

## 91 YEARS OLD.

## DEATH OF MOST REV. DR. KIRBY.

HE WAS A GREAT IRISHMAN AND FOR YEARS WAS RECTOR OF THE IRISH COLLEGE AT ROME.

One who was probably the oldest Bishop in the Catholic Church, says the Liverpool Catholic Times, has just passed away. Gravis annis et honoribus, the Most Rev. Tobias Kirby, titular Archbishop of Ephesus, and for many years rector of the Irish College, Rome, who died on Sunday evening in the Eternal City, was one of the most venerable and venerated personages among the numerous distinguished ecclesiastics in the metropolis of Christendom. Held in special esteem by the Sovereign Pontiff and by his Brother Bishops, a patriarchal prelate, whose length of years far exceeded that of many of the aged churchmen among whom he lived and moved, he was well known in both hemispheres. A typical Irishman, in whom the simple piety of the olden time was associated with a strong and deep affection for the land of his birth, with whom faith and patriotism were always inseparable, he was beloved by his countrymen, who regarded him as personifying their undying attachment to faith and fatherland and their traditional faith to the See of Peter. Born in Tallow, County Waterford, on Jan. 1, 1804, the son of pious parents, whose fidelity to the faith of their fathers had been tried and tempered in the furnace heat of persecution, he himself grew up from youth to early manhood at an epoch when the shadow of the penal laws still fell upon the country, when Protestant ascendancy was rampant, and the adherents of the ancient creed were politically and socially ostracised. Little wonder then, that his patriotism, the direct outgrowth of Catholicism, first asserted itself when O'Connell came upon the scene, and by means as pacific as they were powerful led to a triumphant issue the bloodless struggle for Catholic emancipation, and, later on, when the repeal movement drew into its ranks men of all classes, who believed that in the restoration of the Irish Parliament lay the best guarantee for the prosperity of Ireland and the consolidating of the home empire, he drew himself with characteristic wholeheartedness into it. "Those who remember only the grave, gentle old president of the Irish College, whose manners, we are told, were subtly suggestive of Cardinal Newman, will find it hard," says an Irish contemporary, "to credit the suggestion that in O'Connell's train of brilliant platform orators there was none more spirited or inspiring than young Kirby."

Very early in life he gave evidence of a vocation to the priesthood, but difficulties retarded the accomplishment of his desires. Irish Catholics then who had not much means, like his parents, did not enjoy the same educational facilities they have since acquired, and besides he was constrained to earn his living by engaging in business. It was not until he was thirty that he overcame these difficulties and had acquired sufficient education to commence ecclesiastical studies at the College of St. Apollinaris in Rome. While pursuing his course of studies in this college, he joined the society of St. Paul, of which the chief function was to encourage and assist its members in the development of literary culture. In this society he soon reached a high position. In talents and acquisitions he had but one rival, a brilliant student some years younger than himself. A specially keen interest was felt in the competition for the prize of the society, which was to be awarded for the best original essay. By universal consent there were only two competitors with a chance of success. When the award was made it was found that the name of Thomas Kirby was second on the list. His successful rival was Gioacchino Pecci, now Pope Leo XIII. The intimacy that then sprang up between the two was broken only by the death of the Archbishop of Ephesus. On his accession the Pope remembered the incident of the essay half a century before, and by his express command Dr. Kirby was then induced to give his composition for the first time to the public. Some time after the completion of his sacerdotal studies, and shortly after his ordination, he was appointed a professor in the Irish College, a position he filled for twelve years; and many of the Irish clergy who had been under his training

gratefully remember their indebtedness to him. Early in the forties he was appointed to the Vice-Rectorship. In the revolution of 1848, when the Pope had to fly from Rome, Dr. Cullen was appointed Rector of the Propaganda with the object of protecting its personal property from pillage, a mission which he successfully accomplished. The new position and onerous duties of Dr. Cullen practically left the entire control of the Irish College in the hands of Dr. Kirby, and when in 1850 Dr. Cullen was transferred to the archdiocese of Armagh, Dr. Kirby was formally appointed to the position of Rector of the College, which he filled with such credit for so many years. For a long time he held the post of Papal Chamberlain, and was a great favorite at the Vatican, his unostentatious piety and sound sense having won for him special recognition from the Curia. On May 13, 1881, he was nominated Titular Archbishop of Ephesus. His life work was the forming of the Irish priests who made their studies in the Irish College, and that work he did with thoroughness and zeal. He did not write much, but his book of "Meditations" is still in the hands of the faithful, and is in special favor among ecclesiastics.—N. Y. Freeman's Journal.

## TWO TELLING SPEECHES.

Strong Welsh Sentiment for Irish Home Rule.

In support of the resolution declaring that Home Rule holds the foremost place in the Liberal programme, which was passed at Cardiff, on Thursday last, Mr. C. P. Scott and Mr. Lloyd George spoke. In the course of his speech Mr. Scott said:—

For what had they been struggling during the last eight years? For what had they fought election after election? For what purpose did their great leader devote his splendid powers towards the close of an arduous life, if it was not to promote the policy of Home Rule? And why should the Liberal Party change that policy now? Surely all the reasons that prevailed with them two years ago prevailed with them still. This was not a question of sentiment—it was not even a question of loyalty to their old leader or of good faith to the people of Ireland—it was a question of hard fact, and of the government of Ireland in such a manner that contentment might be given to a great section of the United Kingdom. If the Liberal party were not prepared to nail the green flag to the mast and to stand to their guns there would be nothing for it but to go back to the old and exploded policy of coercion, which he trusted they had once and for all set aside. Home Rule they declared by their resolution to be first not only in their policy but also in their programme. By that they meant the programme not merely of a session. Something else would be first in the programme of next session, but they were determined that, so soon as they had power to carry any great and controversial measure to which the Tory party of the House of Lords—which was the tool of the Tory party—were uncompromisingly opposed, they would carry Home Rule. Home Rule, it might be said, was a vague phrase. It might mean much or it might mean little; but this resolution did not leave much doubt as to the Home Rule meant by the members of that conference. Did they mean an emasculated and attenuated Home Rule? Did they mean county councils, or, perhaps, provincial councils? They might go to Birmingham for that. Mr. Chamberlain would be delighted to give as much, and if that was all the Liberal party wanted they had only to come to terms with that gentleman; but they meant something more. They meant to satisfy the National demand of Ireland, and to satisfy the National sentiment of the country. They meant nothing less than the policy for which they had fought for the last nine years, and for which they were prepared to fight nine years more—ay, and, if necessary, for ninety years more. By Home Rule they did not mean any new-fangled policy of Federal Home Rule. They were there as practical men and not as closet politicians. The Home Rule spoken of in the resolution then was the Home Rule they knew. He did not say it was precisely the Home Rule embodied in the bill that had been carried through the House of Commons. He did not say

that the Home Rule Bill of 1893 would be produced again exactly as they knew it. If they offered them anything, it would be better and more satisfactory to them and to every part of the United Kingdom. That was a policy that was worth fighting for, that was worth some effort and some sacrifice. One obstacle only stood in the way—the obstacle that stood in the way of other things that were near to the hearts of the people. He would beg of them, in the words of the resolution, to remove that obstacle, and to press forward at all cost and with undiminished energy to the triumph of this as of their other aspirations.

Mr. Lloyd George, M.P., seconded the resolution, and said no one could do so with a clearer conscience than a Welsh representative. The Welsh people were prepared as a country, by a majority more striking than that of Ireland itself, to accord the foremost position to Home Rule for Ireland at a time when the Home Rule Party could offer them nothing in return but companionship in defeat, and they were not likely to abandon the cause now when the Irish Party were acceding to the Welsh representatives the foremost position to a Welsh bill in the next Parliament. They were told they were about to abandon Home Rule, and, by the same authority, that they had already abandoned it. He would not dwell on the insinuation of perfidy that this charge conveyed against the Liberal Party, because they were accustomed to be told that they were willing to rob millionaires, brewers, and even parsons—and other much worse charges. He was thinking more of the aspersion on the honor of Great Britain. In 1892 a majority of the people of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, and something not far short of one-half of the people of England, declared that justice required the concession of Home Rule to Ireland as the first step of the incoming Government. That was only two years ago, and now they were told that they had gone back upon it simply, it appeared, because an obstacle had been interposed in the shape of a rickety old institution known as the House of Lords. The House of Lords had thrown Home Rule out, and at once 3,000,000 of people had dropped it in consequence. Three nations and a half cowered at one crack of a lordly whip. What a picture of British pluck! Yet this picture was drawn by that class of artists whose specialty it was to paint in glowing colors the British lion rampant. If it were true then all he could say was that it beat even the Chinese record of cowardice. So far from the House of Lords being and obstacle, for his part he thought it was an incitement to proceed. Home Rule had brought them face to face with an old enemy of the people. In former times the House of Lords had a habit of shirking the fight and of lying down to avoid punishment, but Home Rule had had the luck to induce the Peers at last to stand up. It would not be the fault of Wales if they were not soon knocked down altogether. When they were deciding this great issue between the Peers and the people, he was glad it would be on the question of the right of the people to govern themselves. He knew no question that so clearly distinguished the leading characteristics of the two parties as this of Home Rule. On the one hand they had Toryism and its wishes, and its dependence; on the other hand they had Liberalism and its manly self-reliance. The Tories would give the Irish people everything but freedom. Their policy was essentially one of chains. The fetters might be of different metal. Yesterday they were of iron, to-morrow they might be of brass or gold. Liberalism meant that power should be given to the people to work out their own salvation. That was the Liberal policy, and by it what the Irish people might lose in cash they would gain all the more in character. Liberals did not want to see Ireland an eternal suppliant on the steps of the British throne. They said to Ireland as to Wales and to England, "We want to develop a nation, not of beggars, but of men." Self-government was not merely the means of obtaining the rights of a people, it was in itself the noblest of all political rights. Unionists might lavish British money on Ireland, might make every Irish peasant the lord over his own home, might build harbors on every coast, might fill those harbors with the finest fishing fleets in the world, might construct railways and tram-roads across every bog in Ireland, and they might

pave those roads, if they would, with British gold; but still the greatest grievance of all would remain unredressed as long as they closed against the people of Ireland that pathway of self-government which would be open to every free, manly, or self-respecting nation.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

C. O. F.

ST. GABRIEL COURT OF FORESTERS NO. 185, SIDE BANK DEGREE.

Last night was a gala night with above Degree Court, being the first event of this kind held by them. Four candidates were initiated into this all-important Degree. It may here be stated that they are now in a position to confer this Degree on any member of the Order. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—P. Shea, G.H.R.; J. Colfer, G.P.H.R.; M. McGoldrick, G.V.H.R.; M. Healy, G.H.P.; L. McMullin, G.H.G.; P. Cantwell, G.H.S.; J. Shea, G.H.T.; J. Lennon, G.H.I.S.

This Court meets in the basement of the new St. Gabriel Church, corner Centre and Laprairie Streets, every alternate Monday.

## A CATHOLIC LORD.

LORD ACTON MADE A PROFESSOR AT CAMBRIDGE.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Lord Acton has been appointed professor of modern history at Cambridge to succeed the late Prof. Seeley. Lord Acton is sixty-one years old. Between 1860 and 1876 he edited two reviews and a weekly newspaper. He took a conspicuous part in the discussion resulting from the declaration of Papal infallibility and for his loyalty to Dr. Dollinger, of the "Old Catholic" party, was made Ph. D. in 1872 by the Munich University. He is regarded as the leader of the Liberal Roman Catholics of England.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL MATTERS.

The regular meeting of the Catholic School Commissioners was held last week. The Rev. Canon Bruchesi presided, the other Commissioners present being Rev. J. N. Leclerc, Rev. J. Quinlivan, Dr. L. E. Desjardins and Dr. M. T. Brennan. The committee on the school for small children, in their report, recommended an annual grant of \$600 to the school. The report of the special committee on the Boys' School of Our Lady of Good Counsel stated that the building was in great need of repairs. The Commissioners gave instructions for the preparation of a plan of the city, showing the location of the various schools under the Board. The president reported that the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Attorney-General had approved the course adopted by the Board in the case of the St. Louis School. The School Committee were instructed to visit various schools and to report as to whether they were necessary to the localities in which they were situated and as to their sanitary condition.

The trial balance for the month of January was laid on the table and the Commissioners adjourned till the first Tuesday in March.

## MIXED MARRIAGES IN HUNGARY.

BUDA PESTH, February 18.—The Pope has issued an order, which has been promulgated here, declaring that the offspring of mixed marriages shall be brought up in the Roman Catholic faith. This conflicts with the Hungarian marriage law, which gives the parents of children born of such unions, the choice of the faith in which they shall be reared.

## THE POPE'S PROTEST.

LONDON, February 18.—A despatch from Rome to the Chronicle says that the Pope has sent a protest to the Russian minister against the arrest of thirty Roman Catholic priests in Poland, who are accused of anti-dynastic tendencies.

Steel knives, which are not in general use, may be kept from rusting if they are dipped in a strong solution of soda, one part water to four parts of soda; then wipe dry, roll in flannel and keep in a dry place.