The Catholic Record

Published Weekly at 486 Richmond Street, London, Ontario.
REV. JOHN F. COFFEY, Editor.
THOS. COFFEY, Publisher & Proprietor.

Ottawa Agency:
P. J. COFFEY, Gen'l Agent, 74 George St.

RATES PER ANNUM.—One Copy, $2.00; hree Copies, $5.25; Five Copies, $7.50; Ten opies, $12.50 Payable in every case in dvance.

Advertising rates made known on application.

Approved by the Bishop of London, and recommended by the Bishops of Ottawa, Kingston, and Peterboro, and leading Catholic Clergyme n throughout the Dominion.

All correspondence addressed to the Publisher will receive prompt attention.

Arrears must be paid in full before the paper can be stopped.

Persons writing for a change of address should invariably send us the name of their former post office.

Catholic Record.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUG. 9, 1884.

THE IRISH PARTY IN AMERICA.

We have followed American politics very closely for many years, and did not, till we read the Washington letter in the columns of our esteemed contemporary the Advertiser, on the 5th inst., really know that there was an Irish party in the United States of America. We were, of course, aware that citizens of Irish origin were numerous and influential among our American neighbors, but had, till this correspondence fell under our notice, to learn that any large class of our Irish American friends voted as Irishmen and not as American citizens. If the correspondent of the Advertiser admits that an American citizen, when he approaches the poll, has a perfect right to cast his ballot for whom he may, without his motives being subject to question or doubt, then we say that he has done those of his fellow-citizens of Irish origin very grievous injustice. If, on the other hand, he refuses to admit this proposition, then the boasted freedom of the ballot is a sham and a fraud. We care not whether a man cast his vote out of hatred for England or hatred for the South, his motives should be above question till proved unpatriotic. The correspondent says:

After some study I have made up my mind that the Irish party here is 'irreconcilable.' The Irish in America—I do not speak of exceptional men; I speak of the rank and file of a quasi-political party—are unreasoning men, with an inherited sentiment of hate. That hate is against England. It matters not that to the best English minds, for more than 100 years the Irish question has been an anxious question, and one to be solved on the highest principles of justice and philanthropy. It matters not that to this day the best English minds have given their best thought to the amelioration of Irish conditions, and to Irish reform; which is, after all, human reform, for 'nothing human is indifferent to us,' as the Roman poet said. But somehow all this does not touch the Irish mind, which seems to have a fatal hold on the past. You who listen to Mr. Parnell and Davitt are deceived. I see men every day who are common-place and good natured enough, except in this, that at a safe distance they are inimical to all British interests, and irreconcilable unless on the basis of absolute insular independence. All the world knows this cannot be. For most obvious reasons England will never allow it. An intelligent Croatian or Herzegovinian knows it cannot be."

After some study! We greatly fear that this good man's anti-Irish prejudice prevented his giving anything like study or deliberation to the relations of the Irish American people to the Presidential election. He speaks too strongly from the standpoint of prejudice to speak from reflection. Has not the Irishman just as much right to hate England politically as he has to defend British imperial interests. If opposition to British policy as far as Ireland is concerned be incompatible with the duties of American citizenship, so is defence of that policy. What does the correspondent of the 'Tiser see of analogy between the case of Croatia and Herzegovinia and that of Ireland, that he seeks to institute a comparison between them. Croatia and Herzegovinia are each in enjoyment of a measure of self-government unknown in Ireland, and there is not intrenched in either of these Provinces a bitter and intolerant faction as there is in Ireland, maintained for the very purpose of robbing the majority of its rights. We will not follow the correspondent through his pseudo-philosophic declaration that the recent race struggles of the world, while often advancing personal freedom and the political rights of the individual, have developed this result with almost invariable uniformity, that ancient national existences are incapable of resuscitation. We merely ask what does the writer in the 'Tiser mean by race struggles? Why does he not give an instance of one of such recent struggles? What definition would he give of ancient national existences? The fact of his assuring us that he is a Celt throws no light at all on the subject under discussion. But he shows in the following sentence that very inherent prejudice which he disclaims. He declares: "I am adverse to a useless agitation for a nationality which is impossible and which, if it were possible, is undesirable." This statement fully explains the nature of the sentiments entertained by the correspondent in question. If we looked on the struggle for Irish independence as a mere race struggle we could not feel as resolutely and earnestly in favor of Irish independence as we do feel. We feel assured in relation to the Irish question (1) that if some measure of Home Rule could be devised for Ireland it would prove a source of strength to the empire at large, and (2) that failing the concession of some such measure of Home Rule, having due regard for Imperial interests and supremacy, the total independence of Ireland is the most desirable end for Irishmen to strive for. One of the standing objections to the concession of Home Rule is that Home Rule must lead to total separation from England. Well, even if it did, we can see no reason why the oppression of Ireland should continue. Ireland has in regard of population, and of natural resources every element essential to the formation of a great state. The formation of such a state would not be, in our estimation, the resuscitation of an ancient race. The Irish race of to-day is a compound of the old Irish, the Danish, Norman and Saxon elements that from time to time have been brought together on the soil of old Erin. It is a race quite as young, as fresh and vigorous as the English, or even the Anglo-American and more so than the French and Spanish. But let us follow the correspondent:

"There are some questions which it is too late to agitate. The clock of time may have advanced so far that it cannot be reversed. Human civilization is of far more value than any mere nationality. My sympathies are in the camp of the chosen few who, in the various families of men, are working with neither backward look nor revengeful thought in the interests of the brotherhood of man, and, amid their work, are hoping for the 'federation of the world.' Nevertheless, I am bound to say that few Irishmen of my acquaintance are with me in actively cherishing this larger hope. They seem to have been consecrated in youth at the altar of traditional enmity, and they are little affected either by moderation, concessions of justice, or liberal endeavors. Allowing, as I fully do, for all the incitements to fierce hatred which the past history of Ireland affords, yet, in this different day, and amid abundant beneficent aims for the good of their country, I am often unprepared for the truculent views expressed and methods advocated by gentlemen otherwise easy, comfortable and moderate, whose Ireland is largely the Ireland of books, or else of partisan and 'dynamite newspapers.' Love has been spoken of as the unquenchable passion, but, even in view of the retribution which unfalteringly follows all tyranny, cruelty and wrong, there is something appalling in the thought of imperishable hate. This seems to be the hate of Irish-Americans."

The "federation of the world!" This sounds very well, but if it be too late to agitate the question of Irish nationality, it is too early to speak of the federation of the world. We are not blessed with the same length of vision evidently enjoyed by the writer in the "Tiser" and cannot see, even at the furthest limits of the restricted horizon, that our vision does embrace any glimpse, even the feeblest, of such a federation. Every sign we do see is of a character far different from any indicating an early approach of such a federation. Nor are we quite convinced that such a consummation were at all desirable. The "Tiser" correspondent speaks very much of Irish hatred of England. But is there not such a thing as English and Anglo-American hatred of Ireland and the Irish? And is not Irish American opposition to England justifiable in the light of reason and of history? The Irish Americans were driven from their own country by iniquitous laws to begin a new struggle for existence in this country. Under a just and humane system of government such a calamity as an Irish famine could not happen. Under such a system Ireland had long enjoyed the benefits of at least, municipal self-government, and been spared the horrors of rack rents, jury packings and the innumerable infamies from which she has suffered. We make no doubt whatever that if Ireland were in the enjoyment of independence, thousands of Irishmen would of their own free choice select America for a home. But it is one thing to leave one's country of free choice, another to leave it by force and injustice. The Irish in America bear indeed, and we admire them for it, a decided hostility to Britain. Animated by other sentiments, they were in our eyes craven-hearted serfs. Would the correspondent of the Advertiser have Irishmen in the United States as elsewhere love the government that has so ruthlessly oppressed their mother-land, that her misery is known from one end of the earth to the other? Would he have the Ireland in America, with its power and its influence and its opportunities, fail to insist in so far as it can insist, upon the inauguration in the old land of a reign of justice and equality? He may call it hatred and he may denounce it as he pleases, we look on Irish American hostility to Britain as manly, honorable and consistent, and we look to the coming Presidential contest for such an assertion of Irish American influence in American politics as will make Britain feel that the memory of wrongs inflicted on Ireland is yet living in America, and that that memory will never be effaced till right is done and British oppression ceases.

How different the view of that able journal, the American, from that expressed by the "Tiser's" "accidental" and "occasional" on this subject. Of the Irish in America the Philadelphia paper says:

"We speak from a close acquaintance with a large number of them, when we say that they are inferior to no other class of our citizens in devotion to American interests and in earnest purpose to seek the good of the land in which God has cast their lot. It is not their fault if they are unable to forget the land of their birth. They have left their native country under an alien and devastating rule, and are as much exiles by force as though they had been taken to the ship under a guard of soldiery, as indeed many were in 1847-50. The tyranny of English rule in Ireland, once exercised by the force of cold steel, in the days of Sarsfield and his fellow exiles, is not less powerful in these days when gold has taken the power of steel, and Ireland is depleted of its people by an economic policy that makes their stay at home an impossibility. Exiles as well as immigrants they are,—living instances of the tyrannies and injustices exercised under specious names. That the heart of an exile should turn with tender interest to to his own land, even in lands that have made him welcome, is not unreasonable. We did not ask the Hungarian or the Pole to forget his native country, or think such forgetfulness a good promise of citizenship in the new world."

The American, it will be thus seen, fully exonerates the citizens of Irish origin from the charge of disloyalty or indifference to American interests. The writer in that journal proceeds:

"The interest of the Irish-Americans in the land of their birth is not a matter of mere sentiment, nor of political conspiracies simply. They have shown their concern for their kindred at home by constant sacrifices in their behalf. No remittances of this kind ever have equalled in amount and constancy those sent back to Ireland by Irishmen in America. The sums sent to the Land League are large enough to show how solid is the feeling of sympathy with their friends at home; but those sums are a very trifle compared with those sent to private persons by their relatives on our side of the Ocean. It is the misgovernment of Ireland that makes such remittances necessary. Often these sums are the only resource in paying the rent of an unprofitable and high-priced farm of a few acres, which constitutes the sole support of the parents of the immigrant. Were it not for the regular remittance of a few pounds saved from hard-earned wages, "the old people" would be turned out of the humble home, in which they desire above all things to spend their last days, as they spent their first.

"In these circumstances the Irish in America have a right to take a lively interest in the state of affairs in Ireland, as the misgovernment in Ireland costs them millions of money."

We commend the American to the attention of the 'Tiser's Washington correspondent.

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

The Antigonish Aurora says:

"The London CATHOLIC RECORD says that in speaking of the Bible not being a rule of faith, it had in view a Protestant or unapproved version of the Bible. That's all right. It was in no carping spirit we commented on the remarks of the RECORD, which we consider the best Catholic paper in the Dominion, nor was it even our wish to discuss the question at issue in Ontario. Our comments were prompted by the reflection that one of the strongest of Protestant prejudices is the assumption that the Catholic Church is hostile to the Bible. Hence Catholic journalists should be very careful to avoid inexact phraseology in speaking of the Church's bearing towards the Bible. It is not at all difficult to use a form of words that conveys an orthodox meaning to Catholics, but likely to leave a false impression upon Protestant readers. When one speaks of a Protestant or unapproved version, it is advisable to say so. All theologians agree in applying [without confining] the term "rule of faith" to Revelation as contained in Scripture and Tradition. To say that the Church alone is our rule and guide may be true enough in the sense intended by the writer, but how many will understand the words in that sense?"

We can assure our respected contemporary that we had not, and have not now any desire whatever to enter upon a controversy with him on this subject. But we thought and think still that our words were sufficiently explicit, especially when taken in connection with the context of our article, to enable any fair-minded reader to arrive at our exact meaning. The singling out for criticism of one special phrase in the course of any article often conveys an entirely false impression of the true meaning of the writer. We thank our contemporary for his very kind reference to this journal, and beg to assure him that instead of feeling offended at his reference to our article on the subject of the Bible in schools, we rejoice that that reference has given us an opportunity of keeping the subject before the public. The truth of the matter is that Protestant in fact as are the vast majority of our public schools already, it has been in contemplation to make them all really sectarian by obliging our children in attendance on them to read and perhaps learn by heart selections from the Protestant version of the Scriptures. Against anything of this kind we protest, and will continue to protest to the very end. The public schools of this Province were not, according to their founder, Dr. Ryerson, intended to be sectarian schools. They were to be undenominational in every sense. Yet Bible reading has been in most of them established and this with the consent and approval of the department. To this we would not in the slightest degree object, if equal educational facilities were provided for the Catholic minority in this Province. It is not compulsory Bible reading we require. It is religious education, and Catholics will have no other form of religious education but that provided and authorized by the Church.

THE SCHEMERS FOILED.

The schemers who plotted and planned the injustice to the great majority of Ottawa's citizens which we lately so fully exposed have been foiled. In the Ottawa Free Press of Saturday last we read:

The Provincial Secretary has sent the proposed redistribution of wards scheme back for settlement to the tribunal where it properly belongs—the Ottawa city council. The law declares that the city council must itself approve of the scheme and it has no power to delegate the power of expressing that approval to a committee. There is a difference of opinion as to the advisibility of the division, and the proper body to settle the dispute first is the City council and not the Provincial Secretary's department. The provincial authorities have not decided upon the merits of the sub-division at all, and this is a point which should be thoroughly understood by all interested.

We earnestly congratulate the government on its prompt and decisive action in the matter. The schemers, having first deceived the city council, sought to dupe the government of Ontario but have failed, and failed most miserably. We must say that we are happy to see that the eyes of the Free Press have been opened to the correctness of our contentions as to the illegality of the Cunningham-Cox-Erratt scheme. For many weeks our contemporary was evidently unable to see that with the city council, not with a committee thereof, lay legal and decisive action in the premises. The promoters of the redistribution sought to carry through the iniquity without reference at all to the council. On the 5th of May last the following resolution was permitted to pass the City Council:

"Moved by Ald. Cox, seconded by Ald. Erratt, that this Council affirms the expediency of a new division into wards being made of the City of Ottawa, and that the following members of the Council, viz: Aldermen Cunningham, Cox, Brown, Swalwell and Desjardines be a Committee to prepare a scheme having for its object a more equitable division into wards of the said City of Ottawa, and to make applications to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to ratify such scheme: and that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to sign any such petition, and to attach thereto the seal of this corporation."

This motion should never have been permitted to go through the Council without at least a division, but having so far succeeded with the plot, the conspirators felt assured of success. But they reckoned without their host. In our issue of the 26th of July last we thus expressed ourselves on the legal aspect of the case:

The whole action of the council appears to us illegal. We are of opinion that the mayor cannot, on behalf of the Council, sign the prayer of the Committee to the Lieutenant-Governor, or that the seal of the corporation can be legally attached to a document which has not been revised or approved by the council. Such a delegation of powers to a committee was never contemplated by the Municipal Act. The law is, to our mind, clearly against this infamous gerrymander. The revised statutes of Ontario, Title XII., Division II., deals with the point at issue in these terms:

"In case two-thirds of the members of the Council of a City or Town do, in Council, before the fifteenth day of July in any year, pass a resolution affirming the expediency of a new division into Wards being made of the City or Town, or of a part of the same, either within the existing limits or with the addition of any part of the localities adjacent, which, from the proximity of streets or buildings therein, or the probable future exigencies of the City or Town, it may seem desirable to add thereto respectively, or the desirability of any addition being made to the limits of the City or Town, the Lieutenant-Governor may, by proclamation, divide the City or Town, or such part thereof into Wards, as may seem expedient, and may add to the City or Town such part of the adjacent Township or Townships which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on the grounds aforesaid, considers it desirable to attach thereto. 36 V. c. 48, s. 18."

This is clear enough. The conspirators now know more of municipal law than they care for. The scheme is killed, and all that now remains is to bury it in the Potters' Field. Let the mourners be the men who planned, but could not bring to maturity, this infamous plot. Their own burial beneath the load of obloquy earned by recreancy to duty and a deliberate purpose of injustice to a majority of their fellow-citizens, is only a question of time. They may feel certain that their course in this matter will never be forgotten, and that having justly incurred the indignation and reprobation of their fellow-citizens, the penalties of such folly and injustice as have been theirs will deservedly reach them.

Since our exposition of the gerrymander we have been asked for information as to its progress from former citizens of Ottawa in many parts of this Province and even the neighboring states. To all we are happy to state that it has been killed, and, like many another such iniquity, lies unwept, unhonored and unsung—a veritable stench in the nostrils of an offended public.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

In that excellent Catholic journal, *L'Echo de Fourviere*, we find an interesting article on the Sisters of Charity: We regret that space prevents our doing but inadequate justice to the production of the French journal. *L'Echo* says that at this moment, when a frightful affliction menaces France and Europe, the reformers of Christian charity should not be ignorant of the character of the religious ladies whom they expel from the hospitals to make way for lay assistance. If these innovators were sincere they should recognize even from their own acquaintance with the devotedness and zeal of the Sisters of Charity that their aversion for those holy women is simply stupid. For do they not know that those good sisters look not for human praise or mercenary compensation, and that in the care they expend on the sick, the poor and the school children, they are guided only by the love of God and of their neighbor, the constituents of Christian charity.

L'Echo cites the names of five women, who, during the past ten years have received the highest administrative reward, that of the cross of the Legion of Honor. Eight women only received that high mark of governmental regard during this period. So the majority of ladies thus decorated are religious. Other cases, the French journalist says, we might cite of administrative gratitude extended to the sisters of charity, and he relates touching incidents of their heroism during the Crimean campaign, and again during the disastrous war of 1870-1. No true Frenchman forgets the services then rendered the armies of France on the battle-field itself and in the hospitals by the sisters of charity, but the radicals are not true sons of France.

THE VACANT SENATORSHIP.

We find under the above heading the following little paragraph in the Ottawa Free Press:

"A new departure has been taken in regard to the vacant senatorship. It is said that the government is desirous of appointing Louis Riel, who has now gone through all the funds supplied him by Sir John, to that position. This, they think, will be a fitting way to recompense their hero of the Red River rebellion. Mr. Clemow will forego his claims to the senatorship, as will also other aspirants, in favor of Riel, the Premier's personal friend. By all means let Riel be a senator."

We beg to assure our respected contemporary that M. Louis Riel would make an excellent senator, and is in all regards the equal of any member of that body. No one cognizant of the real history of the Red River movement could sneer at the President of the Provisional government as does the Free Press. Our contemporary evidently is ignorant of the service rendered the North West by Louis Riel. If that gentleman be a personal friend of the Premier the latter has nothing whereof to be ashamed in this regard. As for Mr. Clemow, we protest against the institution of comparisons between the Red River hero and this blatant exponent of Orange fanaticism. M. Riel has a standing and a reputation in this country that permits not his name to be mentioned at one breath with that of a Clemow, or even those of the chiefs of the latter. Mr. Clemow's utter unfitness for the place is fully illustrated by the attempt to institute such a comparison as that made by the Free Press. Comparisons are frequently odious; the one in point is simply ridiculous.

THE CROPS.

Our readers throughout the Dominion will be rejoiced to learn that the prospects for an abundant harvest are excellent. The business outlook at the beginning of the year was so threatening that more anxiety than usual took possession of the public mind in regard of the harvest prospects. It will now gladden the hearts of all Canadians to learn that fall and spring wheat are in this Province in a most satisfactory condition and that the reports of the North-West are very cheering.

A despatch from Winnipeg, dated 7th inst., conveys information that advices from various western points report exceedingly favorable crop prospects throughout the Province and territories. In Manitoba the abundant rain has caused a remarkable growth of straw, but the grain is now rapidly maturing The weather is very warm. The North West will export five million bushels of wheat this year.

On the other hand the report of the Ontario Bureau of industries is equally gratifying. The report may be summarized:

The fall wheat appears to have made steady improvement throughout the season, and in localities where it was regarded worth saving in, many good harvests have been reaped. The moderately cool weather and occasional rain showers favored continuous growth and healthy maturity, and the grain is of an excellent sample, being plump, hard and bright. The harvest weather being very favorable, the grain has been gathered in first-rate condition. The accounts of spring wheat are equally good, excepting for the north and north-eastern counties, where its growth was checked by the drought of June. But even in these districts it promises a fair yield, while in the Lake Ontario, West, Midland, Georgian Bay and Lake Huron counties it is reported to be better than for many years. It will be fully ripe about the middle of the month, and with a continuance of the present weather the quality will at least equal that of the fall wheat.

We have every reason to know that in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces the crop prospects are as cheering in general as those of the North West and of Ontario.

We should all hope and pray that the harvesting season may prove propitious, so that the immense yield promised us may all be garnered and saved. We should not fail at this season to be mindful of God's abundant and superabundant blessings. This is assuredly a favored land, but ought we not strive the more to prove ourselves worthy the favors we receive from a bountiful Creator whose mercy and goodness know no term.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVAS.

The Presidential campaign may now be said to have begun in real earnest. The nomination of Gen. St. John, of Kansas, by the Prohibition party, is looked on as a danger to Mr. Blaine's success; while the republican organs contend that Gen. Butler's determination to run exposes Mr. Cleveland to certain defeat. We cannot look on the matter in this light. Gen. Butler will, no doubt, receive a large vote in his own state, but not as large as he expects. His vote in the other states, while it may, in the aggregate, reach a large number, will not, we think, materially affect Mr. Cleveland's success. The general has evidently cut himself loose from the democratic organization. A despatch from Boston dated the 9th reports him as declaring:

"I saw they (the Democratic leaders) complained that I had deserted the Democratic party. The last time they complained it was that I had captured the Democratic organization. Be it so; then I have only to let my captives loose. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the people of Massachusetts, but none to any Democratic organization, State or national. In no campaign did I ever receive aid from the Democratic National organization, nor did any National Democrat from outside the State ever come here or say a word in my favor or in favor of the Democratic party while I was the unanimous nominee. Whenever I have any use for the organization of the Massachusetts Democracy I will get it."

This is very plain language, and places the issue between Gen. Butler and Gov. Cleveland very clearly before the democracy of Massachusetts. Gen. Butler will not, in so far as we can at this distance form an opinion in such matters, poll as large a vote now in Massachusetts as Gov. Cleveland. From Mr. Blaine Gen. St. John will draw many thousands of votes, rendering the issue in Ohio, Kansas, and even Iowa, not to speak of other states, very doubtful. The Prohibition party will draw its main strength from those bodies of voters identified in the past with the republicans. From the present outlook it would appear that the polling returns next November will offer the professional politicians just occasion for many surprises of a most startling character. Of few states only can anything like a safe prediction be ventured on. The number of those in doubt is, as the canvass proceeds, becoming larger and larger.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

— His Lordship Bishop Lorrain has returned to Pembroke from his pastoral visitation to the Hudson's Bay country.

— By a vote of 73 to 44 the Belgian Chamber of Deputies has pronounced in favor of the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

— The Mitchell Advocate deserves the hearty gratitude of its readers for its vigorous defence of the Irish race against the vulgar assaults of a narrow and prejudiced sheet published in the same county.

— In St. Peter's Cathedral, this city, on Sunday last, Rev. Father Kautz, C. SS. R., preached the sermon of the day. His subject was "Prayer." The sermon was an eminently practical one and was listened to with the profoundest attention.

— His Lordship the Bishop of Hamilton visited London last week, and was the guest of the Right Rev. Dr. Walsh. During Dr. Carbery's stay in London many of the diocesan clergy called to offer their regards to the distinguished guest of the Bishop of London.

— We are sorry to learn from a contemporary that Sunday closing in England is a failure: "Those people who were profoundly impressed by the belief that drinking on Sunday could be controlled, if not completely squelched, by the simple passage of an act of Parliament, have been somewhat discouraged by the failure of the Sunday Closing Act in England. The reported results from all parts of the kingdom are that drunkenness on Sunday is now rather more rife than ever." Sunday closing in this country