



EDITORIAL NOTES.

A GENTLEMAN handed us a few rare books the other day; they are relics from the collection of one who had a great taste for the antique and the beautiful. The owner of these volumes is anxious to dispose of them, but would not have them fall into the hands of any person incapable of fully appreciating their worth. We might say that the books are in an admirable state of preservation and are certainly very fine specimens of the literary age from which they come. One in particular is a most rare volume, perchance the only one of its kind extant, decidedly the only one on this side of the Atlantic. We would respectfully call the attention of any of our readers, who may have a taste for unique and ancient lore, to the titles of the works, and should any one, who has a collection of value, or who is anxious to possess books of the kind, desire to examine them, they can be seen at the TRUE WITNESS office. One of these books is entitled, "Advice to a Prince: by Thaddy MacBrody or MacBroddin, son of Dary; being the inauguration Ode of Donach O'Brien, 4th Earl of Desmond." The Irish and English versions are both given complete. It was published by the Gaelic Society of Dublin in 1808, and prepared by the then secretary of that Society, Theophilus O'Flanagan, A.B. The second volume consists of the complete works of Ossian, printed in 1816, and most splendidly preserved. The edition is by Hugh and John McCallam. The third volume is the entire Bible in the Irish language, as perfect as when it issued from the press in 1830. And the fourth book consists of samples of characters in all the written languages of the world. With this last mentioned it is easy to identify the Irish characters in the other volumes. Anyway we cordially invite any person, anxious to see or own rare works of this nature, to call and see them.

We clip the following from the last number of the Ave Maria:

"Noting the purposes of the 'solid Presbyterians' of Edinburgh, Scotland, to erect a statue to John Knox, the TRUE WITNESS, of Montreal, cites the not generally known fact that the only lineal descendant of this ancient enemy of the Church is a Catholic and a religious. He is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. His name is Brother Philip, and he has labored for upward of thirty years in the East, where he was engaged in educational work. He is now in Ceylon.—*The Pilot*

Our esteemed friend, the TRUE WITNESS, has not correctly remembered a note published in our columns last year. Brother Philip labored in the Eastern States (of America), and is at present, not in Ceylon, but at Notre Dame, Indiana."

We do not recollect having read the paragraph above referred to, in last year's Ave Maria; but, evidently, we were mistaken in placing the field of Brother Philip's labor in the East, instead of the Eastern States of America, and his present abode in Ceylon instead of Notre Dame, Indiana. But we took our information from one of England's best

known Catholic publications, the London Universe. However, we believe that the fact of the Rev. Brother being the only lineal descendant of the great anti-Catholic John Knox, is exact. It would have required quite a stretch of imagination on our part to have invented the above discrepancies. This little incident is a pretty good illustration of how often a thread of fiction may be found woven into a web of facts in the information that an editor receives.

THIS evening the great Home Rule meeting at the Windsor Hall takes place. Already, in our last two issues, have we spoken of this rally and invited every one who is able to attend to be present. Again we repeat, it is not merely to hear the different orators of the occasion that an audience is solicited, but specially to materially aid in the cause for which the demonstration takes place. It is beyond all doubt the duty of every truly patriotic Irishman to come to the rescue upon this occasion. Never before, in the history of Ireland, was the nation so close to legislative autonomy; a few months may decide the fate of the whole race for generations to come; deadly opposition is made to the Bill now under consideration of the Committee of the House of Commons; the Parliamentary Fund is being drained almost as rapidly as it is replenished; means must be had in order to keep up the fight to the bitter end; a false step, a slip backwards, a want of energy at this moment might destroy all the labor of years. Let the Irish hearts warm up on this occasion and let purses, according to each one's means, be opened.

HOME RULE has some strange opponents. Orangemen (of course), members of the aristocracy, ex-ministers of the Cabinet, ranting preachers, grasping politicians, mountebank demagogues, stock brokers, grinding landlords, spendthrift heirs to Irish estates, bucketshop keepers, horse jockies, and pocket-borough representatives. A goodly hodge-podge, which, if well stirred up and left out to cool would form a conglomeration that would puzzle the ingenuity of a Hugh Miller, to tell to what geological epoch it belonged. Here is the account of the brokers' demonstration, as despatched from London on May 3rd:—

"The city was the scene to-day of an unusual demonstration. Eight hundred brokers, headed by leaders bearing the Union Jack flag and wearing Union Jacks of paper in their hats, in token of their devotion to the cause of the Union and opposition to Irish Home Rule, marched in procession from the Union Stock Exchange to-day to a Unionist meeting at Guild Hall. Upon reaching Guild Hall and before entering, the brokers sang the anthem "Rule Britannia" and cheered loudly for the Union, for Lord Salisbury and other Unionist leaders. A crowd assembled, evidently not in sympathy with the brokers, and lent variety to the cheers by occasional hoots."

THE ARCHBISHOP OF FERRARA, Cardinal Louis Giordani, has passed away

in his seventy-first year. He was born at Codifruine, in the Romagna, and made his studies at Ferrara and Bologna. He was made Domestic Prelate to Pius IX in 1852 and nominated to the delegation of Ascoli. He was raised to the purple in 1877 and assigned the title of SS. Sylvester and Martin *ai monti*. In that church the first Council of Rome was held in 326. He was the twenty-fourth in rank of the Cardinal-priests, and belonged to the Congregations of Bishops and Regulars, the Index, Ceremonial, and Lorete. He was a man eminent both for his great abilities and his great virtues. May he repose in the glory that his meritorious life so well deserved.

JOHN RUSKIN has been nominated for the position of Poet Laureate. Much as we admire the beautiful works of Ruskin upon art and all that pertains thereto, still it seems strange that a man, who never wrote a line of verse, and especially one who has been so afflicted, as has the venerable critic of late, should be chosen to succeed the late incumbent of that high literary post. It is true, much of Ruskin's prose contains more genuine poetic sentiment and expression than the generality of so called poems of our day; still under the circumstances, unless it be simply to recognize and please the old *litterateur*, it appears an anomaly to crown him with the Laureate's wreath.

THE ILLUSTRATED AMERICAN, as the Pilot points out, gives the title of "An Orange Mafia in Ireland," to the ruffians whom it characterizes as "the illiterate, the flunkies, the time-servers, the indistinguishably base and loathsome horde who make religion an article of commerce patriotism a charter to pillage."

REFERING to conversions from Protestantism to Catholicity the New York Catholic Review says:

"The Catholic Church can name 500 upright and intelligent persons—men and women—of fairly high social standing who have been converted to it from Protestantism in this country within the past fifty years. Protestantism of all denominations cannot produce 5 eminent and virtuous Catholics who have gone to it in that same half century. And the 500 do not make a tithe of "Rome's Recruits"—that number is used simply because the quota could be easily filled from the legion of American converts who during that period have sought safety in the old, original, and only Church of Christ."

THERE seems to be a tidal wave of political disquiet rolling over Europe. Waves of revolution have periodically, and almost at stated distances, swept the continent. This year the old world seems to be convulsed with the shocks, more or less powerful, of a disturbance that is in itself very significant. Belgium has just emerged from the throes of a bloodless revolution that is apparently destined to work wonderful changes in the destiny of that land; Germany is now launched into an election that may precipitate a struggle between the Imperial power and the popular will; the dis-

solving of the Reichstag, on account of an adverse vote upon the "Army Bill," and the Emperor's recent utterance indicate a mighty conflict in the near future: France, ever since the Panama scandals, has been playing shuttlecock with a number of ministers, and the inability of so many personages to form a government causes a fevered state of instability in that land; Spain is now in an almost similar predicament; Italy is striving to wade through a commercial crisis that is the outcome of bad government and long continued misrule; in England the Irish Home Rule measure is working a quiet but positive constitutional revolution that will eventually turn to the benefit of the whole Empire. In the midst of all these continental changes there appears but one hope for the peace of Europe: all eyes turn towards the Vicar of Christ. There is a rumor that Leo XIII intends to issue an Encyclical on the important subject of the "Peace of Europe." Be that as it may, there is one thing beyond all doubt, that the great and only umpire of the nations is the head of the Catholic Religion. It is in this time of political turmoil that the towering genius of the saintly statesman of the Vatican is felt and recognized.

HALF A CENTURY ago, or less, the name of Louis Kossuth was on every lip in Europe and even America. He was the leading spirit in almost every revolutionary movement on the continent; the fervent patriotism of the old Hungarian still clings to him, but utopian ideas, such as might have seemed rational forty years ago, but which vanish in the light of this last lustrum of our century, indicate that Kossuth has outlived his time and is not in touch with the spirit of our generation. In a recent interview, with a correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, upon the Home Rule question, he gives evidence of the failure of his political judgment, yet conveys a good idea of the veteran's peculiar theories upon such subjects:

"As to Mr. Gladstone's second scheme for Irish home rule," Kossuth said, "I know very little about it or the real principle underlying it. I believe, however, that Mr. Gladstone will never arrive at his goal. The Irish question presents the same obstacles as squaring a circle. It is a perfect utopia, this wish of Mr. Gladstone to establish the autonomy of Ireland without granting to that country absolute independence, and I should not be astonished if Ireland should one day throw herself into the arms of the United States in order to gain what she wants. Distances between countries do not count to-day as they counted in the past. It has been said that the situation of Ireland is comparable to that of Hungary, and some eminent Englishmen have asked my opinion in regard to that assertion. My answer is that it is false. The Austrians never conquered Hungary as the English conquered Ireland. Hungary merely made a pact with the house of Hapsburg for neighborly association. Ireland, on the contrary, was conquered by force of arms and will only be delivered by force of arms."

A vote on a petition to repeal the Scott Act will be held in Brome, Que., on June 16.