

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1898.

DESTITUTION IN THE
WEST OF IRELAND.

The bitter cry of destitution continues to reach us from the western shores of Ireland. As will be seen from what we publish on the subject elsewhere, over two hundred thousand of the people on the western coast are at present in a condition bordering upon starvation. Nor is this sad state of affairs traceable to the fault of the victims themselves, or to the infertility of the soil. It is due to the misgovernment of England, which taxes the people \$12,000,000 a year more than they should pay, which allows hundreds of thousands of acres of arable land to be locked up in the possession of the wealthy and unproductive few, to the neglect of the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant to listen to the solemn representations of the facts of the case which were made to them by the Archbishop of Tuam and the Bishops of the West in their Lenten pastorals, some of which were reproduced in the columns of the *True Witness* at the time.

At a mass meeting held in the West of Ireland, it was resolved to request Mr. Michael Davitt, M. P., to present to the President of the United States a memorial calling upon him to ask the American people to come to the rescue of the starving peasants of the famine-stricken district. Already, even before the memorial has been presented, help is pouring across the Atlantic. The *Boston Pilot* has opened a subscription, and has sent across its second instalment. Mayor McGuire, of Syracuse, N. Y., "the boy orator of the United States," has forwarded a thousand dollars to the fund started by that valiant and uncompromising champion of Irish freedom, the Irish World, of New York. Other sources of charity will also be in evidence before long, and there will, we trust, be no lack of assistance once its urgent necessity becomes known to the sons and daughters of the dear old land, and their descendants.

One circumstance in this connection has struck us as being somewhat peculiar. Why is it that the eyes of those who are now in sore distress, and of those who have taken up their cause, should be turned solely on the United States? Certainly that country has bestowed its assistance upon the distressed Irish with a lavish hand in the past. But, has not Canada done its share of the good work, too? Has not its Parliament passed a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Canadian people with Ireland's constitutional struggle for Home Rule? Have not thousands of dollars been sent from the Dominion for the Irish Parliamentary Fund, as well as for the various famine funds the organization of which has unhappily been rendered necessary. We confidently expect that some strong Irish Catholic Association in Montreal—say the A. O. H. or St. Patrick's League, backed up by the other Irish Catholic organizations—will lose no time in taking up a work which is at once so urgent and so meritorious. The celebration of the '98 centennial is fast approaching. What more fitting form could it take than the subscription of a large sum to rescue those two hundred Western Irishmen, Irish women and children from the terrible pangs of want and hunger. The *True Witness* will be only too happy to give the use of its columns for the purpose of publishing any general appeal that may be issued, and any subscriptions that may be received in response to it.

ST. ANN'S CADETS.

In St. Ann's Parish, it is gratifying to find that the true spirit is alive and that, under wise and energetic guidance by the clergy, not only are the long established associations active and useful, but that new means are being adopted to keep abreast of the time. The latest move, in the right direction, is the organization of the St. Ann's Cadets, a creditable body of youths, drawn from the present and ex-pupils of St. Ann's School. The corps has its chaplain, one of the Rev. Redemptorist Fathers, and its drill instructor, Sergeant Major Fagan, to whom all praise is due. On Tuesday evening last a dramatic

entertainment was given by the St. A. Y. M.'s Club, who presented "Pizarro" in a praiseworthy manner, in aid of the new organization. The hall was crowded, and the enthusiasm manifested showed how popular the corps is and the hold it has taken on the people. On that occasion Rev. Father Lemieux, the new Rector, presided. He was greeted with the hearty acclaim of his flock, who showed that whilst deeply regretting the departure of Rev. Father Catulle, they are devoted to his successor, and hope that he may have a long and successful term of office, aided, as Father Catulle was, by Rev. Father Strubbe and his indefatigable associates.

The organization of the Cadets is an important step. Many of those best qualified to give an opinion are advocates of elementary military training in all our schools and colleges. On more than one occasion the advantage to be derived from drill have been pointed out in these columns. It is unnecessary to insist that it gives boys a manly bearing, accustoms them to habits of discipline, and is free from exposure to the painful and often serious accidents occurring in these games; and above all, it makes the boys feel a pride in their country, whose arms they are bearing, and prepares them for doing their duty as citizen soldiers should the occasion ever present itself. From these Cadets will spring, we hope in this city, at least, one regiment with which the Irish name will be specially identified. There are now the Royal Scots, wearing the Highland uniform, of which the sons of St. Andrew are justly proud, and the Sixty Fifth, a distinctively Irish-Canadian organization, as well as others that could be mentioned. Our people have no distinctively Irish-Canadian regiment. Our young men serving in the volunteers swell the ranks of many regiments in the city; this is certainly not to be depreciated, since it creates a feeling of brotherhood, amongst the different races, in our own happy Canadian community; but it is desirable that we should have at least one regiment where the Irish-Canadian element will predominate, just as our friends of other races have their special organizations. To have such a military body will be the best evidence of our loyal attachment to our Canadian institutions, and give us our proper status and influence in a very important branch of our government alongside of our fellow-citizens of other origin.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS IN PROTESTANT COLLEGES.

In the June number of the *Catholic World*, Dr. Austin O'Malley, M. D., L. L. D., has an exhaustive as well as a very interesting article on "Catholic Collegiate Education in the United States." It is replete with facts, figures and suggestions which are highly important especially at the present juncture, when this subject is being brought home to us in a variety of ways. Dr. O'Malley tells us that there are 1452 Catholic students in the different State universities and collegiate institutions, there being 300 at Harvard, 201 at the University of Pennsylvania, 120 at the Michigan University of Michigan, 118 at that of Wisconsin, and 115 at Yale. All these institutions are profoundly non-sectarian, and some of them are undisguisedly anti-Catholic. It costs the Catholic parents of these boys, at the lowest computation, \$2,026,000 to keep them at the colleges—within \$127,000 of the total amount appropriated last year by all the states of the Union for the States Universities.

Yet American Catholics pay as much as this, if not more than this, to keep Catholic colleges and universities running in the different States. "What are they getting for the money?" asks Dr. O'Malley. Very little. "We might," he says, "have, and should have, universities like the Pennsylvania, or Harvard, or Yale. I am not finding fault with the noble men who, in poverty and toil, have built up the collegiate institutions we have, without any hope of earthly recompense, without salary, often without proper food and clothing. I am merely drawing attention to our misdirected struggles, to the indifference of our people to all unity of endeavor. We complain about the scantiness of our resources while we are throwing millions of dollars into holes in the ground. Several American Catholics think that their colleges are private institutions, or rather, boarding houses, which are carried on for the money that can be made out of them. The smallness of the cost per student, however, effectually refutes this argument. In the Catholic colleges which are worthy of being so called it appears that there are only 973 students, out of a Catholic population of at least 10,000,000."

On the obvious evils which befall a Catholic student of a non-Catholic college, Dr. O'Malley descends at some length. The results of the lack of discipline, he seems to think, is one of the chief of them. "Human nature," he points out, "in any country, is not fond of discipline, and the youth in the 'free country' of the United States is vehemently

opposed to it. That is another platitude, but a bitter one. We Americans so often tell ourselves that we have a deeper respect for law than is possessed by any nation in existence that we actually take the joke seriously. We really have no respect for parent, priest or governor, unless these persons are morally stronger than we are. When we find a strong man we make orations about the nobility of obedience and we march in line. Love for obedience as such, for its sacredness through the touch of God's will on it, is almost unknown among us. Not boys alone, but men—and not a few of the latter are priests—think the discipline in our Catholic colleges too strict."

"What is the very reason for existence of a Catholic college? If it is only to sharpen a boy's wit, then in the name of common sense why do we not turn the matter over to the State universities and keep over two million dollars of yearly expenditure in our pockets? The Catholic college is intended for the teaching of history that can talk for at least a page without lying, of literature that has the foulness cut out of it; we want 'narrow-minded,' expurgated literature, because we prefer to teach a boy the beauty in literature—he can learn the lechery thereof from the devil without the help of a professor. The Catholic college is also intended to teach the elements of metaphysics and ethics, to replace histories of erroneous systems of philosophy and sneers at scholasticism made by men who, through ignorance of technical terminology, could not understand Catholic philosophy if they honestly tried to study it. It also teaches Christian doctrine; but almost half its work should be devoted to that moral education that is effected by discipline. The end of education is not so much learning as living, and intellectual education alone does not conduce to good living."

AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC NEWS.

New force has been added to our repeated contention in regard to authentic Catholic news by the recent publication, by the Associated Press of the United States, of a document purporting to be a circular letter of the American Hierarchy on the present war. Many Catholic papers published the letter as genuine, because they knew that the authorities of their Church are only too prone to favor the secular press in such matters, to the detriment of Catholic newspapers. As we have several times insisted, it is to the columns of the *Catholic Journal* that a Catholic reader should naturally turn for authentic intelligence on Catholic subjects.

"Unfortunately," as the *Visitor of Providence*, R. I., says, "the truth is that Catholic news, as such, is rarely given to Catholic papers by those who could give it, who, however much they have the cause of Catholic journalism at heart, usually prefer to 'favor' the secular papers when their favor would be worth dollars and cents, and, better still, authority to their own papers."

There is only one way to stop this; and that is for the conductors of the Catholic press to make joint representations to our Bishops on the subject. This fabricated circular letter on the Spanish-American war could be used as a powerful argument; and it will have served a very useful purpose if it secures the desirable end which the *True Witness* has so long had in view.

WAS VIRGIL AN IRISHMAN?

That St. Brendan, the intrepid navigator, discovered the American continent over a thousand years ago, is quite within the bounds of possibility. The Celtic original of the Scandinavian Vedas has recently been proved to the satisfaction of eminent Celtic scholars. "We were not, then, unprepared for the suggestion of the Rev. Dr. Starbuck, of Andover, Mass., that Virgil was an Irishman, and that the name of the bard of Mantua was Ferghal. In the Middle Ages, in the case of the Holy Bishop of Salzburg, 'Ferghal' was Latinized into 'Virgilius.' The poet Virgil was confessedly a Cisalpine Gaul who did not receive the full Romish citizenship until he was grown. To be sure, the encyclopedias and other biographical sketches of the poet usually mention his birthplace and give other particular information, which at first reading seems incompatible with the Celtic theory, but do encyclopedias never err? The Rev. Mr. Starbuck points out that there is much in Virgil's style to recommend a belief that, for all Virgil's love of Rome and Roman history and tradition, he was not a Roman. "The witchery of his phrase," we are told, "and the delicacy of his sentiment, and his appreciation of female feeling, are thoroughly Celtic." Dr. Lambert, of the New York Freeman's Journal, to whom this theory is addressed and who no doubt would like to believe it, seems to have been considerably impressed. He modestly affirms that he is not an authority on Celtic "linguistic antiquities," but it appears that he knows a thing or two about ancient Celtic history, which gives support to the theory. He writes: "Lombardy, or Cisalpine Gaul,

the province in which Virgil was born, was inhabited by Celtic centuries before his birth. It is reasonable, therefore, to suppose that he was of Celtic origin, and that his name was Ferghal, and that it was Latinized into Virgilius. About two hundred years before the birth of the poet Cisalpine Gaul was conquered and became a part of the Roman Empire. There are many words in the Latin language that are of Celtic origin." One of these, he then says, is the word "semper," which means "without end" in the original Celtic words from which it is derived. "If semper is Celtic," he asks, "why not Virgil?"

Suppose, however, that Virgil did come of Celtic stock of Lombardy, the theory still has little more than speculative interest. Two hundred years, except when viewed in the perspective of history, make up a long time. Would the sons of the families whose ancestors went to America among the colonists of 1698 care to say that they were not Americans, but, for instance, Englishmen, because the immigrating founder of the family emigrated from England two centuries ago? If Virgil was a Celt, the Celtic race gains something; but what do Romans lose? The thoroughly national subject of Virgil's epic and the great historical and antiquarian lore which he dedicated to the glorification of "populi Romani," show that he was such a patriot, whatever the race of his ancestors, as are the Americans of today.

A PRIEST'S THEORY OF
THE MAINE DISASTER.

The Rev. Professor McCabe, of the Seminary of St. Charles Borromeo, Overbrook, Pa., has sent to President McKinley an exhaustive report on what he is firmly convinced was the actual cause of the fatal disaster that overcame the American battleship *Maine* in the harbor of Havana. The Rev. Father's theory is rather startling, but it is none the less plausible. After carefully examining all the evidence given at both the American and Spanish Courts of Inquiry, and the reports of each as the cause of the terrible occurrence, Father McCabe arrives at the conclusion that the *Maine* was destroyed neither by an internal nor an external explosion, but broke asunder as a result of defective construction.

Father McCabe takes as the keynote to his theory the well-known tendency of the *Maine* to dip her head in the water, and the very words of Naval Constructor Bowles, of the Brooklyn Naval Yard, that the vessel had a tendency "to go down by the head." Mr. Bowles also stated that "at the time she was launched she stuck her nose in the water, but it was hoped that her armament could be so arranged as to remedy this grave defect. It was the immense strain due to this rearrangement of the ship's armor that caused the disaster, according to Father McCabe, who says:

"To have this effect her forward part had, of course, to be comparatively lightened, and her centre of gravity moved further back than was at first intended. Even after this readjustment it was considered desirable to empty her forward coal bunkers first for the purpose of lightening her in that region, as the immense weight of her terrible ram or ram bow, as it is technically called, still tended to draw her head downwards. What an immense strain this rearrangement must have caused to the comparatively light portion of her structure intervening between the ram and the forward boilers! A strain increased by the consumption of every ton of coal taken from her forward bunkers. True, her strong frame and powerful keel were able to stand the strain for years, but it must have been constantly exerting its force, and the power of resistance gradually and imperceptibly diminishing, it could only have been a question of time when the crash would come. At last the crash did come, and just about half way between the bow and the forward boilers, immediately in front of the foremost, the mighty keel gave way, and following the line of least resistance, necessarily rose and bent like a fishing rod, tearing with it and forcing up the ship's sides, beams, bulkheads, decks, and everything else in its path, till the fore-and-aft parts of the forward section bumped together and the strain was relieved by the bow striking bottom, and the after part crushing down and sinking. We can now understand why the edges of the breaks and cracks in the plates presented so torn and jagged an appearance, the wrinkling and buckling of the vertical keel, decks, etc., and the peculiar character of the dull, muffled, deafening sound or roar first heard, as well as the facts testified to by the spectators on board the City of Washington, which was only 300 feet off to port and stern."

There is a good deal of plausibility in the Rev. Professor's theory; and it is a pity that he did not give publicity to it earlier. As, however, it was not the destruction of the *Maine* which was the cause of the present war, the interest in the subject dealt with so ably by Father McCabe is purely scientific. If his conclusions come to be generally accepted they will have done a great service in clearing the Spaniards from the suspicion of having been guilty of an act of treachery of which only their worst enemies deem them capable of performing.

Readers of this paper desiring to buy anything advertised in its columns should insist upon having what they ask for, refusing all substitutes or imitations.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It is heartrending to many of our Protestant friends to be forced to recognize the growing influence of the saintly old man imprisoned in the Vatican. An influence which has withstood the determined attacks of the man of blood and iron, who smashed at his will one of the proudest empires in history, but fell back, battered and shattered, when he dashed himself against the rock on which the Church is built. On the great chess-board of universal politics, whose is the hand of the umpire? Whose is the influence always making for peace and good will to men? The Holy Father's. The "United Italy" which one reads so much about has practically degenerated into a mere name. England, with her usual avidity to crush anything and everything Catholic, lent her moral and financial aid to the formation of this United Italy. The installation of Victor Emmanuel in the Quirinal seemed a blow to the Papacy that could not be overcome, but the events of a quarter of a century have proved conclusively that the Church is greater than mere earthly power.

The words of an eminent English naval officer, Captain Gambier, have a prophetic cadence about them: "Reason as we may, blink facts as much as you like, the Pope, in the silence of his austere furnished room, with his simple fare of pasta and cold water, is a power in shaping the destinies of the world, greater than the Czar of Russia, greater than Emperor William, greater than all the foreign secretaries who fret and fume on the political stage in the length and breadth of Europe."

These are the words of a clear-sighted man, a man who watches the affairs of the world, a student of the tremendous forces the nations find necessary to bring together in order to maintain their integrity. How prophetic were his words may easily be seen at the present time, when this United Italy is torn by internal dissensions, when her pride of arms is humbled in the dust by a dusky Abyssinian monarch that Garibaldi or Victor Emmanuel would have looked on as a mere barbarian; when the absolute putridity of its method of government finds light in the disgrace of investigation commissions; when people clamor for bread, and not for blood; when famine stares the peasant in the face; when banking scandals shock the world; when, in a word, as has been well said, the Italian throne is tottering to its fall; now, when these things are happening, the Vicar of Christ, prisoner though he be, is the real power the nations look to.

Some years ago a close observer of Italian national conditions wrote: "Italy is in a deplorable condition. A broad and overweening national ambition has saddled a groaning country with an army and a navy of utterly disproportionate size. The monarchy does not feel itself safe. It would never abandon Rome; Rome is a name to conjure by, but a compromise might easily be effected. The Italian Government could cede to the Pope a small portion of Rome on the Vatican side of the Tiber, with a narrow strip of land running to the sea. Italy would lose nothing of moment; the Holy Father would gain the independence he desires. It would make no difference how small the territory was, so long as it was made neutral ground by international agreement." It would be questionable, however, under the present conditions, if such a small concession as this would begin to be acceptable as a measure of restitution for the robbery of the States . . . of the Church.

Cavour must have been foreseeing when he warned . . . Victor Emmanuel that interference with Rome would entail untold disaster on his dynasty. How well the warning was justified is being shown every day by the progress of events.

The Belfast Irish Weekly, in referring to the proposed Anglo-Saxon Alliance Scheme, says:—Mr. Chamberlain wants to see the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack waving together in war. But has it occurred, the Daily News wonders, to Mr. Chamberlain that here, as in so many other things, Ireland may be found to block the way? Mr. Chamberlain now proposes, on the occasion of the demand of Home Rule for Cuba, to seek alliance with the United States. Mr. Davitt asks Mr. McKintley to make Home Rule for Ireland a condition precedent. But the fact remains that the Irish vote is a strong, and often the dominant, factor in the politics of the United States. It is the Irish vote which has been at the bottom of much of the political bitterness in the past between the American Government and the British.

Lord Dufferin, so well known in Canada, in speaking to a representative of an English journal on the same subject, is reported to have said:—"I am sure there is no Englishman who does not earnestly desire the best possible understanding and close amity should exist between the United States and Great Britain, but the question of an alliance, using the term in its diplomatic

and technical sense, is one which involves various issues which for the moment, it seems to me, it would be premature to discuss."

Belgrade's national library, which opened with 40,000 volumes on the shelves, has closed on account of the disappearance of all its books. It was intended to be a circulating library, but the people who took out books never returned them, and on investigation it was found that the books passed from one reader to another till they could be no longer traced.

Those who think that the college girl does not take kindly to matrimony must study their facts a little more closely, says an American authority in the N. Y. Post. At a reunion last week of a certain class of '97 of Vassar, there were seventeen girls present. Of this small number, four announced their engagements.

The New York Herald, in referring to the visit of Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine, to Washington, and the appointment of a joint commission to deal with all pending disputes between the United States and Canada, says:

Heretofore many things have stood in the way. The Behring Sea arbitration and the negotiations which followed left behind their grievances and bitter memories. So of the North Atlantic fisheries, and, in a less degree, other controversies. So long as the same agents were concerned in these matters, so long they were likely to remain unsettled. But the British Ambassador conceived the idea of a commission on which new men should be appointed—men in no way mixed up with old troubles. It is a commission of that nature which has now been agreed on in principle. Its members go to London for approval. If approved and if the right men are appointed on both sides there seems no reason why all outstanding questions between Canada and the United States should not be finally settled. A blessed work!

LADY HIBERNIANS.

St. Mary's Parish Holds a Most Successful Social.

The Organization Making Good Progress.

The Ladies' Auxiliary, Division No. 3, of St. Mary's Parish, held a most successful entertainment on Monday, May 20th, in their hall, cor. Craig and Paret streets. This spacious hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and was filled with the friends and supporters of the Auxiliary. Mr. Wm. Rawley, the energetic County President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, presided as chairman, and outlined the objects for which these ladies are united.

After this, the first part of the programme was proceeded with as follows: Instrumental duet, "Chanson Gazelle," by Misses Street and Price, which made a very favorable impression upon the audience and received much applause; the latter young lady, although not a Montreuxer, has gained the esteem of those whom she has met, by her pleasing manners and her ability as a musician. Next came the beautiful Chorus, entitled "Friendship, Love and Song," by the Ladies' Auxiliary, who did full justice to the composition. Miss May Logan, a little girl of tender years, sang "Daddy, I love you," in a manner which pleased all present. Miss Durand followed and as usual received a hearty encore. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Ed. Quinn, there was a slight change in St. Ann's Quartette, his place being filled by Prof. P. J. Shea. These four gentlemen (Messrs. P. J. Shea, M. Mullarkey, W. Murphy and J. Penfold) sang two pieces in splendid style. Master Polan captivated the audience by singing "I want my Lulu" in a manner which would reflect great credit on one of maturer years. Mr. and Miss Laing next appeared in a vocal duet; though strangers in this city they are becoming great favorites in musical circles. Mr. M. Mullarkey, the popular vocalist of St. Ann's, sang a favorite song and received great applause.

Then followed the most important item of the programme, namely, the serving of the ice-cream and cake by twelve young gentlemen and ladies, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies' Auxiliary respectively. The second part of the programme then began with a quartette, by Messrs. McBrien, Palmer, Jeffrey and Caron. Musical selections by Mr. F. Dunn, who is endowed with the talent of executing on several instruments. Mr. O. Leroux held the audience spell-bound with his Leger-main Feats. A banjo duet, by Messrs. Howard and Chambers, was well received, as was also Mr. Wallace's violin solo. The triple Irish jig, by Messrs. Jones, Higginbottom and Kearns, was so well received that they were obliged to respond again and again to the applause of the audience. The grand chorus of God save Ireland terminated the programme.

The Ladies of the Auxiliary wish to thank the gentlemen who comprised the second part of the programme; they are members of the Acme Comedy and Social, and contributed largely to the evening's entertainment; also, Mr. Wm. Rawley, Mr. Humphrey Kearns, St. Ann's Quartette and the members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, who worked so assiduously on that evening, and in fact every one who helped to make the concert a success.

Life is meant to be pleasant, and would be, if it were not for those mistaken ideas of what is pleasant, which make all the mischief. The power to appreciate what is noble and beautiful gives more delight than any quantity of champagne; and the power comes of cultivation, but the discipline is severe. —Bakun Grand.