, S. J., recognizing the heroic degree of his virtues. The decree was read by Mgr. Pamer, Secretary to the Congregation of Rites, in presence of the Pope and Cardinal Ferrari, Prefect of the same congregation, Cardinal Ledochowski, Prefect of Propaganda Fide, and Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. The Very Rev. Father Louis Martin, General of the Society of Jesus, was also present, and after the proclamation of the decree read a short address in which he thanked the Holy Father for the honor paid to a member of the Order and for the Pontiff's uninterrupted encouragement and benevolence, all the more welcome at a time when the religious Orders are going through a period of great trial and tribulation. The Holy Father briefly replied, expressing the joy he felt at seeing another patron added to the celestial phalanx already interceding for the Order in Heaven, and alluding encouragingly to the storm now raging in France and which the prayers of the Church, militant and triumphant, would, it was to be hoped, soon dispel. His Holiness afterwards conversed long and affably with the Very Rev. Father Martin, who was personally acquainted with the Pope's brother, the late Cardinal Joseph Pecci, S. J. The Holy Father brought the proceedings to a close by bestowing Apostolic Blessing on all present and shortly afterwards retired to his private apartments.

OUR LADY OF THE SNOW

The Rome correspondent of The New York Freeman's Journal writes interestingly on the devotion of Our Lady of the Snow. A stranger paying a flying visit to Rome at the beginning of August might be disposed to think that the city is almost empty. From noon until about half-past four in the afternoon thoroughfares like the Corso, the Via Nazionale and the Corso Vittorio Emanuele — now the principal streets in Rome — are as dull as the streets of a village. Half the stores are closed, and in those that remain open the proprietors and their assistants are dozing the hot hours quietly away.

When the fierce heat begins to wane, however, Rome takes on its usual aspect and if the stranger is blessed with an opportunity of witnessing some characteristic Roman festa he will very quickly change his first verdict. As a matter of fact, summer is the best time for observing the devotion of the real Romans, for it happens that most of the feasts in which they take special interest occur at this time when the visitors have all left. During the last week, for instance, we have all been to the Gesu for the Feast of St. Ignatius, and visited the rooms where he lived for many years. We have commemorated the memory of St. Dominick in the immense Gothic Church of the Minerva, and the smaller but more interesting Church of Santa Sabina, on the Aventine; we have registered a devotional protest in the Church of St. Alphonsus, in the Via Merulana against the shocking attacks that have recently been made against the holy doctor's moral teaching; and yesterday tens of thousands of us paid a visit to St. Mary Major's for the Feast of Our Lady of the Snow. Pilgrims during the Holy Year will have brought away with them a very distinct memory of this largest and most magnificent of churches dedicated to Our Lady, for it was one of the four churches prescribed for the Jubilee visits. Americans should have a special interest in this magnificent basilica, for the roof was decorated with the first gold that left America for Europe four hundred years ago. Independently of the devotion, St. Mary Major's always inspires of the treasury of sacred relics it contains, including the crib in which Our Lord was born, or the wealth of marbles and mosaics, of St. Luke's famous painting of Our Lady, of the rich mosaic there is a special attraction in the evening service of the titular feast.

The church was erected over fifteen centuries ago, on a part of the Esquiline which had been long covered with snow on Aug. 5. This was the sign given by Our Lady to a noble Roman who desired to build a church in her honor, and asked her to indicate the site by a miracle. The memory of the miraculous fall of snow has ever since been preserved in a very poetical way. All during Vespers a never-ceasing fall of rose petals from the cupola of the magnificent Borghese chapel, in which St. Luke's Madonna is enshrined, recalls the prodigy.

Until the year 1870, when the Italians entered the Eternal City, the Roman Corporation was wont to offer a chalice on the Feast of Our Lady of the Snow to her church. A new era then began — the tomb of the heroes who died for Papal independence was desecrated by the addition of a slab describing them as mercenaries, religious processions in public were forbidden, the cross that used to top the Capitol, where once Jupiter reigned supreme, was removed, the schools were dechristianized, as far as possible, and with many other beautiful customs that of the yearly offering of the chalice disappeared. Fortunately, however, a Catholic society has recently revived the custom, and yesterday the sacred cup, decked according to time-honored rite, in jessamine blossoms, was exposed on the altar dedicated to Our Lady.

During the last week, too, the devout Romans have given another proof of their great devotion to Our Lady. One of the characteristic features of the Eternal City is the immense number of pictures, statues and shrines in her honor to be seen in the public streets. Before the introduction of street lamps the beighted wayfarer's only guide to his destination used to be the little light burning before these shrines. Even still there are very few stores in the older parts of the town which do not contain their picture of Our Lady or some of the saints, with a light burning before them after dusk. But if there are many devout clients of Mary in the Eternal City there are not a few who turn the balance on the other side by sacrilegious outrages. Quite recently one of these public shrines of Our Lady, under the title of "Mary of the Star," was robbed of its ornaments and disfigured by unknown ruffians. The inhabitants of the neighborhood at once resolved to restore the desecrated shrine. Gifts and subscriptions were freely bestowed for the purpose, and the other day a solemn service of reparation took place. All the adjacent streets were prettily decorated with festoons and strewn with golden sand. An immense concourse of people assembled for the function. Then occurred a touching incident, not uncommon in Italy when honor is being paid to Our Lady. While the Bishop, Mgr. Giardini, was placing a crown on the picture a poor woman in the crowd took her solitary gold ring from her finger and presented it to the Madonna. The next moment the whole square rang out with one great cry of "Evviva, Maria!" and many an eye was moist with emotion. The feast lasted the whole day through, and in the evening all the adjacent streets were illuminated.

COUNT TAAFFE AN IRISH PEER.

Count Taaffe's claim to vote at the election of Irish representative peers, which is now under the Lord Chancellor's consideration, is probably only the formal one of identity. Though the Taaffes have been domiciled in Austria upwards of two centuries, their right as members of the peerage of Ireland has never, so far as we are aware, been questioned. Should any difficulty arise at all, it will probably be from the fact that all Irish peers, before they can exercise their franchise rights, have to take the oath of allegiance, and the present Lord Taaffe, like so many of his ancestors, is in the Austrian service — an officer in one of the dragoon regiments of Emperor Francis Joseph. He is the son of Count Taaffe, the Austrian Prime Minister, who died a few years ago, and possessed of two fine castles in Bohemia, as well as a town house in Vienna. The Irish estates of the Taaffe family, says The Outlook, are, and have been for generations, a thing of the past. Although the fourth viscount was specially exempted from attaining and forfeiting by an Irish Act of Parliament the peerage, the property was sold under the penal laws. Moreover, the family more fortunate than some others succeeded in obtaining the return of part of the purchase money.