

LORD STRATHCONA AND CANADA.

It is almost unnecessary to inform Canadians of the generous, practical and undivided interest which Lord Strathcona takes in our Dominion. His recent visit to Montreal, with all the gifts and favors that accompanied it, should suffice to show how much at heart he has the welfare of this country, its institutions and its citizens. But beyond the limits of his personal benefits conferred upon Canada and Canadians, the position he occupies in England—as High Commissioner for Canada, leaves a field of usefulness open for his energies, and facts go to show that he never neglects to cultivate it. In a February issue of the Liverpool "Catholic Times," he publishes a letter that is well-deserving of reproduction; but comment would be superfluous, so well and clearly does the communication speak for itself. The letter runs thus:—

"Sir,—May I be permitted at the opening of another season, to again draw the attention of the public, through your columns, to the advantages Canada offers to those who are contemplating emigration?

The great need of Canada is population, and there is room for many millions of people in the different provinces. With a territory nearly as large as Europe, its inhabitants are not more numerous than those of London. Free farms of 160 acres are offered to settlers in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, where thousands of square miles of fertile land remain unoccupied. This land is suitable for mixed farming. Crown grants may also be acquired in the other provinces, and improved farms at reasonable prices. I may mention also the great mineral wealth of the Dominion, its fisheries, its forests of timber, and its growing manufacturing industries, all of which are capable of great development, if the necessary capital is forthcoming.

"Canada seems to have entered upon an era of prosperity. The harvests of the past two years have been generally satisfactory. The other indus-

tries, as well as agriculture, have shown considerable expansion, and the export trade notably in food products of all kinds, is rapidly increasing. The same remark applies to the import trade, especially from the mother country, which cannot fail to be benefited by the Preferential Tariff. The inauguration of penny postage will certainly also have the happiest results in cementing the bond of union between the different parts of the empire.

"While it is not my intention to advise any one to emigrate to Canada who is already doing well at home, there are undoubtedly many who from one cause or another, have the matter under consideration. The classes wanted in the Dominion are persons with capital, agriculturists, tenant-farmers, young men desiring to learn farming, male and female farm servants, and domestic servants. Such persons often experience great difficulty in knowing to whom to apply for guidance, and I shall be glad if you will allow me to mention that the Dominion Government have established agents in the United Kingdom, whose names and addresses may be found on a notice displayed in almost every post office, through the courtesy of the postmaster-general. From those agents, and from my own Department advice, information, pamphlets, and letters of introduction to the Government agents in Canada may readily be obtained.

"I will only add that those who go to Canada, ready and willing to aid in the development of the country, may be assured of a cordial welcome. They will not find themselves in a strange land, but among a loyal and prosperous people, as proud of being subjects of the Queen as if their destiny had led them to reside in the United Kingdom.—Yours, etc.,

STRATHCONA,
High Commissioner.

Offices of the High Commissioner for Canada, 17 Victoria street, London, S.W. 2nd February, 1899."

CONFRATERNITY LIFE IN IRELAND.

A correspondent of the Catholic Mirror of Baltimore, who is traveling in Ireland, gives the following interesting sketch which goes to show the zeal and piety of the people in many districts in the promotion of religious organizations. He says:—

It occurs to the writer that a few notes on this interesting topic, gathered during the course of a pleasant stay in different parts of the country will be of edification, not only to the greater Ireland in the United States, but to all Catholics who watch with intelligent sympathy the spread of devotion among the faithful.

Illustrative of the many-sided zeal of the clergy and of the ready piety of the people, certain types of confraternity life are chosen, and from widely-different parts of the island, to "point the moral and adorn the tale."

In the ancient "city of the violated treaty," where Catholic valor made a last grand stand for Catholic rights and Irish liberty 'ere the thick, black clouds of the penal laws settled down in a terrific gloom upon the nation, the activity of confraternity life may be best evidenced, for the south and west, by the confraternity of the Holy Family for men, established in the Redemptorists' Church. Five thousand men are enrolled in this grand society, all parts of the city being represented. To strengthen the work of the Sons of St. Alphonsus, the other clergy, secular and regular, the latter including Augustinians, Dominicans, Franciscans and Jesuits, co-operate most energetically in sustaining the labors involved in monthly attendance on the sacraments by so many men. In all other ways in which priestly devotion can be exercised the clergy of the city strive to maintain their confraternity at a high pitch of excellence, justly regarding it as a powerful means of preserving the virtues of sobriety and purity and of the happiness of the domestic circle.

Derry is typical of the North, bustling and progressive, modern industry thriving within and beyond the old walls that still stand a monument to days that are gone with their bitter strife and persecution. Out of a population of 33,000 the Catholics number 18,000, so Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, bishop of the diocese, informed the writer a few months ago. And better Catholics are not to be found around "Erin's green shores." This is the testimony of missionaries, confirmed by the observation of intelligent Catholic visitors to St. Columba's old home. Here, with a fitness that is admirable, the memory of the

"dove of the Church" is not only lovingly preserved, but his predominant devotion, his marvellous love for the blessed sacrament (hence his name, Dove of the Church) is the most striking characteristic of the people's faith. The zealous clergy, under the head of the admirable administrator, Rev. William O'Doherty, C.C., foster this spirit of piety, so generously, so perseveringly, that on the occasion of the recent centenary in honor of St. Columba, every Catholic in Derry who had already made his first communion approached the sacraments on the great day of the celebration.

During the past summer I had the happiness of visiting Lough Derg, St. Patrick's Purgatory, Donegal. The warm-hearted priests who entertained me informed me that an event of special significance and comfort to them was the annual pilgrimage of the Catholic girls from Derry, who thus spent the holidays allowed them from their factory toil.

Those who know the severity of the Lough Derg pilgrimage will admire the courage and the piety of these brave northern girls. Assuredly devotion to the holy eucharist, the centre of Catholic faith and life, has worked wonders for religion where Catholicity had of yore to fight for its life through fire and blood.

To come to the capital, Dublin, is to come to a pre-eminently Catholic city, despite the entrenchment of Protestantism in place and power, despite the desecration by heresy and plunder of the venerable Cathedrals of Dublin and Glendalough, St. Patrick's and Christ Church. Here Catholic charity and piety are in multiplied evidence. On the corporal works of mercy alone, which are sustained in Dublin, a most interesting chapter might be written. The spiritual welfare of the people is safeguarded and nurtured by a zealous diocesan clergy and a numerous body of regulars, including Augustinians, Capuchins, Carmelites, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, Oblates, Passionists, Vincentians, all working, though on different lines, for the one great end. On the various organizations that contribute to the spread of Catholic devotion I may dwell in another communication. At present I confine these notes to the confraternity of the Rosary, which is here conducted differently from the manner prevailing in the United States.

Not only are the men and women enrolled in separate branches, but the mediaeval idea as to guilds, as it still prevails in European countries, is utilized. The class distinctions that

might seem repugnant to Americans must also be recognized. Thus the Dominicans, who are the special guardians of the Rosary, have made their Church of St. Saviour, though it is situated in a poor part of the city, a centre for a multiplied Rosary life that includes all ranks of society.

On the general supposition that women are the devout sex, I need not speak in detail of their work. Of the men's branches, a brief account will be suggestive. The leading Rosary organization, in fact, the leading confraternity in Dublin, is the Professional Men's Sodality of the Rosary. In this more than 700 gentlemen are enrolled, membership being limited to college professors, physicians, judges, barristers, solicitors and accredited university students, preparing for medicine or law. The attendance at meetings averages fully three fourths while the monthly communion is missed by few.

Next comes the Commercial Sodality, embracing merchants and commercial men and exceeding in numbers the professional branch. Its records as to meetings and communion is, the spiritual director has informed me, quite as creditable.

A third shoot bears among the peo-

ple the rather peculiar title of the "Grocers and Vintners Curates' Sodality." How these young men obtained this title of "curates" I know not. The fathers, however, as I have observed in the advertisements (here missions, retreats, charities, and sermons are regularly advertised in the journals,) designates the "curates" as "assistants" simply. More than 2500 of this laborious class are enlisted in the Rosary confraternity, while extraordinary efforts (necessary because of their peculiar conditions) are made by the Dominicans to hear the confessions of this small army each month.

Following the "curates" come the butchers' helpers, or the "purveyors" as English on this side of the water puts it. In like manner are other industries considered. And so no branch of trade or business is omitted. The work thus accomplished for the maintenance of the faith, the spread of devotion, and the protection of morality is incalculable. The places designated are representative in due measure of country districts, towns and cities throughout the land. And so a devoted clergy and a loyal people continue to deserve for Ireland her ancient title of the most Catholic country in Europe.

TALKS TO YOUNG MEN.

It is related that not very long ago a delegation from Baltimore called upon Senator Gorman in his committee room at the Capitol in Washington in advocacy of a certain plan which they deemed to be to the business interests of their city. The Senator listened to their plea, as made by their spokesman, and seemed impressed with the arguments brought to bear. When he spoke finally he promised them to do all he could for them, and then continued:—

"Mr. — was here a few weeks ago in behalf of this very measure, and there is no doubt in my mind that he would have succeeded in putting it through had he not raised everything by getting mad. Gentlemen, leave this to me, and if there be any delays consider them unavoidable and necessary, and don't get mad.

"When I was a boy in the Senate, years ago, something occurred which irritated me very much, and I showed my temper pretty plainly. An old white-haired Senator was sitting at his desk, and he noticed me venting my wrath. Calling me to him, but without inquiring the cause of my anger, he said, 'Boy, don't get mad. Never get mad. It's better policy to keep cool and take your time. And boy, always turn your glass down.'"

It is, no doubt, owing in great part to the strict following of that advice that Senator Gorman has succeeded so well. From page in the Senate he has risen, by his own efforts, to the proud dignity of member of that august body, representing a sovereign State and enjoying to the fullest extent the respect and esteem of his peers.

There is reason to fear that not a few young men nowadays are not following the aged Senator's advice, at least in regard to turning the glass down.

Does our enjoyment of any blessing detract from our sense of appreciation of it? A most interesting question. There may be different views in regard to it, but I think I should answer in the affirmative. It has become a proverb almost that you never appreciate what a blessing health is, until you have lost it. Our only opportunities are those we have lost or which have never come to us. We never think very highly of the advantages we possess in the present; those past or future, probably because distance lends enchantment to the view are far more desirable.

These reflections are brought about by a consideration of the inconveniences and even positive hardships, to which the youth of other generations who were desirous of education and culture were put in contrast with the advantages which are placed in the path of the young men of to-day to be almost generally neglected and even condemned. It seems a sad commentary on human nature, look at it one way, that the more we have the less we regard it and are thankful for it, the less we employ and make good use of it. — Catholic Mirror, Baltimore.

IRISH NATIONAL CAUSE AND ITS LEADERS.

Curtis Brown, in a correspondence, from London, to the American press, gives some very fine pen-strokes of T. P. O'Connor's personality; amongst other things he says:—

"One of the most interesting and broad-minded of those Nationalists is Thomas Power O'Connor, M.P., and likewise M. A. P., journalist, biographer of Parnell and Beaconsfield, and founder of newspapers. Mr. O'Connor is one of the most approachable men in Parliament, and it is not excessively difficult to get into his inner sanctum at the office of his latest journalistic enterprise, M. A. P., which, being interpreted, means Mainly about People."

Speaking of Mr. O'Connor's early trials and entry into politics, we find these remarks:—

"Trained in Queen's College, Galway, he began his London journalistic career on the Daily Telegraph, resigned early, and was sorry for it; because he starved and studied wistfully, as he says, the windows of sausage-shops through a melancholy procession of befriended days. He scribbled his slashing study of Disraeli upon old odd scraps of wrapping paper, got it published and made a leap into the light. Drifting deeper into politics, he was attracted to Parnell and Biggar in the period when obstruction was king, and at last entered Parliament as member for Galway in 1880."

Coming to the present he says — "In the opinion of Mr. O'Connor, and of other members of Parliament, the Home Rule question is going to assume an importance in this session that it has not had before since the Unionists announced in 1895 that Home Rule was dead. Oddly enough, it is to the Unionists themselves, as much as to their old Liberal allies, that the Irishmen look for aid." The House of Lords would pass a Home

Rule measure for the Unionists when they wouldn't do it for the Liberals. Besides, Home Rule is not one of the strongest planks in the Liberal platform these days.

The reason for the revival of the Irish hopes is the strong tendency toward union among the Parnellites and the anti-Parnellites."

Read in the light of great events which have transpired since this letter was written, we have a very strong proof of Mr. O'Connor's political acumen in the following:—

"I asked Mr. O'Connor what he thought about this important development, and his answer, as printed here, may be accepted as accurate, for he corrected the quotation in manuscript:—

"I don't know the opinions of the individuals who lead the different sections of the Irish party except one, and he is John Dillon. I know his mind and can speak positively in saying that he is most anxious for unity among the warring sections. There can be no progress for Home Rule until the party is united. Mr. Dillon has the largest number of followers, but he is willing to step down at any moment, if the interests of the party seems to require such a step. In fact, he has pledged himself to do so. He is, however, well qualified to lead.

"The feeling in favor of the union is growing very rapidly, and I should not be surprised to see it accomplished soon. You already find Parnellites and anti-Parnellites on the same platform in the West of Ireland, speaking in perfect accord on matters affecting the Government of the country.

"At present there is no vital spot of divergence among the Nationalists except the memories of old bad feeling.

"As soon as the Irish parties are agreed Home Rule will become inevi-

table. We have 146 majority against us in the House of Commons, but the majority will be overcome by power of numbers and logic of circumstances, although it might take five or six years to do it."

A word about his great amount of work:—

"Mr. O'Connor is generally credited with getting through with more work in the course of a day than any other man in Parliament, and I asked him how he did it.

"Ah!" said Mr. O'Connor, smiling joyously, "I've no method, no system, no regularity, no punctuality. In all the writing I've done in all these years I've never been ahead of time with a line. I've never been late either, but I'm a true journalist. I've put everything off till the last moment. Besides conducting M. A. P., I write steadily for the Daily Telegraph, and have some magazine articles on hand. Haven't written a word on 'em yet, either. But I haven't any books on hand now, although the story of Parnell's downfall, now running in M. A. P., will doubtless be published in book form. I would not write another line for a newspaper if I could help it."

It would be interesting to have a number of such sketches of prominent Irish politicians; they bring us, as it were, in closer contact with the originals, and constitute a bond of intimacy that otherwise must be lacking.

DEATHS IN TORONTO.

A glance at the returns compiled by the registrar of births, marriages, and deaths of the city of Toronto reveals the fact that a remarkable number of old people have passed away since the beginning of the year. Out of a total of 648 deaths registered, 123 were of persons who had reached or exceeded the allotted span of three score and ten years. Of these 60 were men, and 73 were women; 87 were between 70 and 80 years old, 32 between 80 and 90, three between 90 and 100, and one over 100 years old.

On enquiring into the cause of death, it was found that old age and pulmonary diseases were responsible for the removal of by far the greater number; senile decay having laid its wasting hand on 38, while such maladies as la grippe, pneumonia, bronchitis, and pleurisy claimed 34 victims; the remaining 51 dying of various other causes, in many cases proven fatal only on account of lack of strength to fight against them.

No doubt the extreme cold weather experienced this winter has hastened many of the old people to their graves. During January there were 67, and February's record was 56. Mary Maroney, a native of Ireland, was the oldest. She had passed the century mark by two years before she was summoned to appear before her Maker. Janet Leishman, 96, Elizabeth Barton, 93, and Edward Huxtable, 92 years old, came next in order.

Taking the record of the two months of this year as a criterion, the men who lived the longest were gardeners, farmers, butchers, bakers, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and laborers; several gentlemen and merchants, a county treasurer, a soldier, a dentist, an inventor, a journalist, a moulder, a weaver, and a painter were the callings of the others.—Mail and Empire.

Generous Bequests to Catholic Charities.

The will of the late Elizabeth L. Devine, whose obituary appeared in the last issue, disposes of an estate of upwards of \$500,000. By it she bequeathed an annuity of \$1,000 to the Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital, to be expended by them for rest and recreation at Point Pleasant or elsewhere, and for preparing festivals, such as readings, plays or concerts, for increasing the revenue of the hospital. The residuary estate is directed to be divided among the following institutions:—

St. Joseph's Church, St. Joseph's Asylum, Church of the Gesù, St. Mary's Hospital, Little Sisters of the Poor, Germantown; Episcopal Hospital, St. Agnes' Hospital, German Hospital, St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, Orphan Asylum, Tacony, and the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul attached to the Churches of St. Joseph, St. Augustine, St. Peter, Immaculate Conception, St. Michael and the Gesù.

An equivalent share along with the sixteen other legatees named above was left in trust to the Archbishop of Philadelphia, Dr. G. M. Marshall and Percy Keating, to be applied to the establishment and maintenance of a training school and dispensary connected with St. Joseph's Hospital. In the event of the plans of the said trustees proving unacceptable to the hospital authorities, the testatrix directed that this bequest shall become void, and shall then be divided among the remaining sixteen legatees.—Philadelphia Standard and Times.

There are always 1,200,000 people afloat on the seas of the world.

SHAMROCK CHAMPION HOCKEY TEAM.

Continued From Page Nine.

The Shamrock directors under the generalship of the veteran Shamrock executive officer, William Snow, who now occupies the presidential chair, and Wm. P. Lunny, the secretary-treasurer, whose duty it is to keep an eye on the Shamrock's share of the shekels, as well as the several other members of the hockey executive deserve great praise for the results achieved this season.

St. Ann's School from which thousands of Irish boys have gone forth has always been recognized as one of the Irish Catholic educational establishments of Montreal whose pupils have given loyal support to the Shamrock Association. When the hockey section won the championship on Saturday evening, the fife and drum band in connection with the St. Ann's Cadets, mustered at the Arena Rink, and after serenading the team, escorted them to the Windsor Hotel, playing several well-known Irish National tunes—Bravo St. Ann's School.

Below will be found the results of the season's play in the senior series:

January 7.—Montreal vs. Quebec, won by Montreal 7 to 1.

January 7.—Ottawa vs. Shamrock, won by Ottawa, 4 to 3.

January 10.—Victoria vs. Montreal won by Victoria, 4 to 2.

January 14.—Montreal vs. Shamrock, won by Shamrock, 4 to 3.

January 14.—Ottawa vs. Quebec, won by Ottawa, 3 to 1.

January 21.—Victoria vs. Shamrock, won by Shamrock, 5 to 2.

January 21.—Quebec vs. Montreal, won by Quebec, 2 to 1, null.

January 28.—Montreal vs. Ottawa, won by Montreal, 5 to 1.

January 28.—Quebec vs. Victoria, won by Victoria, 5 to 4.

February 4.—Shamrock vs. Quebec, won by Shamrock, 13 to 4.

February 4.—Ottawa vs. Victoria, won by Victoria, 7 to 5.

February 8.—Shamrock vs. Montreal, won by Shamrock, 4 to 3.

February 11.—Victoria vs. Ottawa, won by Victoria, 16 to 0.

February 11.—Quebec vs. Shamrock won by Shamrock, 3 to 2.

February 18.—Victoria vs. Quebec, won by default.

February 18.—Ottawa vs. Montreal, won by Ottawa, 4 to 3.

February 25.—Montreal vs. Victoria, won by Victoria, 10 to 6.

February 25.—Quebec vs. Ottawa, won by default.

March 1.—Shamrock vs. Victoria, won by Shamrock, 1 to 0.

March 4.—Shamrock vs. Ottawa, won by Shamrock, 7 to 3.

Lines taken from the Menu Card of dinner tendered to the Shamrock Hockey team, by four prominent young Irish Catholics, whose names appear in the above report.

There were Farrell, Brannen, Trihey, Scanlan,

The Star Four, who can score, And Wall with his lift

And Tansey so swift. The defence were immense,

McKenna in goals, Stops the puck as it rolls

To the joy Of the boys,

With up! up! from Barney

To the boys in the Green and Grey.

CHORUS.

There's just one Team, Only just one Team, There may be others I know, But they don't wear Green, They play so fine, They win every time, Here's to the Shamrock, The Champions of ninety-nine.

While the antidote is coming the snake-bitten man dies.

The sines of wisdom are slowness of belief and distrust.

Barber to swell customer: Why, your face is all cut up; what mutton-headed donkey shaved you last? Customer: I shaved myself.

Waiter yelling down the kitchen tube: Hey, Alphonse, make that chop a steak. Alphonse: Vat you tink? I'm a chef; not a magician.

Artificial decoration of the body is neither fine enough to deceive nor handsome to use nor wholesome to please.

The "True Witness" is the best medium of education for Catholic young men and young women. Heads of households should subscribe for it.