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THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1899.

- July 6-Octave of SS. Peter and Paul. 7-S. Benedict XI. 8-S. Eugene III. 9-Prodigium of the R.V.M. 10-Seven Brothers. 11-S. Plus I. 12-S. John Gualbert.

Official.

The following letter has been addressed to the clergy of the Archdiocese:

TORONTO, June 28th, 1899.

REV. AND DEAR FATHER:—I beg to notify you that the annual retreat of the clergy of the Archdiocese will take place in the Hospice of Mount Carmel, Niagara Falls, and will begin on the evening of July 24th. prox., to end the following Saturday.

Be good enough to fill up the enclosed Report carefully and return the same to me before or during the retreat.

By order of His Grace the Archbishop.

J. M. CRUISE, Secretary.

Cauced an Apostolic Delegation.

Some weeks ago the newspapers here published reports that had already appeared in the press of the United States and England concerning the appointment of an Apostolic Delegate to Canada.

It would appear, however, that the newspaper rumors, although premature and inaccurate were only wide of the mark as guesses at the actual facts. The Rome correspondents of the English Catholic press now repeat the reports with every appearance of accuracy.

The correspondent of The New Era, a very well-informed journal, says: "It is reported that Mr. Dionese Falconio, of the Order of Friars Minor, Bishop of Ancona and Matera, in the province of Basilicata (Italy), has been appointed to the newly-created Apostolic Delegation in Canada."

The correspondent of The Catholic Times, of Liverpool, gives fuller particulars and with more assurance. He writes: For some time it was rumored that the Holy Father intended to establish an Apostolic Delegation in Canada similar to that already existing in the United States, but as nothing definite was known and the Vatican organs maintained a discreet silence on the subject, I thought it better to wait before announcing this new proof of the Holy Father's far-reaching wisdom in the United States.

place. Leo XIII, who appreciates energetic men at their full value, immovably singled out Mr. Falconio who had decided upon founding an Apostolic Delegation in the Dominion, and for this purpose summoned that prelate to Rome a fortnight ago.

Assuming the correctness of the foregoing messages, it is not likely that the anticipation of the Apostolic Delegation establishing itself here can much longer await accomplishment.

Corruption in Canadian Politics.

Even when judged by the Canadian standard the West Elgin election scandal must be declared extremely shocking. Wholesale bribery, if not a common or invariable feature of elections in Ontario, is at least usual; and speaking without regard for one party or the other it is true of both that a protest follows an election as naturally as grand jury follows a grand jury trial.

In the West Elgin case Mr. McNish who sat for the constituency all through the last session of the Legislature, frankly admitted and signed his confession that the election was carried by corrupt means.

The disclosure of these extraordinary operations would appear at last to have aroused the people from their spell-bound condition of partisanship, so that there now seems to be some faint glimmer of hope that out of the evil revealed in West Elgin some good may come.

Mr. McNish confessed that after the purchasable portion of the electorate had been bribed, the "party machine" in order to make assurance doubly sure was substituted for the regular election machinery.

If these things were to happen in any other country under the sun where free institutions are enjoyed, we would long ago have heard of public indignation meetings.

But as long as there is any stir or uneasiness in the public body results

of a very different kind are possible. At the instance of the judges who heard the successive trials for corruption in South Ontario, practised in turn in the interests of Conservative and Liberal candidates, the Attorney General is reported as having set the law in motion.

The public interest is deeply at stake in the nature of the proposed prosecution. Corrupt elections are not only an unnecessary expense to the people, but the small of them kills any high public ideal.

Mr. A. J. Balfour on Protestant Ignorance and Bigotry.

A notable debate was heard in the British House of Commons on June 28, when Mr. Dillon brought up the Irish Catholic University question with reference to certain very plain declarations that had been made the day before by the Irish Bishops assembled at the Maynooth Union.

Mr. Dillon's address was forcible, and directed against the Government with all the oomph that distinguishes the member for East Mayo; but Mr. A. J. Balfour, whose duty it was to reply, found himself compelled to confine himself to the main he agreed with Mr. Dillon's argument.

Continuing Mr. Balfour said: I regret the views that do prevail on this side of the Channel, but the cause of the difficulty is not a want of desire to help Ireland. If there is a real grievance, how is it so difficult to get the question settled one way or the other? I attribute it to three causes—first to the want of a realization on the part of public opinion of how essential higher education is to the true development of any community.

So that in a few words Mr. Balfour's acknowledgment means that the government is powerless to help Ireland in the matter of university education, because English Protestant bigotry and ignorance will not listen to reason or allow right to be done.

It is not a creditable thing that at the close of the great Victorian era, when the twentieth century dawns upon the "greater empire than has been," the leader of one of the great parties in the state feels himself forced on the floor of the Imperial Parliament to confess that the intellectual growth of the conquered nation at Great Britain's side is smothered and begun down by Protestant ignorance and bigotry?

He deplored the hostility which honest opinion aroused when a politician of his standing rose to sanction the principle of religious freedom. "My life," he said, "has not been made easier or pleasanter on the lines I have taken."

This may be true enough; but the Catholic people of Ireland would be altogether too obliging if they were to be still out of respect for Mr. Balfour's ease and the density of the bigot who disturb and harass him. The Bishops at Maynooth declared: "We cannot give up the struggle. We had to fight for all our rights, civil and religious, in the past; and we mean to continue to fight for this turning to our own countrymen, we appeal to fair-minded Irishmen of every creed and party to aid us in compelling the predominant partner to remedy this admitted grievance."

The return of Dreyfus to France was unattended by any of the over-predicted revolutionary disturbances. The republic is now enjoying "profound calm," according to the press despatches. The royalists and socialists are unable to stir the emotions of the people.

Major domo Mgr. Della Volpe is known to be one of the new cardinals reserved by the Pope in petto at the conclave on June 19. Our readers who saw the biograph pictures of Pope Leo will remember the ecclesiastic with the merry smile who with Mgr. Merry del Val always attended His Holiness.

The cardinals now numbers thirty-five Italians and thirty of other nationalities, not counting the two cardinals reserved in petto. Mgr. Della Volpe is an Italian. The other Italian Archbishop recently made cardinals are Mgr. Richelmy, Archbishop of Turin; Mgr. Portanova, Archbishop of Reggio in Calabria; and Mgr. Reaphigi, Archbishop of Ferrara.

On another page will be found a report of the proceedings of the National Trust held in London in connection with the sale of Killarney. It will be observed that the only outcome of the meeting was a vote of thanks to the "Bloomington Duke of Westminster" for presiding.

There was a motive in adding to the postulates of the year Mr. Charles Murphy's amazing report on the charges preferred against Mr. James Devlin, late engineer of Kingston penitentiary.

It is not a creditable thing that at the close of the great Victorian era, when the twentieth century dawns upon the "greater empire than has been," the leader of one of the great parties in the state feels himself forced on the floor of the Imperial Parliament to confess that the intellectual growth of the conquered nation at Great Britain's side is smothered and begun down by Protestant ignorance and bigotry?

Other sentences that dropped from him were more hopeless and bitter than the formal confession above

old did not agree with another man's second hand story. Mr. Murphy wrote over twenty pages of this piteously rubbish to make up for the evidence that he failed to get. A Kingston paper is now reprinting all the wretched stuff, and it must have very little regard for its space if it is doing so for nothing.

Considerable light was let in upon the politics of the Dublin Independent, the organ of the so-called "Parnellite" party in Ireland, at the meeting of the shareholders on June 22.

Mr. Lambert said the paper had been founded to support a principle, but it had now apparently abandoned that principle.

A long and angry discussion followed. Mr. Bermingham said the shareholders would be prepared to meet the directors if the directors would give an undertaking that the services of the Englishmen on the staff of the "Independent" would be dispensed with.

Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., spoke at some length in reference to the statements of the Chairman and Mr. Field, M.P. He said that if the paper was not making progress, and if in consequence changes had been necessary, then the statements made to the shareholders by the directors at previous meetings must be absolutely false.

After some further angry discussion the amendment moved by Mr. Clinton was put to the meeting, and the Chairman declared it rejected by 45 votes to 30.

Mr. Bermingham pointed out that the 48 majority included no less than 22 members of the "Independent" staff. He protested against others than shareholders being allowed to be present.

Mr. Blake's words on the attitude of the Irish Nationalists towards English Liberalism, "sorry, indeed," said Mr. Blake, "I would like to speak one hard word of some leaders, or of the rank and file of British Home Rulers. They fought faithfully and well. I hope, and believe, they are still true. I am grateful for their past; I am resolved to be helpful for their future."

At the close speeches were delivered by the Rev. Father Ryan, Mr. Eugene O'Keefe, and J. J. Foy, Q.C., M.P. Among the gentlemen present, besides the above-mentioned were, besides Mr. Healy, J. Bonner, J. O'Hara, J. Herson, J. O'Leary, E. Kelly, F. E. Callan.

APPOINTMENT.

Ottawa, July 3.—Mr. George O'Keefe, ex-M.P., was on Friday afternoon appointed police magistrate for Ottawa to succeed the late Martin O' Gara, Esq., Q.C.

The new police magistrate came to Ottawa in 1868 from Franklin County, New York, where he was born in 1848. He graduated from Middlebury College, Vermont. For five years Mr. O'Keefe studied law under the late Mr. O'Gara, and passed his intermediate exams, but never went up for the finals.

Mr. O'Keefe is unmarried, and lives at 60 Russell Avenue. His brothers are Deputy Chief of Police O'Keefe and Mr. J. C. O'Keefe, contractor. He is a prominent member of St. Joseph's church.

THE HOLY FATHER AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

The following is a translation of the Holy Father's letter to the Archbishop of Paris:—

"Monsieur le Cardinal.—After the numerous testimonies of goodwill that we have given to France during all our Pontificate, it was particularly pleasant to us to learn that the French Catholics had united more closely at the National Catholic Congress of Paris in 1897, in order to work in harmony for the welfare of the Catholic religion and the country."

"But the result has not corresponded with the general expectation. Yielding, then, to the requests of a great number of French Catholics and without examining the manifold causes of the present situation, we desire to draw your attention to the efficacious influence exercised by the Catholic societies and groups. These, whilst preserving autonomy, should be of action which belongs to them, ought to labor with common accord for what interests all good Catholics—the supreme well-being of France."

"This welfare of the nation, as we have several times repeated, Catholics are bound to procure for the country and none are better able to do so. Let them, then, resolutely take the stand on the existing institutions which France has adopted in order to labor for the common interest of religion and Fatherland, with that spirit of unity which we desire to see animated. Such has always been in all ages the role of the true sons of every Christian nation, and we are firmly convinced, will be their mission in the future. In this hope, whilst calling down upon you the favors of Heaven, we grant you our cordial benediction with all our heart to you, and the clergy and faithful of your diocese."

"LEO XIII. Pope."

CLOSING EXERCISES AT ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, (BOYS).

It has been our good fortune to attend several of the closing exercises during the past week, but none has afforded us so much pleasure or proved so great a surprise as that held Thursday last at St. Michael's school. Rev. Father Ryan presided in his usual amiable manner, and a large and representative audience bestowed unstinted applause on almost every number of the programme. But it was the creditable manner in which every number was rendered, as well as the "manly bearing of the boys, that left a lasting impression on the audience. Napolitano's orchestra assisted, and rendered several very pretty selections.

The programme was opened by a neatly worded welcome, eloquently delivered by Mr. Leary, but the event of the evening was the dramatic exercises by the junior pupils and physical drill by the seniors. The little lads showed remarkable proficiency in every movement, and would have done credit to any military corps. After going through fancy marching and physical drill with a perfection that was unexpected from any military students, the senior pupils, by several very skillful manoeuvres, formed the letters F. R. YAN. As each letter was formed, the boys in the rear of the stage were dropped, displaying the letter handsomely decorated. The character of a high standing and were well executed. In all, these exercises were of remarkable interest, and such as we would like to see imitated by other city schools. The good brothers in charge deserve much credit for the proficiency displayed by the pupils, and the pastor and people of the cathedral parish have very great reason to feel proud of the high standing which their school has attained.