

## MARSHAL MACMAHON DEAD.

At ten o'clock yesterday morning the grand old hero, Field Marshal MacMahon, Duke of Magenta, passed calmly from time to eternity. We regret not having an opportunity of paying a worthy tribute to the memory of so great and so good a man, but already our forms are prepared for the press. Still, in presence of this sad event, which is an episode in the history of Europe, we must delay our issue a few hours in order to unite our humble voice with the thousands that are to-day telling of "deeds of war in danger's face," and of a life that was potent with good examples to the world. Over his beautiful residence at Chateau La Foret, upon the lovely banks of Loire, the Angel of Death has hovered of late, and, at last, in the shadow of its wing, the brave spirit of the veteran hero went forth to join the silent majority.

Descendant of an old Irish family, Marshal MacMahon was the son of that famous warrior who led the three memorable charges at Waterloo. A soldier by inheritance he became one by profession. He was born in 1808, and at the age of seventeen graduated from the military school of St. Cyr. He succeeded General Canrobert in command of the French detachments at the Crimea. He won the Cross of the Legion of Honor by his valor and success in carrying the famous Russian works of the Malakoff, despite the desperate resistance of the northern army. For his exploits during the campaign of 1859, in Italy, he received the baton of Marshal of France, and as a reward for his glorious victory at Magenta he was created Duke, with that title. He was Governor of Algiers for a time; but on the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war he took command of the French troops at Strasburg. Despite his desperate valor and determination to fight, he was carried wounded off the field of Sedan; and his successor in command beheld that great defeat. MacMahon was a prisoner of war in Germany. He afterwards successfully conducted the siege of Paris against the Commune. And twenty years ago, in 1873, he became President of the French Republic. In 1879 he resigned the high position in the gift of France, and loaded with honors, he retired into private life, where his declining years were spent in writing his memoirs—four volumes completed in 1891, but which he did not desire to have published during his life.

There is something natural and to be expected in the death of a man who has led such a busy life and who has seen so many long years; and while a deep and sincere regret is universally felt, still there is a grand consolation in the contemplation of such a close to such a career. With the snows of eighty-five winters on his head, with the laurels of many victories entwined about his brow, honored by the nations, respected by the world, beloved by his fellow-countrymen, cherished by his friends, after a score of fields where death reigned supreme, to die calmly, peacefully, contentedly, with the knowledge of a well-filled life behind and the assurance of an eternal life before—there is something consoling, something sublime, something glorious in such a death.

Marshal MacMahon is gone; but his name has been forever inscribed upon the shaft of France's greatness; his fame shall be cherished for many a generation, and while the glories of the Malakoff, of Magenta, and of the Fort St. Denis shall ever glitter around his niche in history, there are still more lovely, if less dazzling lights, that shall burn be-

fore the shrine of his memory—they are the recollection of his paternal devotedness, his love as a husband and father, his pure practice and unsullied faith as a child of the Church; and this last is now his greatest glory.

THE PRESS has been very prompt in heralding that the Lord Mayor of Dublin made an untimely speech in Chicago. We are firmly convinced that the whole report is exaggerated, just as we are positive that the account of the Bacchanalian orgies at the great banquet are merely the pencillings of a correspondent's vivid imagination. Sensationalism, and always sensationalism! The worst kind of misrepresentation of facts.

We have just received a lengthy and most interesting communication on the subject of the proposed High School, from a correspondent signing "J. K." As our last form is already made up, it would be impossible this week to give the letter to our readers. We might remark, however, that while the communication is highly flattering to THE TRUE WITNESS and its editor, still we have grave doubts as to whether any good would result from certain very strong facts stated, and which seem to us calculated to raise a very unnecessary discussion, which might terminate in unpleasant results without achieving any corresponding good.

MR. DAVITT delivered a speech in Dublin, on the eleventh of October, in which he replied to the one delivered by Mr. John Redmond, on the Monday previous. Mr. Davitt stated that the policy advocated by Mr. Redmond, of withdrawing their support from the government was unwise and unpatriotic. He further said that the Nationalists would keep faith with the British democracy and support Mr. Gladstone in passing the reforms forecasted at the Newcastle meeting. There is a strange inconsistency in the Parnellite—or rather Redmondite—members that we fail to be able to explain. Their policy seems baseless, their arguments self-refuting, and their aim suicidal. It is a pity that Irishmen cannot be more united; were it only for shame sake we would think they would give up their fruitless and irrational course.

It is always a pleasure to find that our Protestant friends are learning more and more about the Catholic Church. We have always contended that the reason why so many enlightened and honest non-Catholics oppose Catholicity is because they know too little about the Church. The Rev. Mr. Boville, pastor of the Baptist Church, James street, Hamilton, Ont., on his return from the World's Fair and the religious congress, said:

"I confess that I was surprised and deeply impressed with the part taken in this congress by the Roman Catholic Church. I had, perhaps, been too apt to look upon that Church as a sort of parochial system with the spirit of Vaticanism. But I came away from the congress with a better opinion of the Roman Catholic Church than I had when I went there."

IN CASE THE following paragraph should fall under the eye of any heir to this County Donegal estate—stranger things have happened—we reproduce it from one of our exchanges:

"In the London Times of September 15 there is an advertisement on the front page calling for the heirs of one William McKenna, deceased, a native of County Donegal, who died in 1859, in the County of Lancaster, State of South Carolina, U.S.A., says a correspondent of the Derry Journal. The administrator of the estate is the plaintiff, and the Catholic Bishop of Charleston is the defendant

(apparently a mere formality of the State law with reference to personal property.) This William McKenna is given as a native of Castle Nacor, parish of Fahor. This is evidently a mistake, as no such parish, to my knowledge, exists in County Donegal with such a name. So it occurred to me as being the parish of Fahan and being so near to the city perhaps the wide circulation of the Journal through County Donegal might be the means of finding the heirs."

## ROMAN NEWS.

[Gleaned from the London Universe and other sources.]

Mgr. Satolli, actually delegate from the Holy See, is spoken of as the future Archbishop of Bologna. An ecclesiastic of great tact and prudence is required for that See.

The Movimiento Catolico of Madrid learns that as a fitting close to the Jubilee fete at Rome a congress will be held there of Catholic workmen's associations, at which every province of Italy will be represented.

In compliance with a request from the Queen-Regent of Spain, the Holy Father has consented to be godfather to the little King Alfonso XIII., who is shortly to receive Confirmation. Mgr. Cretino, Apostolic Nuncio at Madrid, will represent the Pope at the function, and some splendid gifts will be sent from the Vatican.

The Messaggero of Rome states that the Pontifical prisoners of the Sardinians in 1870 were 10,800, of whom 4500 were foreigners. These ciphers are exact. Therefore, there must have been 6300 Italians in the service, of whom three-fourths were natives of Rome or the adjacent province. Where, then, was the preponderance of the "foreign bayonets" of which we hear so much?

The Palatine Guard of Honor (all Romans and volunteers) spontaneously went in a body the other day and placed themselves at the disposal of the Prefecture of the Apostolic Palace. This is a sign which must not be overlooked of the unaltered allegiance of certain citizens. On the same date numerous groups paid an expiatory pilgrimage to the tomb of Pio Nono, which was affectionately guarded by a company of expontifical soldiers. The Holy Father received a quantity of telegrams of condolence, protest, or adhesion.

The Holy Father does not appear to be passionately enthusiastic over the Casino in the Vatican Garden, otherwise the Villa Pio. He visits it occasionally, but not for long. He prefers to seat himself in a kiosk at the summit of the grounds commanding a view of the back of St. Peter's—the best view, on the authority of the Catholic poet and accomplished art critic, Mrs. Alice Meynell. He takes a round of his narrow domain, accompanied by an ecclesiastic Chamberlain and one of the Esenti of the Noble Guard, sometimes on foot and sometimes in a vehicle. His Holiness can read an ordinary newspaper without the aid of spectacles, and translates from the French fluently.

## Dean Swift on Lawyers.

Gulliver, in his voyage to the Honyhnhums, being questioned by the master as to the nature and practices of the law, made the following observations:

"There was a society of men among us bred up from their youth in the art of proving that white is black and black is white, according as they are paid. To this society all the rest of the people are slaves."

"It is a maxim among those lawyers that whatever has been done before may be done again, and therefore they take special care to record all the decisions formerly made against common justice and the reason of mankind. These, under the name of precedents, they produce as authority to justify the most iniquitous opinions, and the judges never fail of directing accordingly."

"In pleading, they studiously avoid entering into the merits of a case, but are loud, violent and tedious in dwelling upon all circumstances which are not to the purpose."

"The judges are persons appointed to decide all controversies of property, as well as for the trial of criminals, and picked out from the most dexterous lawyers who have grown old and lazy, and having been biased all their lives against truth and equity, lie under such a fatal necessity of favoring fraud, per-

jury and oppression, that I have known some of them refuse a large bribe from the side where justice lay, rather than injure the faculty by doing anything unbecoming their nature or their office."

"It is likewise observed that this society has a peculiar cant and jargon of its own that no other mortal can understand and wherein all their laws are written, which they take special care to multiply; whereby they have wholly confounded the very essence of truth and falsehood, of right and wrong."

"In all points out of their own trade they are usually the most stupid and ignorant generation among us, the most despicable in common conversation, avowed enemies to all knowledge and learning and equally disposed to pervert the general reason of mankind in every other subject of discourse as in their own."

## DIZZINESS CAUSED BY DYSPÉPSIA.

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Frowned upon—The forehead.

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## Nature is Unrobing

Herself with a quick hand. Even "the serene and yellow leaf" has become a vanishing quantity. There is a biting suggestion of the wolf's tooth in the air; the beneficent face of old Sol has grown less cheery, and something more than the light of his countenance is requisite to make life bearable. That something, of course, is "solid comfort."

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