

PAPAL ELECTION MAY HINGE ON PROPHECY.

Prediction of St. Malachy as to "Ignis Ardens" is Held to Have Possible Reference to Three of the Papabili.

Rome, Feb. 18.—A lucky chance brought me into contact with one of those prelates who, possessing sufficient ability to merit a high position at the Roman court, have too much philosophy and nonchalance to aspire to supreme power. I took advantage of the opportunity to introduce the subject of the next conclave.

"The thing has been talked of now for fifteen years," said the prelate. "Since then the Sacred College has been renewed several times over. Nevertheless, the Pope is more virile than ever."

"But, Monsignor, the Holy Father is none the less ninety years of age. At such an age accidents are always possible. One may, therefore, without temerity, seek to know what would happen if the head of the Catholic Church should suddenly disappear. Would it be an indiscretion to ask you which, in your opinion, are the cardinals who have the best chance of succeeding him?"

"There is not the slightest indiscretion I have good reasons for believing that candidates are now more numerous than is supposed, for the simple reason that no one candidate has preponderating claims. The names which come up most frequently in the papers—Stamps, Parocci, Rampolla, Gotti, Vannutelli, Capulatro—are not the only papabili. You know the profound proverb: 'He may enter the Conclave Pope and leave it a cardinal,' which history has confirmed and may probably vary again in the next conclave. I know, for instance, a cardinal who thought himself sure of the tiara. He had numerous supporters; he had relations with several foreign governments. When Leo XIII fell ill, about a year ago, he thought the moment had come to unmask his batteries. Unfortunately for him, Leo XIII got well and the propoganda was left stranded or thereabouts."

Lives Like a Monk. "Tell me something about Cardinal Gotti, monsignor, of whom every one is talking 'urgi et orbi.' 'I scarcely know him; at the most I have spoken to him twice for five minutes. He is a monk who has passed most of his life in the cloister. Since he has worn the red hat he continues to live like a monk. He is never seen at the foreign embassies, still less in the salons of Roman princes. When created a cardinal he went to reside in a solitary palace in Trajan's Forum. He probably found it too noisy for him, for within the last few months he has emigrated to the Carmelite convent outside the Porta Pinciana. The Pope has recently appointed him prefect of the bureau of regulations, and it is said that he devotes all his time to the studies connected with his important office."

"All this does not explain why the name of Cardinal Gotti should be so prominently put forward. 'I suppose it arises from a somewhat singular circumstance. He is making things in their order. Father Gotti was general of the Carmelites when Leo XIII. (who is a good judge of men) selected him to go and reform the convents of Brazil. It was a severe task for the old Italian. He acquitted himself to the satisfaction both of the government of Rio Janeiro and of the Holy See. His reward was the purple. You may remember that such an unexpected elevation could not attract attention to the man who had been quiet in the future conclave. It was quite another thing, two or three ago, it became known that on the part of one of the founders of the Holy See, Cardinal Gotti, competitors.

set the entire Roman hierarchy on its feet. His competitors felt themselves obliged to make a move, and sought to outdo him. They inquired into the life of the general of the Carmelites, to try to find a weak point. The existence of a history. Then it was that, rumors, Gotti was charged with intrigues with foreign cardinals in a party in the future conclave. I added that these rumors are asinine; Gotti did not even reply to those attacks, and the position of the pontiff is so high that he is impolitic to defend himself against accusations of the nature of those which I have already told you. The influence of Brazil is in retirement outside the walls of the city. A strange situation for intriguers, is it not? 'When in your opinion, there is a great probability of Cardinal Gotti succeeding Leo XIII?' 'I did not say that. I can only repeat, I scarcely know this propoganda. He certainly passes for a man of knowledge and judgment, but he has not yet given the measure of his qualities. He is respected, but it cannot be said that he inspires much sympathy. He is said to be severe, and one does not acquire popularity in the ecclesiastical world in Rome by displaying stiffness to his subalterns."

Pope Cannot Budge Thara. "Do not know what truth there is in the story which describes him as the candidate of Leo XIII. What is certain is that the secretaries of state who receive the confidence of the master hardly ever succeed him. My idea is that what creates the high position of Cardinal Gotti is the ferocity of some of his rivals. He has gained a great deal by remaining calm and silent in the midst of the attacks of which he was the object. 'But I will give you one conclusion; here it is. Perhaps you have heard of the prophecies of St. Malachy. The Romans attribute special value to them. It should not be forgotten that the conclave will take place in Rome, and that the Italians will decide the election. This prophecy, which it is said, goes back as far as the eleventh century, but which has been known for more than 150 years, is expressed in brief sentences, which are supposed to characterize the pontificate of each of the popes. 'At any rate they mark some significant

feature applicable to each. In these tables Pius V. was designated the 'Pilgrim Traveller,' Pius VII. as 'Aquila Bajax,' which so clearly signifies Napoleon, the actual pope. The motto 'Lumen in Coelo' has been verified, whether in regard to the blazon of the Pecci, which contains a comet, or attaches to the moral significance of the present pontiff, which may justly be regarded as a luminous page in the history of the church. 'Well, the next pope is thus designated: 'Ignis Ardens.' Now, there are three cardinals who may justly pretend that this description applies to them. And these three cardinals are named Stamps, Vannutelli and Gotti. Allow me to close the interview with this remark."

WHOLE FAMILY BURNED.

Father, Mother and Three Children Burned to Death in a Fredericton Holocaust—Notes from the Capital.

Fredericton, Feb. 21.—Edward Lawrence, a well known resident of Lakeville Corner, Sunbury, his wife and three children were burned to death in their homes at that place early this morning. On finding the house was on fire Mrs. Lawrence escaped from the burning building, but went back later to save her children, but as she entered the house the roof fell in and father, mother and three little ones were consumed in the flames. The charred remains of the family were found in the ruins after the fire had consumed the house. Two boarders narrowly escaped with their lives by leaping from windows. Mr. Lawrence was a man about 40 years of age.

Hon. John P. Burchill presided at a caucus of supporters of the local government last evening. All the members of the legislature supporting the government were present, including Mr. Ganong, Mr. Madawaska, and the meeting was most harmonious and enthusiastic. The legislative programme for the session was discussed at some length. Dennis Hanlon, chief clerk in the Barreau, received a telegram from Brockton, Mass., this morning, conveying the sad news that his brother, William D. Hanlon, had died very suddenly at that place last evening. No particulars were given, but it is assumed that heart failure was the cause of death. The deceased was about 20 years of age, and a son of the late John Hanlon, of this city.

The Farmers and Dairymen's Association of New Brunswick will hold their 26th annual meeting in the Y. M. C. A. building here on February 27th and 28th and March 1st. Hon. Sydney Fisher, Mr. W. A. Saunders, Dr. W. A. Saunders, director of experimental farms, Ottawa, and Col. Wm. Blair, of Amherst, will be among the speakers.

FROM THE WISE EDITORS.

A Bas Hutton.

Military dictatorships do not flourish in the free soil of Canada.—[Montreal Herald.]

'They're After Me.'

Cronje's hands are playing the pathetic little ballad, "Follow me—follow me." The invitation is cordially accepted.—[Toronto Star.]

Capitalists Have Money to Waste on Peddlers.

There is considerable talk and no little dissatisfaction about town at the large number of peddlers and agents of one sort and another who have fairly swarmed the city and suburbs for the past two or three months.—[Fredericton Gleaser.]

To Say Nothing of the Opposition.

If all the pulpits of the Dominion would join the Metropolitan in denouncing politicians like Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Tarte, who exist by reason of their ability to put race against race, the best service they could render to Canada.—[Toronto News.]

Lansdowne Knows a Good Thing.

There is mighty little use in talking in parliament in the hope of finding favor with the course the Canadian government has taken in this war, when such cablegrams are arriving as that from Lord Lansdowne, saying: 'Permit me to say how proud I am of the manner in which Canada is standing by us.'—[Toronto Star.]

An Awful Admission.

Mrs. Timothy L. Woodruff was the guest of honor at the Daughters of the Revolution luncheon yesterday in the Savoy Hotel. The luncheon was given by the general society to the local chapters. Mrs. Foster M. Voorhees had also been asked, but Mr. Foster M. Voorhees, governor of New Jersey, sent a letter of regret, bewailing that "Mrs. Foster M. Voorhees" is a veritable Mrs. 'Arris, and informing the hosts, in the words of Sairey Gamp's envious cronies, that "there ain't no such a person," and never has been.—[N. Y. Herald.]

St. John Wants This Contingent.

Ominous rumors are in circulation in the city regarding the likelihood of a Fenian invasion of Canada in the spring. A meeting of the commanding officers of the Toronto garrison was held on Saturday evening to make arrangements for carrying out the war game settled upon by General Hutton some weeks ago. At this meeting, it is said, the possibility of a Fenian raid was brought up, and the statement made that positive evidence existed in high quarters that a Fenian coup is contemplated as soon as the weather will permit of operations in the field.—[Toronto Globe.]

Religious Daily Gets Mad.

More Satanic language than the above from the Toronto Evening News we have never seen in print. We do not hold the preacher mentioned responsible for the astounding calumny with which he is credited, as a paper which would so traduce the man who has done more than any

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The Valley Full of Green Lydite Fumes—Cronje's Men Penned in a River Bed and Kitchener Pounding Them With a Hundred Guns.

An Appeal to Reason.

The fight is really a fight for liberty and for the liberty of the majority. The people who sympathize with the Boers are sympathizing with the unshamed party in the war. They want to see a government trust re-established, which shall exist for the benefit of the governors, rather than for the benefit of the governed. If the Monroe doctrine is defensible, and if America must be reserved for the government here, then the attempt of the British in South Africa to secure the majority there the right of such government, as they desire, especially as the majority is British, must be defended also, all sentimental sophistries to the contrary, notwithstanding.—[Boston Transcript.]

Be Good and You Will Be Wealthy.

It is not true to say that the stage is all evil or that the taste of the great mass of the British in South Africa is unshamed party. "Little Minister" has made more money than "Zaza," "Ben Hur" will be more profitable than "The Degenerates," "Sapho" and "The Conquerors," all three together. "The Old Homestead," "Shore Acres," "Way Down East," "Shenandoah," "Secret Service," and to step back a few years, "Held by the Enemy" and "Hazel Kirke" have been among the conspicuous financial successes of the theatre. Every one of them is as sweet as a succulent Baldwin apple. Even among the farces not all the successful ones have been bad. "Because She Loved Him So," with its tender music, is one of the best. It has done much money as the Paris productions which are packed in chloride of lime and exported to this country.—[Boston Transcript.]

The Broken Down Exodus.

Formerly our young people were forced to leave Cape Breton in hundreds for the United States. Today hundreds of ex-patriated Cape Bretonians are arranging to return to their homes. The hearts of fathers and mothers will be made glad and in the future there will be far fewer scenes of assembly on Monday with a crowd of our people as today better off. There is more demand for labor at better prices.—[Sydney Reporter.]

The Old Island.

Newfoundland has done a patriotic thing in contemplating the motus vivendi on the French Shore question shall be continued for another year. We are glad to hear that the motion passed the House of Assembly on Monday with an unanimous vote. The importance of this voluntary surrender of colonial rights to relieve the imperial government of the possibility of a rupture with France while embarrassed with war in South Africa, is as valuable a piece of patriotic self-denial as the sending of troops to the front by large numbers of our people in the mother country. The ancient colony is loyal to the core, and this proves it practically.—[The Wesleyan, Halifax.]

A Hot, Hot Time.

We are now suffering under the tyrannous rule of the most cruel and heartless oligarchy that has been known in modern times, and the only indication of a change of government is the time from bad to worse. They can, without the least scruple of conscience, and with hearts as hard as the roughest millstone, look upon some of those who will be simply impoverished by their unjust and merciless acts.—[Telegram, St. John's, Nfld.]

Who Would Not Suffer.

Exhaustive estimates have just been published of the cost of living at Yale. From \$800 to \$1,000 is considered enough for an average student. The investigations show that Yale men are spending more for drink than they did a decade ago, and are more liberally contributing to religious and philanthropic societies.—[Bangor News.]

Bobs' New Ally.

Perhaps, on the whole, the most effective way in which to defeat Oom Paul's brilliantly unique device would be to light the Boer apparatus with mica. A few boxes of these creatures let loose in a trench defended by the women would set them scurrying far more precipitately than could be accomplished by any other means, if they are made of the same material as their sisters in other parts of the habitable globe.—[Boston Herald.]

Canada's Sacrifice.

Canada has taken her rightful place and amid all our tears and sorrow for their loss we feel a pride that it has been given to our soldiers to give up their lives in so great a cause and a part of their duty there can be no doubt about our position. We have given our best for the empire.—[Fredericton Gleaser.]

And He Will Be Thirsty.

When Bob dines at Bloemfontein he will order a bottle of Stym.—[Boston Herald.]

Winston Has The Floor.

Owing to so much of The Patriot being given to the intensely interesting account of Winston Spencer Churchill's escape from Pretoria, editorial and other matter are held over.—[Charlottetown Patriot.]

Need for Reform.

There are men, but their number is happily diminishing, who sit on the fence and smoke their pipes while their wives milk the cows, feed the pigs and spit the firewood with which to prepare breakfast. They do not ask them to do this, but they permit it to be done, and their wives, poor simple souls, come to regard it as a matter of course and a part of their duty to their lords.—[Gagetown Gazette.]

The Most Wonderful Scene.

The correspondent ever witnessed. Once before he had seen one hundred and ten guns in action, but never such a number of powerful guns concentrating their fire upon a spot about a mile square. The exploding lyddite shells raised great clouds of great smoke, completely filling the bed of the river. The shrapnel burst on the edge of each bank, except for a short space where the proximity of the British infantry made it dangerous. Our shells searched every bush and tree, and the ravine of the river bed. The enemy's guns must have done terrible execution. The roar was deafening, yet with a slight of despair amidst the Boers' shouting and again attempt to snipe the naval guns which were firing at a range of 1,000 yards. The long line of three batteries belched

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