

MONSIGNOR SEARS.

Terra Nova Advocate, Nov. 11. The telegram which in its cold and laconic phrase announced the death of the Right Rev. Mgr. Sears, told of an event which sent a tremor of sympathy and feeling to the heart of every citizen of 'Our Island Home.' It told of the departure of one who will figure on the pages of our history as one of the truly great men whose names will adorn the annals of our country. He was a man of singular honesty and earnestness of purpose, of vast and deep practical knowledge, of far-reaching prudence, combined with an almost child-like simplicity and single-mindedness, of rare virtue and lively faith. Whatever work he undertook, he was so convinced of its rectitude, that he launched himself heart and soul into it, and with such enthusiasm as to bring upon himself the incredulity, almost the ridicule, of more sober-minded and easy-going persons. Yet in the long run his views were always found to rest on a sound and practical basis. He has been called away in the midst of his labors, and before he could be said to have reached the third quarter of the ordinary cycle of life, yet he lived to see carried to perfection many of those public measures of progress and civilization on the extreme Western shores of the Island, which on his first arrival were wanting and which were thought by timid ideas to rest on a higher and more solid basis. From the moment that he landed on our shores (now some seventeen years since) he became enraptured with the vision of the great natural resources of the country, and from that day till his death every aspiration of his good and noble soul went forth glowing with hope and fervid wishes for the development of his adopted land. Every moment of his time that he could spare from his spiritual duties (which always held a higher and holier place in his mind) he devoted to the amelioration, physically and morally and intellectually, of the great region now, thanks to him, pretty well known to us, but which previous to his arrival was vaguely known to some few of our people as the "French Shore," a name in which we took as much interest as we do in the "Sahara Desert."

The Right Rev. Monsignor Thomas Sears, though born in the old world in the classic "kingdom of Kerry," and on the banks of the world famous Lough of Killarney (where he imbibed from infancy his ardent love of the wild beauties of nature), was brought out to America by his parents at the early age of three years. His father was one of those brave Irish hearts who left the "dear old sod" in times of sorrow, to go out a new life for himself in the forests of the West. With a few other emigrant families they settled down in what is now the lovely valley of Lochabar, Nova Scotia, but then was a wild, green, covered by the forest primeval, and enlivened only by the small clearings and crofts of a few Highlanders from Argyle. The Northern and Southern Keltic, fellows in University, gave mutual welcome to each other, and before one generation had passed away the young men of the settlement had risen to comfort, if not affluence, and were fit to take their places in the public life of the new colony. The Irish mother, coming across the wide waste of Atlantic waters, brought with her, fresh and ever vigorous, that darling desire of her heart, "to give a boy to the altar." Monsignor Sears was somewhat advanced in years before he was enabled to complete his ecclesiastical studies, which he pursued in the Laval University Seminary of Quebec. We have not at hand the date of his ordination. He served in several missions in the diocese of Arichat before coming to Newfoundland, notably, Port Hawkesbury and Port, in which latter place he remained for some time, where he served the Glebe House and was well known.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

IRISH HOME RULE.

Large and Representative Meetings of Irishmen in Lindsay and Orillia.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 19th, a meeting of the friends of local government for Ireland was held in the Opera House, Lindsay, for the purpose of organizing a branch of the Irish National League. Although the night was unfavorable, preventing many of the farmers of Ops from attending, a large number filled the hall, and from the beginning to the end of the meeting showed the greatest interest and enthusiasm. Arthur O'Leary, Esq., took the chair. After explaining the object of the meeting, the Chairman introduced C. L. Mahony, Esq., President of the Irish National League of Toronto, who in an able address of an hour's length, discussed the principles of the League, showing the condition of affairs in Ireland and the necessity of reform. The resolution of the evening was moved by Hugh O'Leary, Esq., in an eloquent speech, and seconded by Dr. Lynch: "That as in Canada we possess this invaluable boon, and recognize the advantages resulting therefrom in furthering the progress of the country, strengthening devotion to its interests and contributing the fullest measure of social and personal happiness and prosperity, we heartily approve of the claim now and for a long time put forth by the Irish people through their leaders in the British House of Commons, namely, their right to control by means of a local parliament all matters of a local nature pertaining to the interests of Ireland and consistent with the integrity of the British Empire. "That we believe the granting of this right of self-government, which is now favorably regarded by many leading statesmen of both political parties in England, and has been unanimously recommended by the parliament of our own Dominion, will strengthen the Empire by making Ireland, instead of a source of weakness, a firm friend and trusty ally. "Resolved, that we heartily sympathize with the people of Ireland in their endeavors to obtain a local parliament, and cordially endorse the course followed by Mr. Parnell and his colleagues; that we place the fullest confidence in their ability and devotion, and that we will use all the constitutional measures we can employ to assist them in carrying their labors to a successful end." The resolution was put by the Chairman and enthusiastically carried, after which the chairman called for gentlemen who desired to contribute to the Parliamentary Fund to which the response to this appeal was made in a proper spirit, and about \$150 was subscribed. A motion was carried to form a branch of the Irish National League in Lindsay and Ops, and the following gentlemen were elected officers: President, George McHugh, Ops; Vice-President, Hugh O'Leary, Lindsay; 2nd Vice-President, Walter O'Boyle, Ops; Treasurer, John Kennedy, Lindsay; Secretary, Dr. Lynch, Lindsay. A vote of thanks to Mr. Mahony was moved by Mr. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Barr, and cordially assented to by the meeting. Collectors have since been appointed and a worthy contribution may be expected.

IN ORILLIA.

Orillia, Nov. 25.—A large and representative meeting of Irish Home Rule sympathizers was held here this afternoon, according to previous announcements, in Kennedy's Music Hall. All the principal Irishmen in the town were present, and a very respectable representation from the townships, notwithstanding the rough state of the roads at present, and taking into consideration that two similar meetings are to be held in the neighborhood within the present week. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p. m., with Mr. G. L. Bolster, president, in the chair. The Chairman, in an able and eloquent speech, reviewed the state of Ireland from 1847 to the present time. At that period Ireland had a population of nine millions, and in a few years it had dwindled down to five millions. The track of the emigrant ship could be traced across the Atlantic, and four millions of people had fled from famine during the succeeding years. Ireland needed a local government then as now, which, if she had it, would not allow food to the value of one hundred millions of dollars to be exported out of the country, and allow the people to starve. These were facts that came under his own observation. He was a Home Ruler then as now. Some say that it is treason to ask for Home Rule. Such, however, is not the case. The Irish are among the most loyal people, and would be more contented with Home Rule, owing to their peculiar temperament. (Great applause.) The Secretary, Mr. R. A. Lynch, read letters of apology from the following gentlemen:—Rev. J. B. Armstrong, Methodist minister, and Mr. F. G. Gillespie, Uppergrove. OBJECT OF THE LAND LEAGUE. Mr. Mahoney, president of the Toronto branch of the Irish National League, addressed the meeting for a full hour, and defined Mr. Parnell's policy in a forcible and eloquent manner. He said it was not the object of the Land League to dismember the British Empire, but to obtain Home Rule as we enjoy it in Canada. He quoted several eminent thinkers, amongst them John Stuart Mill and others, showing that the internal affairs of a country should be managed by the people of that country. He closed by explaining the provisions of the Land Act, stating that out of fourteen million acres of pasture or waste lands five millions could be brought under cultivation at the cost of three pounds per acre. The speaker resumed his seat amidst vociferous applause. LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND. The following resolution was moved by Rev. K. A. Campbell:—"Resolved, that under her present system of government, which has had a long trial, Ireland has been the most wretched, miserable, and poverty-stricken country on the face of the globe. That we believe a local government, such as Canada and all the British colonies enjoy, would make it prosperous, happy, and contented, and that it would make her people second to none in loyalty to the Crown of England, for which she has been pre-eminent when occasion called for it, even when suffering."

BENZIGHER'S

CATHOLIC HOME ALMANAC

FOR 1888.

THIS issue of this Almanac—now in its third year—both in the variety and interest of its articles, as well as in the artistic beauty of its illustrations, surpasses either of the previous numbers. THE CATHOLIC HOME ALMANAC is a success, and we believe its sale will be greater this year than ever before, for its good qualities have become known, and it is being extensively introduced into the home circle as THE BEST FAMILY READING TO BE HAD. LOOK AT ITS CONTENTS THIS YEAR: More than a Mother's Love. A Tale of noble sacrifice and heroic devotion. 2 Illustrations. A Lucky Thought. A Funnny Incident of the Zulu War. Gregory XIII. With full-page illustration. A Guard of Honor. By Maurice F. Egan. A beautiful story in this popular author's best vein. With 2 illustrations. Good Reading. From the Pastoral Letter of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore. With 2 illustrations. Hernando Cortes. By Archbishop Spalding. With full-page illustration. Andrew's Enemy. By Christian Reid. A charming Tale of Irish Faith. With full-page illustration. The Lions and the Hermit. By Mrs. M. A. Stacey. A Legend in Verse. Illustrated. The Stone-Cutter of Brest. By Raoul de Navery. A Touching Story. Illustrated. Hush. By Adelaide Anne Proctor. A Poem. With large illustration. Just Rev. Peter Richard Knorck, D. D., Archbishop of St. Louis. With Portrait. The Legend of Gaudulph. A beautiful Tale. With large illustration. Winter A Sketch. With full-page illustration. The American College, Rome. By a Former Student of the College. An interesting Sketch of this famous historical institution. Illustrated. Interspersed with Anecdotes, Wit, Statistics, etc., in Red and Black.

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ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY, MONTREAL.

On the afternoon of the 10th inst. an enjoyable entertainment was given at the above institution, by the pupils of the first class, the event being the feast of St. Martin, patron saint of Rev. Martin Callaghan, spiritual director of the school. The following was the programme: Instrumental Duett—La Chasse Aux Lions. Song—Many Happy Returns of the Day. Pupils. Fairy Piece. Pupils. Comic Piece. Pupils. Instrumental—Topsy-turvy. Pupils. Thirty-six Hands. Pupils. Fostal Song. Pupils. Address and Presentation. The names of the young ladies who took a prominent part are: Frances Donohue, Maggie Carrall, May Curran, Annie Stanley, Maud Sexton, Alice McShane, Aggie Smith, Nellie Foley, Emma Symons, Aggie Carroll, Katie Maloney, Mary Kavanaugh, Mary Monette, and Annie Ryan. When the programme was gone through the rev. gentleman heartily thanked his young friends for their kindness in remembering his feast. The afternoon's enjoyment closed with a few words of wisdom and a blessing from the faithful one. AN EX PUPIL.

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