THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, FEBRUARY 26, 1896.

WHO WILL SUCCEED LEO XIII. ? State, or between the throne and the A DISCUSSION OF THE CONDITIONS

PREVAILING.

GARDINALS GIBBONS, VANNUTELLI, RAMPOLLA AND OTHERS MENTIONED BY THE NEW YORK SUN CORRESPONDENT.

The New York Sun's brilliant Rome correspondent, "Innominato," has re-turned to the discussion of the delicate question suggested naturally by the ad-vanced age of Pope Leo XIII., viz., the succession to the chair of St. Peter. He draws a spirited picture of the political intrigues which the several European statesmen are secretly and openly concocting and fomenting in order to secure the election of their respective favorites. "King Humbert," he says "has marked out to the triple alliance Cardinal Mon-aco della Valletta, but Francis Joseph would not consent to this bargain. Ad-vised by Cardinal Schoenborn, Archbishop of Prague, he has made choice of Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli, but the former nuncio at Vienna, far from wishing to raise his standard against that of Leo XIII., follows in the glorious track of the reigning Pontiff. At Berlin, Prince Hohenlohe, brother of the Cardinal of the same name, has received high honors from the Emperor, in order that. being a son of Catholicism, and powerful at Rome, he may dominate the Roman Senate when the Papacy becomes a williw. Toudal and conservative Germany, reactionary and monarchcial Germany, even the Germany of certain Catholic groups, hates the 'republicanism' and the 'democracy' of Leo XIII.

"An American, sound, strong, practical and thoughtful, can form no idea of this aversion. It is the sacred malady of caste hatreds and interests which denounce, combat and curse the Papacy as a sort of school of revolution. History will call these hysterical reactionaries mad men, over whom the bloody pall of events will be thrown."

Continuing his speculations and his analysis of the international situation, this shrewd observer says:

'France has her natural candidate, Cardinal Rampolla. He is the Father Joseph of Leo XIII., his tried confidant, his wise and incorruptible assistant. We must go very far back in history to find in Rome a collaboration as faithful and sagacious. What marks out Cardinal Rampolla is his lack of personality; he is like those sweet, proud, mystical faces of the middle ages which adorn the stained glass windows of monasteries with their ascetic features. A mystic belonging to the class of men who devote themselves, performing his diplomatic duty as he would a priestly ser-vice, out of a sense of duty, out of affec-tionate submission to the Pope, the secretary of state has hardly any will of his own; he effaces himself behind the tall figure of Leo XIII. But the more sttached he is to the Pontiff, the more inflexible and movable he is in his perseverance and knightly service. He says to all those who wish to deceive and fight against the Pope, "You cannot pass here." In-trigues and attacks have no effect on him; he has made of his breast a bronze breast-plate for all the great ideas of Leo XIII.; democracy, the social question. American policy, the union of the churches, the instructions to the French people, the hostility to the triple alliance, and the rejection of all arrangements invented to keep the monarchy forever en-camped at the gates of the Vatican. "Such is his portrait. It is natural that the friends of Leo XIII. should be his Ottawa on the 23rd inst. for several friends, as also that the enemies of Leo XIII. should be his enemies, and that those who are indifferent to the Pone should be indifferent to the cardinal. It is natural that all the states and parties that wish for the success of Pope Leo's ideas should group around him, should rely on him and take him into account in their calculations.³ The correspondent discusses the possibility of a foreign Pope, and carefully examines the obstacles in the way of such a radical change in the policy of the Vatican, "Leo XIII.," he says, "while preparing the way by his innovations for the foreign Pope, is concentrating his thoughts in a narrower circle. So long as the pontifical question is unsettled it would be a bold thing to approach a problem so deep and so serious for the year, at eighteen, he received the first government of the supreme power. Pol- prize for piano-playing, in 1830 the first itics is the art of compromises; it always | prize in harmony, and in 1832 the muchdeals with what is most pressing. As, in the order of purely ecclesiastical questions, the temporary encampment at Rome of a political dynasty delays internal reforms, so the dwelling together on the hills of the Vatican and the Quirinal of these two powers makes it for the time unnecessary to settle the question, which, in my opinion, is the most important of all, of an international and more than Italian Pope. " If by chance this knot were to be cut soon, no one doubts that Cardinal Gibbons would become the object of the attention of all. An apostolic bishop, an American, a democrat, the incarnation of an ecclesiastical type that has attracted the attention of the best men in Europe, the introducer of a new civilization, the prophet, in a way, of the trans ormation which events are tending to make in the old framework of the European continent, the archbishop of Baltimore would be more than an emi nent cardinal; he would be a symbol. "That is why the writers for the house of Savoy, the protectors of the statu quo in appropriateness of its subject for at Rome and the champions of the tri-operatic purposes. These operas are ple alliance have always been bitter melodious rather than dramatic. Their against the primate of the United States. greatest charm is a certain piquant From the liberal Quirinal historian of gift of style and harmonization, but his the conclave, Signor de Cesare, to the music in general, like Massenet's, is deincense bearers of the old parties, all ficient in visility. On the strength of have denounced this possibility as a danger for the worn out world of con- and "Hamlet," he was appointed sucservative and monarchical groups. cessor of Auber as director of the Con-Against him are drawn up the fright of servatoire, which post he has held ever Signor Crispi, who is afraid of any since-a quarter of a century. He took change; the fears of the successors of a genuine interest in his honorable posi Gioberti, who wish to imprison the international greatness of the Holy See in | tion, introduced lectures on musical hisan Italian jacket; the selfishness of courts and of the triple alliance, whose watchword is 'no change,' and the stupid and incurable obstinacy of all the belated conservatives of the old world. De Cesare has gone so faras to accuse the American Carlinal of not knowing Latin, French and Italian. Does this not show the man up?"

"Innominato" concludes thus: 'Through his greatness of heart, more than through his progressive intelligence, Leo XIII. has severed the bonds between the two institutions. 'Christianity,' opera said De Tocqueville, the historian of democracy in the United States, 'is a Post. living being whom they have tried to tie to corpses; cut the bonds that re-strain it and it will rise again.' Leo

XIII. has dared to perform this opera-tion. Who would be blind enough to bind the cords again ?"

REV. FR. LACOMBE'S LETTER.

AN EARNEST APPEAL TO SUPPORT REMEDIAL LEGISLATION.

The following open letter explains itself :— MONTREAL, JRR. 20, 1896.

Hon. WILFRED LAURIER, M.P., Ottawa.

My Dear Sir,-In this critical time for the question of the Manitoba schools, permit an aged missionary, to-day representing the bishops of our country in this cause, which concerns us all, to appeal to your faith, to your patriotism, and to your spirit of justice, to entreat you to accede to our request. It is in the name of our bishops, of the hier-archy, and of Canadian Catholics, that we ask your party, of which you are the worthy chief, to assist us in settling this famous question, and to do so by voting with the government on the Remedial Bill. We do not ask you to vote for the government, but for the bill, which will | was the brilliant talent of the American render us our rights, which will be presented to the House in a few days.

I consider, or rather, we all consider. that such an act of courage, good will and sincerity on your part and from those who follow your policy, will be greatly in the interests of your party, especially in the general elections. must tell you that we cannot accept your Commission of Inquiry for any reason, and we will do the best to fight it.

If, which may God not grant, you do not believe it to be your duty to accede to our demands, and that the Government which is anxious to give us the promised law be beaten and overthrown while keeping firm to the end of the struggle, I inform you with regret, that the episcopacy, like one man, united with the clergy, will rise to support those who may have fallen to defend it.

Please pardon my frankness, which leads me to speak thus. Though I am not your intimate friend, still I may say that we have always been on good terms. Always have I deemed you a gentleman, a respectable citizen, and a man well able to be at the head of a political party. May divine Providence keep up your courage and your energy for the good of

our common country. I remain, sincerely and respectfully, honorable sir. your most humble and devoted servant.

A. LACOMBE, O.M.I. (Signed)

P.S.-Certain members of your party blame me for standing aloof from you and ignoring you. You have too much sense not to be able to understand my position. Belonging to no political party, I have to go to those who have been placed in power by the people. If one day the voice of the people calls you to govern the country, I will be loyal and confide in you, as I am and do today towards those whom you oppose. If you should wish to see me and to secure fuller explanations, I will be at your service, when that may please you, either nt the at you University o private rooms, provided you inform me

compulsory vocal classes for reading at title of the new. To accept her instruc-sight, and increased the salaries of the tion, then, way to understand aright the professors. Under his guidance the Con- | revelation of God to man; to follow her servatoire reached a point that makes it | guidance was to walk in the way of sal almost self-paying. Apart from his operas his compositions are animpor-

tant, and will not survive him,-N.Y.

REASON FOR FAITH.

Miss Starr Tells the Story of her Conversion.

The following is the full text of the to use the treasures put at my dissid address of Miss Eliza Allen Starr to the as to hear at last the sentence, " Well The following is the full text of the Ladies' League at their meeting in Chicago :

Descended from a Puritan New England family which had helped to rock the cradle of Harvard University, born of Unitarian parents, educated by Uni-tarian teachers in Unitarian schools, surrounded by the choicest, artistic, literary and social influences under Unitarian auspices, a girlhood inspired by William Cullen Bryant, ripening into womanhood when Carlyle, Emerson, Longfellow, Whittier, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Lowell were the philosophers, essayists, poets of the day-how is it that I stand before you now a Catholic -a Roman Catholic ?

On my first visit to Boston, in 1845, friends took me on my first Sunday to the music hall to hear their favorite preacher, Theodore Parker. Around me Athens-an imposing array to the eyes of the country girl who knew them all, as they were pointed out to her, through the glorifying medium of books, and whose reverent imagination had exalted them to a plane of heroic merit. Placeed between my artist friend and her husband, who was the author of one of the standard histories of the United States, I was prepared for an intellectual and spiritual banquet which would mark an era in my life. It certainly did so mark it, but in a way how different from what I had anticipated ! For as sentence after sentence came from the lips of the renowned preacher, first a tremor, then an actual chill came over me, as with smoothly flowing language but irresistible logic I found him demolish-ing every foundation stone of ing every

my religious faith and even hope. There was nothing left for me but to find other premises, other starting points, or forego all the beantiful intellectual as well as spiritual life which had come to me as a child from the sacred Scriptures; the Old Testament story of man-the New Testament story of a Child born to save the world from its sins, Who was crucified, died, rose again, ascended into heaven, from whence He would come to udge the living and the dead. All this I had believed on the authority of the Scriptures themselves, and this, too, while theological discussions were rife in old Deertield, where Dr. Samuel Wil lard had raised the Unitarian standard and among his most zealous supporters were my own family.

The shock was a severe one; nor did recover from it when we left the music hall and walked along the quiet-Sunday quiet-streets of Boston to the home of my friends. Nor did I recover from it all the weeks of my visit nor when I met in genial conversation the lions of intellectual Boston. The question had been started and would not be laid to rest. "What authority have I for the ith that is in me? for faith I had in

vation.

One month after I looked this conviction in the face I was received into the Roman Catholic Church forty-one years ago this Christmas, and never has my confidence in her as a teacher, a guide, wavered for one instant. Intellectually, as well as spiritually, I have been more than satisfied with the n arishment afforded me by this "mother of fair love, of knowledge and of here " my only anxiety having been, still circ. so done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."-Catholic Witness.



For some time past this Branch had in contemplation to hold a Concert, of which the proceeds should be used for the repairs and decoration of St. Mary's Church. Having gained the consent and cordial support of their beloved pastor, the Reverend Father O'Donnell, the members appointed a committee to carry out all details and ensure success as to the object in view. The following gentlemen were appointed to act as a Committee, viz: C. O'Brien, Chairman; F. D. Daly, Secretary; T. McDonnell, Treasurer: J. Weir, J. Condon, J. Cogan, C. O'Brien, H. Vaughan, E. Kavanagh J. Sheeby, G. Pattingale and J. McShane. The concert came off on Shrove Tucsday evening in the Hall of St. Mary's Church, and was, in every respect, a decided success. The hall was filled to the very doors by a select and appreciative audience who encored again and again the talented artists who assisted in this good work. Chancellor C. O'Brion opened the proceedings by some well chosen remarks on the working of the C. M.B. A. after which Mr. G. H. McLeod sang on of his finest songs The Amphion Trio pleased everyone by their guitar and mandolin selections. It was a treat to hear "The Holy City," rendered with true artistic feeling by Miss Jackson. Mr. B. Riggs took the house by storm with "His First Wife," and Mr. L. C. O'Brien gave one of his beautiful and affective recitations. Little Tootsie (Mis Doran) was as usual a prime favorte and did not disappoint her numerous admirers; Mr. H. O'Brien sang splendidly, as did Mr. D. Allen; Mr. J. J. Rowan also favored the audience with his splendid voice. Mr. H. Kearnsdanced a beautitul Irish jig. Miss and Master Kennedy sang a beautiful duct and charmed everyone present. The climax of the evening was when Mr. D. Allen and his accomplished daughter Miss Minnie Maud Aflen ap peared in the second part. Mr. Allen's dancing and singing and Miss Allen's blindfold letter reading were most enter-taining and wonderful. The Rev. Father O'Donnell addressed the vast audience in his most forcible manner, praising and endorsing the work of the C.M.B.A., and in an especial manner Branch 54, for the good example set by the Branch in the parish. He exhorted his parishioners towards more carnest efforts in religious society work, and explained to

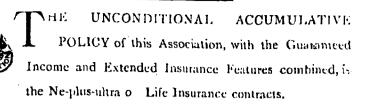
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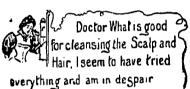
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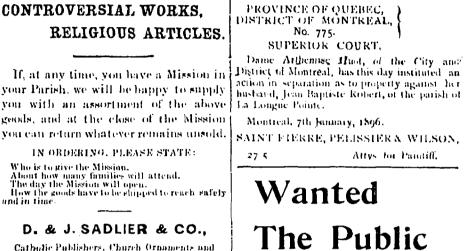
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THOMAS.

The eminent French composer, Charles Louis Ambroise Thomas, who died in Paris last Friday, was the son of a music teacher, and was born at Metz in 1811. two years before Wagner and Verdi. He began his musical studies at the age of four and entered the Paris Conservatoire in 1828, the famous Lesueur being his instructor in composition, and Kalkbrenner on the piano. The fellowing coveted Prix de Rome, which enabled him to study three years in Italy. In 1836 he returned to Paris, and devoted himself zealously to operatic composition, At that time Auber, Halvey, Meyerbeer and Donizetti were writing for the French stage, and it was not easy for a young man to gain a footing, but Thomas succeeded in having several operas accepted at the Opera Comique. The first four were tolerably successful, but they were followed by half a dozen failures, which for a time (five years)

discouraged him from continuing his efforts. In 1850 "Le Cid," and a year later the "Songe d'une nuit d'ete," were successful, and gave him a foremost place among the young French com-posers. But his only genuine and per-manent success came in 1866—"Mign on," which soon became popular in all countries, and had its thousandth performance in Paris, on May 15, 1894. "Hamlet" (1868) has also been often tion, improved the character of instructory, founded an orchestral class and



these great Christian facts, nor did I intend to resign it without evidence to the contrary.

As the fruit of the story of Jesus Christ announced by an angel to a virgin, born of this virgin a virginstill, working miracles, preaching His doctrine of salvation, to be rejected by His own nation ; crucified yet dying to rise again,-I had seen by the light of history the world emerging from the errors of paganism to the fulfillment of the glorious career of Christian nations, before the splendor of whose achievements pagan civilization and pagan morality has paled, and even pagan art and pagan literature has been out-stripped by the divinely inspired genius of Christianity. How could 1 take the retrograde step which denial implied without a close scanning of the foundations upon which Christianity rests.

From the moment I left the music hall of old Boston on that bright June morning in 1845 this quest for an authorized faith was the quest of my life. It was use-less to talk, to argue ; but I could keep my cars open, my eyes open, every intellectual sense open; and as far as in me lay I did this; and yet, read current history as I would, read or listen to theological discussions as I would-at least to those around me the question of an authorized faith remained unsolved.

In 1848 I went to Philadelphia. For the first time in my life I came in con-tact with educated Catholics; for the first time in my life I set foot in a Catholic church, but very, very seldom caring to attend a service and without the slightest intention of becoming a Catho-lic. Why should I? And yet, week after week, month after month, was being solved, without discussion, the question of an authorized faith in the Holy Scriptures ; above all, in the four gospels. For behind these gospels I saw the Church which had produced them, along with the epistles, evangelists, apostles under one divine head, the promise of our Lord Himself-" Lo, I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world " being fulfilled by transmitting His own authority to St. Peter, whom He had declared to be the corner stone of His Church; this authority to be transmitted by him to his successors to the end of time, so that these eighteen hundred and forty-cight years had been bound together by ties as strong as God could make them, even while working through the medium of His own creatures, made capable, as they were, of receiving, executing His will as perfectly as the winds, the seasons, the very stars that obey Him.

All this dawned upon me by degrees -very slowly but very clearly-until after nine years of mental struggle the Roman Catholic Church rose before me as an authorized teacher of divine truth, the depository of the Christian traditions, as she had been of the ancient Scriptures venerated by the Hebrews and of those of which she was herself the author and expounder under the

SHAMROCK FANCY FAIR.

all, in his earnest way, that union and

strength are necessary to accompilsh the grand design for which this Concert was

initiated.

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN CONSENTS TO BECOME PATRONESS-LIST OF OFFICERS.

At a meeting of the lady presidents of the various sections of the Shampek Fancy Fair, which was held at the office of the Secretary-Treasurer of the S. A. A. A., some time ago, Mrs. T. F. Moore, the active President of the Fair, and the Honorary Secretary, Miss Gertrude Stafford, were requested by the ladies to wait npon the Honorary President, Lady flingston, to ask her to communicate with Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen and ascertain if she would do the ladies the honor of becoming Patroness of the Fancy Fair. An answer has been received by Lady Hingston, which the latter forwarded to Mrs. T. F. Moore, informing her that the Countess of Aberdeen has consented to give

the Fair her patronage. The ladics are working very enthusi-astically in connection with the Fair. Two committees of members of the Association have also been appointed to arrange for two large competitions in connection with leading organizations in the city. Already many handsome contributions in money and articles for the various sections have been received by the ladies. Acknowledgements will publicly mude of these contributions during the course of next week. The lady honorary officers, under the presidency of Lady Hingston, intend to hold a series of five o'clock teas, and it is expected that the Countess of Aberdeen will be present on some of these occasions.

The officers of the Fair are:-Honorary President and Vice-Presidents, Lady Hingston, Mrs. James McShane, Mrs. J. J. Curran and Mrs. C. J. Doherty; active officers—President, Mrs. T. F. Meore; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. M. J. Polanand Mrs Frank Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. T. McKenna; Secretary, Miss Ger-trude Stafford. The presidents of the Mrs. T. F. Moore, Mrs. M. J. Polan, Mrs. 2 Frank Wilson, Mrs. Thomas McKenna, Mrs. F. B. McNamee, Mrs. G. A. Carpenter, Mrs. Dugald Macdonald, Mrs. J. F. Fosbre, Mrs. T. P. Owens, Mrs. F. D. Shallow and Mrs. Cavanagh.

A number of these ladies have also chosen their assistants, a complete list of which will be published next week. The organization is now approaching completion, and, when the names of the workers, which now number nearly one hundred, are handed in by the Presidents of the different, sections it will be seen that the success of the undertaking will be assured.

The Windsor Hall has been rented by the Executive of the Ladies' Committee for the week commencing April 18th.

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