

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN EUROPE.

OUR REGULAR WEEKLY REVIEW.

There is a good deal of talk in English political circles about the possibility of a general election being held during the coming autumn. The whip of the Conservative party, Captain Middleton, found it necessary to give an official denial to the rumor; but his statement was so worded as to justify the misgivings of a large number of members on his side of the House of Commons, who have no desire to be put to the expense and risk of a general election so long as it can be postponed. Several considerations, however, easily suggest themselves in favor of a dissolution this year—considerations from the point of view of the Salisbury Government. The Liberal party is disrupted, the Irish party divided, the country is prosperous, the army has been victorious, and a wave of imperialism has swept over the land. Could there be a more opportune time for seeking anew lease of power, especially when delay gives a chance to the Liberals to organize and to formulate a popular policy, and to the Irish nationalists to unite under a capable leader who can count upon the hearty and loyal support of his followers?

The opposition offered by Mr. John Morley to the grant of \$150,000 to Lord Kitchener as a reward for his victory in the Sudan was futile, although his denunciation of the desecration of the Madia's remains was very effective, and will doubtless be useful when the general election comes on. Mr. Balfour made a clever excuse for the evidently brutal act, but admitted that it violated every rule of good taste. Lord Kitchener occupied a seat in the gallery of the House during the debate, and must have felt some remorse at his conduct. It is a good thing to be a British general. When he triumphs he obtains glory and money and a peerage. The poor soldiers to whose brave efforts the triumph is due get nothing. They must keep on marching and fighting; and if they don't keep their bare cropped like convicts they will be court-martialed and imprisoned, as the soldiers at Halifax have learned to their cost.

The Supreme Court of France has granted a new military trial to Capt. Dreyfus. It will be held at Rennes, so that interference from the Paris mobs may be rendered impossible. President Loubet is becoming a target for popular disfavor.

The most noteworthy event which has happened recently in connection with Ireland was the annual meeting of the Irish National League of Great Britain, to which attention is called in another page in this issue of the "True Witness." Under the presidency of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M. P., the League has done a vast amount of good work since its foundation seventeen years ago; and it is as vigorous and united to-day as ever. If proof of this were wanted it was supplied by a recent municipal election in an Irish ward in Liverpool, where the League's candidate, Mr. Thomas Burke, was opposed by a factionist, Mr. J. P. Kelly, who called himself an "Independent." Mr. Burke received 680 votes, and Mr. Kelly only 303. There are great rejoicings over the defeat of the representative of disunion.

It is gratifying to learn that the rumor that Mr. Justin McCarthy, whose "Reminiscences" are having a large sale throughout the United Kingdom, was about to retire from Parliamentary life is unfounded. The announcement that he intended to retire called forth columns of eulogistic references in the British newspapers of all shades of politics. No better tribute to the literary ability and personal urbanity of Mr. McCarthy could be forthcoming.

The Catholic Union of Glasgow is rendering immense service to Catholic interests. Its main object is to see that Catholics get their fair share of representation on public bodies, such as Parish Councils and School Boards. The Central Council is composed of the Vicar General, the rectors of each of the parishes in the city and two lay delegates from each of the latter, elected by popular vote. Whenever occasion offers the Union takes a hand in municipal and parliamentary elections. It is increasing in importance and usefulness every year.

The anniversary of the death of England's greatest statesman and Ireland's greatest English friend, Mr. Gladstone, was commemorated by a special service in Hawarden Church, which was largely attended. Mrs. Gladstone who is recovering from the effects of the terrible bereavement attended the church later in the day. The Rev. Stephen Gladstone, one of the dead statesman's sons, officiated. The fund for the national memorial to Mr. Gladstone has reached \$200,000.

Notes From American Centres.

The Wishita (Kan.) "Eagle," has spread its wings and is screeching, as loud as its voice and powers will permit, for more room, for more expansion. After declaring in its wisdom, that Canada is more French than English, more European than American, and more an enemy than a friend of the United States, the fiery "Eagle" proclaims:—

"We are in favor of wiping her out, either by annexation or conquest." This is surely brave language, and if serious and at all practical would be a terrible menace. But unfortunately, for the "Eagle's" ambition, it is one thing to wish the wiping out of our Dominion, and another thing to carry that desire into effect. We do not think that any of our Canadian fellow-citizens will lose very much sleep on account of the threatening attitude of the Kansas journalistic bird of prey. We have a few barn-yards in which our domestic fowl might be endangered were a Wichita "Eagle" to hover in sight, but as a rule, the farmers that own these premises keep old-fashioned shotguns that usually suffice to guard their hen coops from hawks, kites, vultures and such like unwelcome visitors.

Moreover it sounds very funny, coming from a patriotic American journal, to be told that annexation means the wiping out of Canada. We admit that here and there in this country there may be found an odd annexationist; but even such a rare specimen would scarcely adhere to his principles if he were convinced that they lead to the "wiping out" of the Dominion. As to "wiping out," by conquest," the

idea is worthy of the peculiar genius who presides over the destinies of the "Eagle." It is now some little time since the United States has made a conquest in Cuba, but we have not yet heard any report of the "wiping out," or probable disappearance of that island from the map of the world. If our Kansas friend's idea of conquest is the effacing of the country conquered, we must conclude that he knows as little about the subject as he does about Canada—and that is evidently infinitesimally little. If the great American Eagle does not he on its guard, the more insane "Eagle" from Kansas will some day usurp its place.

Here is an item of news, gleaned from the weekly press, and which speaks most eloquently for itself. We give it in full, just as it came to us, and we beg of our young readers, and especially of the members and leaders in our various Catholic associations, to read it, and ponder over the example thus set for them. The item says: "Elaborate preparations have been started for a monster rally to be given under the auspices of the Catholic Young Men's Diocesan Union at the Academy of Music or some larger hall next October or November. A meeting was held recently at the residence of the Rev. William J. McGuire, pastor of the Church of the Visitation and President of the National Association. A committee to be known as the Committee on Plans and Scope for the rally was appointed. It is composed as follows: Chairman, Assistant Corporation Counsel Peter P. Smith, St. Peter's Literary and Dram-

Continued on Page Eight.

THE NEW BISHOP OF THREE RIVERS.



MEMBERS OF THE CLOUTIER FAMILY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE.

At last it has been decided that the late Bishop Lalleche's successor, in the Episcopal see of Three Rivers, is to be Canon F. X. Cloutier of that city. The Archbishop of Quebec received the news by cable, and the Papal Bull is at present on the way from Rome. While the official announcement will not be given to the press until after the arrival of the Papal documents, still there is no longer any secret as to who the new Bishop will be.

The Rev. Francois-Navier Cloutier is one of a most exceptional and wonderful family. He was born at Ste. Genevieve de Batiscan, on the 2nd of November, 1848. His parents were Jean Cloutier, a farmer, and Olive Rivard. He entered the Three Rivers Seminary in 1864, and there completed his course of studies. As early as 1868 we find him teaching a class, completing a year of philosophy and commencing a course of theology. This was the beginning of a life of unremitting labor, which, after thirty years, finds Episcopal dignity awaiting it. He was prefect of studies, professor of rhetoric, and occupied nearly every position in that institution to the development, progress and success of which he has contributed, very possibly, more than any other individual.

In 1880, the late Mgr. Lalleche appointed the Abbe Cloutier to the responsible parochial position of vicar of the Cathedral. In 1883 he accompanied Mgr. Lalleche to Rome. On his return he was named Chancellor of



RIGHT REV. F. X. CLOUTIER, Recently Appointed to the See of Three Rivers.

the Diocese. In 1882 he became "curé" of Three Rivers and a Canon of the Cathedral. In 1897 he celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination, and on that occasion he received most touching evidences of the esteem and veneration in which he was held by all the diocese—both clergy and laity.

The Cloutier family is surely one of

the model religious families of Canada. The new Bishop's father was born in 1819, and led a most exemplary life until the day of his death, in 1877. His mother, whose maiden name was Olive Rivard, was born in 1824. She died in 1892, in her sixty-eighth year.

These two good people were the

parents of fifteen children, one died young, and fourteen are still living; of that number, ten are leading lives consecrated to God in religion. Apart from the Bishop elect, the members of the family, in religious life, are: Prosper Cloutier, pastor of St. Etienne des Grées; and Joseph Cloutier, curate of the same parish. Of the seven sisters who are religious, five belong to the Congregation de Notre Dame, and two are members of the religious community of Providence. The sisters in the Congregation are: Sisters du Sacrement, Saint Jean de Dieu, Jeanne de Valois, Sainte Emence, and Saint Coeur de Marie; those in the Providence Order are: Sisters Felicie and Edouienne. Amongst the lay members of the family are: Theophile, a farmer, who has inherited the paternal property, Ernest, a farmer, of St. Titre, and Jean, also a farmer in the same parish. All three are married and have large families. Finally the only remaining sister is Miss Emma Cloutier, who has consecrated her life to the duty of taking care of her brothers, and is house-keeper and companion for the pastor and curate of St. Etienne des Grées.

It surely can be said that the Bishop of Three Rivers will be at once the head of an important diocese, and the chief of a unique and important religious family. What congratulations! What joy! What happiness! Households, communities, parishes, all will hold jubilee!

The Hibernians of Quebec And the Ship-Fever Victims.

SPECIAL TO THE TRUE WITNESS.

Quebec, June 7.—The Ancient Order of Hibernians of this city have obtained permission from the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. S. Fisher, to erect a memorial monument on a suitable site at the Grosse Isle Quarantine Station for the purpose of honoring the graves and perpetuating the memory of their kinsmen who fell victims to the ship fever of 1847, and were buried there. This is an enterprise which should awaken the sympathies and receive the hearty and practical support of all Irishmen in Canada. Scattered throughout our Dominion are hundreds of prosperous children of the Irish race whose parents met an untimely death during that dread year of 1847. And even apart from the direct descendants of the fever-stricken emigrants there are hosts of others connected with them, either by marriage, or through various forms of association, all of whom should rejoice in an opportunity of contributing to a testimonial that might serve to perpetuate the memory of those pioneer sufferers of our race. Moreover, every Irish-Canadian, whether directly connected with them, or not, should feel it a sacred duty to

add one stone, at least, to the "cairn" that love and veneration will raise over their commingled ashes.

The story of those emigrants is a tragically sad one. Flying from famine and persecution at home, they met fever and death on the threshold of their adopted country. The grim spectre of want stalked through their native vales and blasted, with his very presence, their prospects and hopes; sailing away from those scenes of desolation, and looking forward to a future of peace and prosperity beyond the Atlantic, the scarlet bird of disease hovered over them, and in the shadow of its wing their crushed spirits went forth to eternal rest.

The idea of a monument to those numberless victims is not at all of recent date. It may have taken a more practical shape of late years, but we recall—as far back as 1887—Mr. Martin Battle, late collector of Inland Revenue at Ottawa, suggesting a fitting memorial of the kind now under consideration. Mr. Battle's idea was at once practical, patriotic, and in a sense poetic. As these few lines may come to the notice of the

persons immediately and actively engaged in the undertaking, we think it is very opportune that we should reproduce, as closely as our memory will permit, the words he used.

After advancing several strong arguments in favor of such a project, Mr. Battle added: "And that monument should take the form of an Irish Round Tower. It would there stand at Canada's gateway to greet the gaze of the future Irish exiles, whose last lingering looks at the old land may have rested upon one of those 'Pillar Towers of Ireland.' It would be at once a reminder of old Erin and a harbinger of sympathetic greetings in the new land. Beneath its shadow many a lone and unfortunate exile's dust might rest the more peacefully since the ashes of their forefathers sleep beneath some similar tower upon an Irish hillside, or in an Irish glen."

We need add nothing to these eloquent words. The mere reproduction of them should suffice to suggest such a fitting monument, and we can only express the hope that the Ancient Order of Hibernians may have these words brought to their attention and that whatever committee may be formed to carry into effect the patriotic enterprise, may deem it well to accord them a favorable consideration.

We cannot close this brief reference to the important subject now before us without paying a sincere tribute of

gratitude to the noble French-Canadian families, who came to the rescue of the Irish orphans of 1847, who adopted them, educated them, and opened out for them fresh prospects in life. As an evidence of that practical sympathy and Catholic charity, we have hundreds of prosperous and even eminent men to-day, to all intents and purposes French-Canadians, but actually Irish by parentage—McDonalds, Honans, McMahons, Frazers, O'Neills, O'Briens, Kelleys, McArthurs, Fitzpatricks, Prendergasts, O'Learys, and scores of others. Certainly, if the Irish have faults, ingratitude is not one of them; and if the French-Canadians have shortcomings, lack of hospitality is not of the number.

PERSONAL.

We are pleased to learn, that Miss Victoria Scott, of 1061 Berri St., was awarded on the 30th ult., a diploma for her success in the study of Solfeggio by the Canadian Conservatory of Music. Still higher honors await her, which in the near future we feel confident she will reap.

Dr. Harrison, graduate of McGill University '83, and for the past 15 years practicing in Cornwall, has taken up practice in Montreal at 666 Sherbrooke Street.

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION.

The Forty Hours commenced this morning at St. Anthony's parish at High Mass.