

# The Catholic Record.

"CHRISTIANUS MIHI NOMEN EST, CATHOLICUS VERO COGNOMEN."—"CHRISTIAN IS MY NAME, BUT CATHOLIC MY SURNAME."—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

VOL. 2.

LONDON, ONT., FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1880.

NO. 74.

## GENTLEMEN,

See our IRISH and SCOTCH TWEDS and SERGES—the nicest patterns and most durable texture ever shown.

Our Cutting and Tailoring is unequalled in the city.

N. WILSON & CO.

## ECCLIASTICAL CALENDAR.

March 1880.  
Sunday, 14—Passion Sunday, 1st Class. *Semi-Double.*  
Monday, 15—Office of the day. *Ferial.*  
Tuesday, 16—Office of the day. *Ferial.*  
Wednesday, 17—St. Patrick, Bishop and Confessor. *Double-Major.*  
Thursday, 18—St. Gabriel, Archangel. *Double-Major.*  
Friday, 19—St. Joseph, Spouse of the B. V. Mary, and Patron of the universal Catholic Church. *Double-Major.*  
Saturday, 20—Feast of the Seven Dolours of the B. V. Mary. *Double-Major.*

Written for the Record.

## The Graves of Martyrs.

The kings of old have shrine and tomb,  
In many a minister's haughty gloom;  
And green, along the ocean side,  
The mounds arise where heroes died;  
But show me, on thy flowery breast,  
Earth! where thy nameless martyrs' rest!

The thousands that, unheeded by praise,  
Have made an offering of their day;  
For truth, for heaven, for freedom's sake,  
Resigned the bitter cup to take;  
And silently in noble faith,  
Bowling their noble souls to death.

Where sleep thy earth? by no proud stone  
Their narrow couch of rest is known;  
The still, sad glory of their name  
Hallows no fountain, unto fame;  
No—not a tree the record bears  
Of their deep thoughts and lonely prayers.

Yet haply all around lie strewn'd  
The ashes of that multitude;  
It may be that each day we tread,  
Where those devoted hearts lie dead,  
And the young flowers that children sow,  
Take root in holy dust below.

Oh! that the many rustling leaves,  
Which round our home the summer weaves,  
Or that the streams, in whose glad voice  
Our own familiar paths rejoice,  
Might whisper through the starry sky,  
To tell where these best slumberers lie!

Would not our inmost hearts be still'd,  
With knowledge of their presence nigh?  
And by its breathings taught to prize  
The meekness of self-sacrifice?  
But the deep woods and sounding waves,  
Are silent of those hidden graves.

Yet what if no light footsteps there  
In pilgrim love and awe repair,  
So let it be! Like him whose clay  
Deep buried by his Maker lay,  
They sleep in peace—but the glad,  
Unknown to man, is mark'd of God!

ANGELIQUE.  
"Enfant de Marie."

Hamilton, Ont.

## PARNELL IN TORONTO.

### THE MEETING AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.

#### AN ORDERLY AND ENT HUSIASTIC AUDIENCE.

From the Globe, March 8th.

The meeting on behalf of the Irish Land League and Relief Fund held last night at the Royal Opera House was a complete success. Long before the time at which the speeches were announced to begin people began to pour into the Royal Opera House, and at eight o'clock both galleries were full and the parquet chairs almost all occupied. The audience was, of course, composed in greater part of men, but here and there a lady was seated. Very good order was maintained throughout the evening.

The Chairman, Mr. John O'Donoghue, in introducing the orator of the evening, expressed his great pleasure at standing upon a common platform with his friend upon the right in the city in which he had spent over forty years of his life. He had watched Mr. Parnell's course at home and since his arrival in America, and he was bound to say that every man who felt an interest in Ireland must be proud of him. (Loud cheers.) He had been followed with severe criticisms, but who had ever stood up and vindicated the cause of Ireland that had not been so followed? He alluded to the recent grants that had been made by the Legislature of Ontario and the Dominion towards the relief of the distress in Ireland. The cause of that distress did not lie, as had been sometimes said, in the character of the Irish people, for in every country where they had gone they had raised themselves to the highest and most prominent positions. In Canada there were many instances of this, and he believed that it was to a large extent attributable to the greater freedom of our laws. Mr. Parnell had come to the conclusion that the best method he could take to help the suffering poor of Ireland was to come to America and to appeal to the liberality of the people of this country. But before asking for their alms he (Mr. Parnell) would explain the causes which led to the existing distress, and to the means which would prevent its recurrence. He introduced to them Mr. Parnell, who was received with great cheering.

Mr. Parnell said—Mr. Chairman and citizens of Toronto, I thank you for perhaps the warmest welcome which I have

received since I have crossed the Atlantic. (Cheers.) This welcome sufficiently dispels the calumny which was heaped by the pro-British press upon the people of Canada—that they did not sympathize with the suffering people of Ireland. Your actions before we came here had indeed sufficiently dispelled that calumny, but I am glad that you have also reserved some of your sympathy for our mission, and while you have showed before our arrival that your hearts were opened and that your money was ready to alleviate the distress of Ireland, so also your wish to help us in preventing the recurrence of that distress. (Cheers.) Many people when they hear of famine in Ireland, look upon it as a dispensation of Providence; they think that it is due to a bad harvest, or that there has been too much rain, or that the soil of Ireland is poor and unable to feed our population, but none of these reasons apply in the case of our Irish famines, which are caused by men and not by God. (Cheers.) They are artificial and not natural famines. The soil of Ireland is not poor—it is capable of supporting twice her present population in abundant prosperity and happiness. Our climate is the most genial in the world; our people are not idle and slothful—they are energetic and hard-working, when they are working for themselves as men. (Cheers.) Now how is it, you will ask, that every ten or fifteen years we have frightful famines in Ireland? The argument is sometimes put forward that the people of Canada and the United States have no right to inquire into the cause of Irish famines, but those who speak in that strain should recollect that this is the third time that the world has been appealed to within one generation, and that it is a fact that the Irish people of this country as well as those of the United States send annually large sums of money to help the Irish peasants to pay their rents. From reliable statistics we know that between eighty and ninety millions of dollars have been sent from the continent of America to Ireland within the last twenty years, and that nearly all of this money, instead of going to make those to whom it was sent more happy and more comfortable, has gone into the pockets of their landlords. (Applause.) I believe that the people of Canada, like the people of America, are concerned whenever they see that there is a suffering nation, and they consider that there duty as a practically free country is to help Ireland to attain that position of freedom and that self-government which they themselves possess. (Cheers.)

THE LAND TENURE.  
Now, we charge that these continually recurring Irish famines, and that the state of chronic poverty which always obtains in Ireland, are due to the conditions of land tenure in that country? It is the old feudal system which almost every European country started, and which has been tried and found wanting, and abandoned in every civilized country except Great Britain and Ireland. And the 600,000 tenant farmers of Ireland having tried this system, have come to the conclusion that it is high time it was abandoned in Ireland also. (Applause.) For in no country has the system inflicted more evils upon the country than in Ireland. And now you will ask, What remedy have you to propose? Well, we have almost got tired of proposing remedies. We have been proposing remedies for the system of land tenure in Ireland for the last thirty years, and we have not been able to obtain any hearing for it, comparatively speaking. It comes to this: that the British Parliament, which cares nothing whatever for Irish public opinion, will not be moved upon any Irish question until its attention has been directed to it by some very forcible and out of the way occurrence. (Applause. Mr. Gladstone himself, speaking upon the question of the Disestablishment of the Church in Scotland the other day in Parliament, said that it was not until a prison had been broken into in the heart of the metropolis (alluding to the Clerkenwell affair) and a policeman shot in the discharge of his duty in the city of Manchester that the disestablishment of the Irish Church entered into the domain of practical English politics. Now this is a very good example of the difficulty which besets the Irish in obtaining any reform from England. I would like you to understand our position upon this question. We do not blame the English people so much, or think them responsible for the state of affairs in Ireland—although they are responsible, because they assume the government of the country. Remember I draw a very great distinction between the people and the Government of England, and when I say England, you will recollect that I mean the Government of England.

A Voice—What sort of Government would you have for England? (Cries of "Put him out.") The people of England have got themselves in a very important position, with regard to Ireland. They have taken a position which no nation ought ever to take. I hold that every nation is able to govern itself (applause), and that although the English people may be able to govern themselves, they have conclusively proved by the experience of the last seven centuries that they were not able to govern any other nation (applause); so you see we have acted upon English public opinion in some very unusual way to direct attention to the Irish question. As I said before, we are tired of proposing these solutions of the Irish land question, but still we can point to a great many valuable precedents which have been set up by the legislation of other countries, also to some extent by the legislation of England. What we ask is that the tenant farmers of Ireland may be allowed to own the land they till, and we are willing to give to the landlords the full extent of their vested interests in the lands. We

do not wish to rob them of anything, but at the same time I cannot help expressing my opinion that if these reforms are continually resisted, if all concessions are refused, the time will come when the reasonable propositions we make will no longer be obtainable by the Irish landlords. (Applause.) Now the shout of

### COMMUNISM.

is, of course, raised, because we ask that the tenants may own the land they till, and we are told that we are land robbers, and that we must not interfere with the rights of property. Now I wish to say to that, that one of the first principles of British law is that no man can have absolute proprietorship in land. The law student learns this amongst his first lessons, and it is a principle which has been sanctioned by Blackstone and all the great leaders of English jurisprudence. Personal property and real estate differ in that respect, that no man can have absolute property in real estate, while he can in personal property. The great English historian James Anthony Froude, who cannot be accused of prejudice in dealing with this Irish question, in the last number of the *North American Review*, or the number before the last, bears very remarkable testimony to the soundness of what we say on this point. He says that land, strictly speaking, cannot be the property of any man. It belongs to all the human race. Laws have to be made to protect the tiller of the soil, and to ensure that he obtains his proper share of returns for his exertions; but to the private property of this or that man to do with it as he pleases, land never is and never ought to be. (Applause.) Now, the different Governments of the world have at all times recognized that land must be handed over in trust to certain persons upon certain conditions. In the United States of America some of the land has been handed over by the State—the land having originally belonged to the State. It is sometimes handed over to great railroad companies. More of it has been handed over to occupiers, who occupy it under the homestead laws of that country. The railroad companies who obtain these lands do not obtain them as absolute property. They only obtain them conditional upon building a road through the country and throwing the land open for settlement. I allude to this to show you that the land originally belongs to the whole people. The Government of the country is bound to stipulate certain conditions to certain persons, who have to fulfil these conditions in order to obtain possession. In the same way the landlords under the old feudal system obtained possession of the lands in Ireland, but the conditions have been universally violated, and I state that which has been corroborated by the historian Froude when I say that in consequence of these unfulfilled conditions the land might be justly forfeited by the landlords to-morrow. (Applause.) But we do not desire to do this; we wish to give the landlords full compensation for these lands. This has been done in Prussia, where the land was stepped in and transferred from the landlords to the tenants. He compensated the landlords by issuing Government bonds bearing four per cent. interest, and he ordained that the tenants should repay the Government by paying five per cent. interest per annum on the amount of these bonds for a period of thirty years. Well, I am very much inclined to think so too. I think that if the present land agitation in Ireland goes on for a year or two longer the majority of Irish landlords will find it very much to their interest to sell. (Cheers and laughter.) But still we think it hard that the Parliament of England should throw upon the unfortunate, starving tenants of Ireland the duty of doing that by an agitation which they themselves ought to do by law. (Cheers.) An objection has been made to this transfer of the land from the landlords to the tenants, and we have been asked, If the tenants are not able to pay their present rents, how is it to be expected that they will be able to pay an annual instalment of principal and interest to the Government? To this I reply that the examples which we have had of sales of land to tenants under these British clauses all show that the tenant feels such a security when he is an owner that he will improve his holding to an extent which he never ventured upon before, and that he will strain every

nerve to meet the annual instalments. He feels, in fact, that he is dragging

behind him instead of a lengthening one—(cheers)—and that every payment he makes is so much to the good. In fact it has been found in practice that the tenants pay long before the thirty-five years have expired. Many of them pay in five, six, eight or ten years. They exceed the instalments required of them, they double and treble and quadruple them in order that they may free the land from the Government charge all the sooner. The *London Times*, the other day, published a leader in which it took up this line of argument, viz., that if the tenants could not pay their rents they could not be expected to pay annual instalments to the Government if the land were sold them. Now, it happens that when the property held by the English Church in Ireland was sold the right of pre-emption was given to the occupying tenants, and the State was permitted to help them in the way which I have explained. Five thousand tenants of the Church purchased property holdings, and the *Times* made the assertion that these tenants had failed this year in paying their instalments. Lord Monck, whom you know in this country, the head of the Church Temporalities' Commission in Ireland, at once wrote a letter to the *Times*, of which the following is the substance—"The Irish peasant proprietors appear to be a thrifty set of people, notwithstanding the traditional idea to the contrary. It is officially stated that out of an annual payment of \$655,000 due to the Church Commissioners, on money advanced by them to about five thousand peasant proprietors in Ireland under the Church Disestablishment Act, the arrears due this winter are only \$97,250, or less than six per cent. of the amount of interest due. This, too, in the face of the fact that there have been three successive bad harvests." (Cheers.) Now, how is this? On one hand you see the tenantry of Ireland engaged in a life-and-death struggle against their landlords to obtain an abatement of their rents, large numbers of them perishing of starvation, and on the other hand you see the one tenantry of the Irish Church Commissioners, now proprietors, able to pay within six per cent. of the annual charge on their lands. It is

### MAGIC OF PROPERTY.

which turns sand into gold, and has produced this extraordinary state of affairs. And we think if the experiment were tried further that the same magnificent result would appear throughout the long and breadth of Ireland, and we should never again have another famine there. (Cheers.) I wish before sitting down to say a word or two on the subject of

### THE DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

It is enough to break the heart of our people to have to contend with such a terrible calamity as that which they are now contending with. They are getting to feel independent, to have a strait light back, and to believe that they also had rights as well as the Irish landlords when this frightful famine came upon them. The distress in the west of Ireland cannot be exaggerated. I am told that in some parts of Donegal, a fortnight ago, six hundred persons were living upon

### A PENNY A DAY.

or sixpence a week. Taking six persons to each family this pittance would be a little less than a dollar a week for each family. This state of things can scarcely be believed in this country. It will scarcely be credited that next door to such a relation like England, the Government of that country should have permitted this condition of affairs to come round. (Applause.) I could scarcely have credited it myself, and although we know that there must be famine, we hoped that it might not be so bad as it has turned out to be. When we left Ireland we estimated the number of persons who would probably be without food by the middle of February at about two hundred and fifty thousand, but I regret to say that this number has now been very largely exceeded, and that half a million or 750,000 persons will be without food between this and next July. Now, we had hoped that the distress might have turned out so bad as it has, but of course, our information was not so perfect as that of the Government. The Government has means of knowing the true state of affairs far superior to any we possess. And though we were able to predict that two hundred and fifty thousand people by the middle of February would have to be fed, the Government up to that time had constantly denied that anybody was in danger of starvation—(Cries of "Shame!")—or that there would be any distress beyond that which the ordinary machinery of the poor law system could cope with.

Under the poor-law system Ireland is divided for the purpose of the relief of the poor into a number of divisions called electoral divisions, and the district which is distressed is taxed for the maintenance of the poor within it. These divisions are very small, and when one of them is overwhelmed with distress, say so the extent of one-half the population, the burden of relief is thrown upon the other half, with the result that they, too, are driven into the poor-house. Well, we had been warning the Government all along that there must be famine this year; so long ago as last June we told them so. And what did the Government do? They did nothing. In October the chiefs of the hierarchy waited upon the Government, and they disclosed what had come to their knowledge—that there must be a famine. The Government took no notice of these gentlemen. I believe they were not even asked to sit down, and at any rate they were treated with very scant courtesy indeed. Another month passed away, the distress continually became more intense day by day, and the Government were at last

moved to some action. And what was it? They issued a circular to the Poor-Law Boards throughout Ireland calling upon them to whitewash the work-houses and

### PROVIDE A SUPPLY OF CLEAN STRAW.

(Hisses and laughter.) And that was the only measure of relief undertaken by the Government up to the time that we left Ireland. They have done nothing since. The £770,000 appropriation Bill which has passed the Commons has not yet, I believe, passed the Lords. It must be some time before it can receive the Royal assent, and before the cumbersome machinery, bound up with red tape, can come into action for the relief of the country which has been left to the charity of every nation in the world—except England. Now I regret to say it very much indeed, but it is a truth that must be said, that England has contributed far less according to her means—infininitely less—than almost any other country which has been appealed to. (Hisses.) If it had not been for the charity of the people of the United States, of India, of Australia, of Canada, of every country but England, the people of Ireland must have perished before now in famine by thousands. And this appropriation, if it had been made in June last when we urged it, might have been of some use; it could have been expended on reproductive works which would have improved the natural resources of Ireland. The interest would have been paid them. Then our people were not

ESPERING BY WEAK AND DISEASE now they are too weak to work. The long-continued want which they have been suffering has made them so that they cannot handle a spade or a pick, and the consequence will be that this money, which they might have received three or four months ago in the shape of honest daily wages, must now be doled out to them as charity, and our proud-spirited people are degraded to the level of paupers. It is enough to break the heart of a man who has been working in Ireland and who has watched the noble spirit that was springing up amongst our people to see them degraded in this horrible and infamous way. (Cheers.) I wish that I could think they have not been

### THE GATES OF STARVATION.

purposely and desirably. (Hear, hear, and hisses.) I wish I could think that the Government of England do not watch the appearance of famine in the hope that by its help they might break down the spirit of the Irish people. (Hisses and cheers.) Now, in conclusion, I wish to say a word in reference to another on which we have been criticised. I refer to our action with regard to the various relief committees which have been formed in Ireland for the purpose of assisting the suffering poor to-day, and more especially to the Mansion House and the Duchess of Marlborough Committees. Now, I approach this not very pleasant subject—and it is least of all a pleasant subject to approach in a city whence you have sent a good deal of money to both these Committees—with some hesitation. But till this is all done I assume the position we have assumed in reference to this matter. We have thought that relief to the Irish people should not go through the hands of the landlords; that it was not in the nature of things to suppose that they could continue to struggle against this land system, and yet have to apply for their daily bread to the very class who were oppressing them. This is all we have done. We have not believed in mal-administration by any means. I do not believe it would willingly mal-administer any moneys that were entrusted to it for purpose of relief. But this we believe, and this we are sure of, that the Committee is very largely composed of Government and landlord committees, and that the sub-committees throughout the country very largely partake of those also. Of course sub-committees, as they degenerate in the scale, are not formed of the same lofty material as the Mansion House Committee. They are not composed of exalted positions, but they are composed mainly, and in great part, of the agents of the landlords, their bailiffs, and drivers (hisses), and we have feared that through them our people might be seriously handicapped in the struggle they are maintaining for their lives. We are maintaining for their lives, we believe, and this we are sure of, that the Committee is very largely composed of Government and landlord committees, and that the sub-committees throughout the country very largely partake of those also. Of course sub-committees, as they degenerate in the scale, are not formed of the same lofty material as the Mansion House Committee. They are not composed of exalted positions, but they are composed mainly, and in great part, of the agents of the landlords, their bailiffs, and drivers (hisses), and we have feared that through them our people might be seriously handicapped in the struggle they are maintaining for their lives. 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