

CONCERNING REPORTS OF CATHOLIC NEWS.

From time to time we have announced in the columns of the "True Witness" that we would not publish any item of news concerning Catholic matters, in local affairs, which had appeared in the secular press.

This news and these views should first see the light in the "True Witness" as it is the organ of Catholics speaking the English language in this district, as it has recently been proved that whatever the secular press deems to be of importance it will copy from our columns.

A DISTINGUISHED NUN DEAD.

The "Irish Catholic" gives a graphic account of the life and the peculiarly noble work performed during half a century by the late Sister or Mother Gertrude of the Presentation Convent, Listowel, in the world she was known as Mary Gertrude O'Connor, and was born in Tralee, seventy-six years ago.

woman may exercise on those around her, and her knowledge of our people showed her that the overwhelming majority of parents are utterly incapable of bringing up their children, particularly their sons, in the way best calculated to make them strong, helpful and independent—true men and true women.

So unique and interesting is the story of the organization—outside convent life—that Mother Gertrude formed, that we will reproduce what the "Irish Catholic" says upon the subject. In the course of a very long article that organ states as follows: "But it was in a sphere peculiarly her own, and somewhat foreign to the genius of convent life, that this wonderful woman's great qualities of head and heart appeared in their fullest perfection.

Her class or rather association of young men, was the outcome of these views, and her strong sense of duty to her friends, in particular, and mankind in general, it was considered more on social than on scholastic lines; and so tactfully and unobtrusively were advice and instruction given that the most conceited young man himself corrected with little loss of dignity, and the most bashful and sensitive without blush or pain.

TOPICS OF THE HOUR.

The burning question of the hour is the war that is now going on between Great Britain and the Boers of South Africa. Not merely as a war is it interesting to the people of this country, but the fact that onless political controversies and national antagonisms have been awakened in consequence of the connection, that is about to exist between our Dominion and the theatre of the struggle, has made it a subject of all-absorbing importance.

about, and one would imagine that we were on the eve of some great race-war in our own country. We are in sympathy with neither one nor the other. The ultra-loyalists are men who evidently make a profession of their patriotism and who love to proclaim their devotion to a great cause, by the safe means of urging others to go forth, while they let steam and clap hands at home.

As to an opinion upon the merits or demerits of the situation, on either side, we cannot see what good purpose would be served by its pronouncement at this moment. We have ever advocated union and harmony, and we know of few questions that have been more fruitful of division and discord than this one of the Transvaal war.

And what we say of the ultra-loyalist, we can equally apply to the opposite, or anti-loyalist one. Especially are Irishmen designated when ever there is any doubt cast upon the enthusiasm and loyalty of any element in this country. We can only speak for ourselves; but in so doing we speak as Irish and as Catholics. We claim that the Irish people have ever been the most loyal race in the world. Firstly, it cannot be questioned that as a people, they have been unflinchingly loyal to the traditions, the aspirations, and the sacred interests of their own land.

als of our race, may be carried away by an enthusiastic spirit of nationalism, which finds expression in language calculated to militate against their very best interests; but it is equally true that the same spirit does not permeate the great mass of our fellow-countrymen.

Where we are at a disadvantage, when any grave question of this class arises, is in the fact that we possess no grand, central, authoritative, organization, representative of the various societies and different bodies to which our people belong, and whose calm deliberation would ever lead to a general decision upon any attitude to be taken in every case of national moment.

In the case of this Boer struggle, we have a striking illustration of our contention. Opinions are raised and played on record without any there existing a possibility of their weighing the merits of the conflicting claims of either party.

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