

The Catholic Record.

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THE HOME RULE CAUSE

The Irishmen of Australia showed recently both patriotism and generosity in their subscriptions toward the Irish Parliamentary fund. Just as the late election was about to begin Mr. Michael Davitt, who was at the time in Sydney, sent £1000 by cable to Mr. Justin McCarthy to assist the cause during the contest, the amount being furnished by patriotic Australian Irishmen. Notwithstanding the decisive victory gained by the Tories, the subscriptions which have been sent in to aid the Irish Parliamentary party will not have been spent in vain. The unanimity of the Irish representatives will be an object lesson which cannot but impress itself on the people of the rest of Great Britain, to the effect that the determined Irish Nationalist phalanx in Parliament must have a real grievance to be redressed, or they would not show such determination in standing aloof from the normal British parties, and refusing all office and Government patronage until Ireland secures justice.

The internal dissensions among the Irish factions, though very much to be regretted, do not at all weaken this view of the case, for, on the issue of demanding Ireland's rights, there is a perfect accord among the factions. In fact their dissension is mainly on the question how far patriotic Irishmen should go on the issue of insisting on Home Rule, the minority faction being considered to be more or less inclined toward the physical force remedy, while the regular Nationalist party is in favor of a constitutional method.

In spite of these dissensions, which have certainly been the cause of handing over several constituencies to the Tories, the two Irish parties together have secured 82 members in the House of Commons, leaving 20 constituencies in the hands of the Tories. During Mr. Parnell's leadership there was a united band of 86 Irish Nationalists, and it could not be denied that, outside of Ulster, Ireland was a unit in asserting its claims to a remedy for the bad government to which it had been subjected. But at that time even Ulster could not be claimed by Ireland's enemies, as from Ulster there were 17 Nationalists out of 33, constituting a Nationalist majority of 1.

It is an accidental circumstance, therefore, that at present there is a small Tory majority of members from Ulster; but from Ireland, as a whole, the unmistakable voice is for the right of self government, and the demand is all the more imperative and undeniable, as the Nationalist majorities were in almost every case extraordinarily large, going up into thousands, while the Unionist majorities are small, and in many cases precarious.

The perseverance with which the whole nation insists upon redress cannot but secure its object in the end, and it is now rumored that even the Tories will endeavor to pacify the country by making some concessions in the way of granting self government; but it is probable that the only concession which will be granted thus will be municipal rule. Even this will be an improvement on the state of affairs now existing, but it will not satisfy the Irish people, who have been convinced by experience that the country is not governed for the good of the people, but only for the aggrandizement of the landlords, and that there will be no change in this respect until there be a real Parliament at Dublin. In the past Ireland could never even secure a hearing in the House of Commons when legislation which would benefit the country was asked for. It made no difference whether Whigs or Tories were in office, or in a majority in the House of Commons. Irish measures were voted down by an almost unanimous House, which seemed to derive a grim pleasure from refusing to listen to Irish demands.

This state of things continued till Mr. Gladstone took up Ireland's cause, and educated the people of England

and Scotland to listen respectfully to Irish demands. Under these changed circumstances, when the factions of the Irish party disappear, the Irish Parliamentary party cannot but command respect, and the result must be, sooner or later, that Home Rule will be conceded, not in municipal matters merely, but in national affairs. To attain this it is necessary that the Irish party in the House should be kept up to its full strength, which cannot be done in the impoverished state of the country, without the aid which patriotic Irishmen, and children of Irishmen, extend so freely and gladly from all quarters of the globe.

THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR SCHOOLS.

It is very persistently stated by the enemies of Catholic education, both through letters to the press and in public speeches or addresses, that the Catholic schools, whether in Ontario, Quebec, or Manitoba, are characteristically inefficient, and this supposed fact is made a pretext for maintaining that in Manitoba no redress should be given for the unjust abolition of Separate schools, and that in Ontario the Separate school system ought also to be abolished. There are, indeed, persons ever on the watch to find some pretext for waging a war against Catholic education, wherever it exists.

We have shown before now that these representations are incorrect.

We do not deny that it may happen in some places at particular times that apathy prevails among Catholic trustees to such an extent that the schools settle into a condition of inefficiency. It is in human nature that such things occur from time to time; and the Public schools are not exempt from this condition of affairs, as we know from events which have come within our own cognizance. We have never on that account maintained the inefficiency of the Public school system, which has indeed some imperfections, but which, nevertheless, has done an immense amount of good, and which we fully believe to be equal to any school system existing, except in those features wherein it is imperfect, like everything else human. But notwithstanding that we admit that some Catholic Separate schools are not conducted as they ought to be, we maintain that the Catholic Separate schools in Ontario, as a whole, are quite as well conducted and are as efficient as the Public schools.

There are not complete statistics at hand whereby this can be proved as fully as we would wish; but what is published in the annual reports of the Minister of Education is sufficient to show that this is the case.

It is a fact that there are certain disadvantages under which Catholics labor *a priori* in a comparison of this kind. Among these we may mention the greater amount of diversity of nationality and language among the Catholic population of the Province, and also that the average of wealth is in favor of the Protestants. Both of these causes tend to affect the character of the schools unfavorably, yet in spite of all these circumstances which cannot be controlled, we have shown from time to time by detailed figures that the Catholic schools compare favorably with the Public schools of the Province, in every respect under which the statistics furnished by the Education Department give us the opportunity of instituting a comparison. The teachers are as good, the higher forms have as many pupils in them, and when they compete for entrance into the Collegiate Institutes and High schools, the Separate school pupils stand as high as, and often higher, than their fellow-competitors from the Public schools. It is also a fact attested year after year in the departmental reports that the average attendance at the Separate schools of the Province is considerably higher than at the Public schools, in comparison with the total number of pupils enrolled; and every one of these circumstances must be weighed in making the comparison as regards efficiency.

We gave last week the figures showing the success of Catholic Separate school pupils in several localities at the recent High school entrance examinations. We have heard details of comparatively few sections this year as yet, but judging from past achievements of which we are aware, we are confident that the Separate schools of the Province have not been a whit behind.

In addition to localities we have already mentioned in our columns, we have received the examination returns from Kingston, as published by the Education Depart-

ment. According to these figures there were 141 Kingston candidates for the Collegiate Institute who succeeded in passing. Of these, 87 were from the Catholic schools of the city, which is about the same proportion as of Catholic children attending school; but what is most remarkable is that of the four children who obtained over 600 marks, 3 were from the Separate schools, with a total of 1853 marks between them. The highest on the list, however, was a Protestant child, who obtained the splendid record of 665 marks. We say, therefore, that the Kingston Separate schools have proved themselves to be more efficient than the Public schools of the city, whose trustees have been in the past so intensely anti-Catholic. Perhaps if these gentlemen had devoted as much time toward improving their schools as they have spent in endeavoring to annoy Catholic parents, they might have been able to show a better record for their schools to-day.

Much of the credit for the efficiency of the Kingston schools is, of course, due to the zeal of the teachers; but much is also due, we understand, to Dr. Ryan, the able and energetic local school superintendent.

The record of the results in Berlin tell a similar story, and are even more decisively favorable to the Catholic Separate schools. We have not the complete returns of the number of marks obtained by each pupil in that town, but we learn from the Berlin Record that at the entrance examinations for the North Riding of Waterloo, a Catholic Separate school pupil headed the list with 655 marks, and that 7 out of 8 Catholic pupils passed the ordeal; 83 passed in addition to the seven Separate School pupils. Of these 26 were from the Berlin Central school. As the Catholic population of Berlin is less than one-seventh of the whole, it is evident that the ratio of success and efficiency of the Catholic to the Public schools was over 21 to 13.

With such facts as these before us, and with facts similar occurring through the province every year, the press which is hostile to Catholics ought to be very guarded about making general charges of inefficiency against the Catholic schools of Ontario. We are informed also that the charges recently brought against the Catholic schools of Manitoba are equally untruthful with those which are constantly in the mouths of anti-Catholic speakers in this province, and Mr. Greenway's cool proposal to the Dominion Government to institute an investigation into the working of the school laws before and since 1890, instead of introducing remedial legislation, is a piece of insolence the equal of which we have scarcely ever heard of as coming from a supposed statesman.

From all the information we can glean, the Catholic schools of Manitoba were quite as well conducted as those of the Protestants, when the differences of the character of the two populations are taken into account, many of the Catholics being poor half breeds, whose efforts to educate their children should have been encouraged by the Manitoba Government, instead of their schools being abolished.

From Thorold, Ont., comes the pleasing intelligence that a pupil from the Separate school, and that a mere child, little Maggie Commerford, only eleven years of age, obtained the highest number—614—of marks of all those who passed the recent High school entrance examinations there. Forty candidates—of which seven were from the Separate school—presented themselves, of which twenty-eight passed, among the number being five from the Separate school. The latter fact is very gratifying indeed, but what we particularly appreciate is, the distinction achieved by our bright little eleven year old friend Maggie, who so surprised the citizens of Thorold and vicinity that they have hardly recovered from the shock yet. Certainly this little child has demonstrated in the most effective manner that the highest standard of work is being done in our schools. All honor say we, to little Maggie, and her teachers, the good Sisters of St. Joseph.

For Those we Care For.

There are very few of us earning our living who have not some one else to care for, and that is much to the credit of the American girl, writes Ruth Ashmore in the Ladies Home Journal. Sometimes it is the folk at home; sometimes it is a younger sister who is to be helped with her education, but always a helping hand is needed. You laugh at the idea of making a will, but no matter how little you have, if it is nothing but your gold watch, you ought to attend to its disposition. And if there are people

depending upon you, old people, stop the soda water, stop the candy and have your life insured. You will not die any the sooner, and you will feel that the mother or the young sister you love so dearly will not when you cease to be here, depend upon the hard charity of strangers.

LORD SALISBURY'S GOVERNMENT AND HOME RULE.

It was not without good reason that it was asserted that even with the advantage of an inexpugnable majority, the Conservative party may find it necessary to yield more to the demands of Ireland than it has hitherto been supposed they would ever be induced to grant.

It is definitely settled that in the new House of Commons the coalition of Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists will command a majority of 152. The Conservatives alone have elected 838 members, giving them a majority of 6 over all parties in the full House of 670 members. There are, besides, 73 Liberal-Unionists elected, who, though they formerly belonged to the Liberal party, abandoned it and joined their forces with the Tories for the purpose of defeating Mr. Gladstone's measure for Home Rule in 1886.

The coalition has been more enduring than such unions have usually been in England, and it has been so cemented by its having gone through the crucible of three general elections that it may now be regarded as having become a single party with the main object in view to prevent Ireland from attaining the object of her aspirations, which is a National Government and Parliament located at Dublin.

As we have already said, the Conservatives have a majority of 6 over all parties combined, even though the Liberal-Unionists were to go into opposition. This will give a certain independence to the former, even in their dealings with their allies; yet no one imagines that they could carry on the Government alone with so narrow a majority. The Conservative policy must therefore be modified to suit Liberal-Unionist views, if the coalition is to be permanent.

The Liberal-Unionists have certain definite views regarding the manner of dealing with Ireland, and it is in this matter we may suppose there will be some compromise between ultra-Tory and Liberal views. What, then, is likely to take place?

It is known that Messrs. Joseph Chamberlain and T. W. Russell, who are the leading Liberal Unionists for England and Ireland respectively, and both of whom are members of the new Government, have certain plans of giving Ireland a large share of local autonomy under the name of municipal government, and this is what is likely to be offered to Ireland in lieu of the Home Rule desired by Irishmen, and we may expect some measure granting this to be passed by the present Parliament with the assent of the Lords; while Home Rule itself is certainly put off by the recent elections to a date far away in the future.

That this view of the situation is correct may be inferred from a speech made by Mr. Walter Long, the Minister of Agriculture in the new Cabinet. Mr. Long has asserted that there will be a new Irish policy, the outlines of which he gives. He says there will be county councils, and some central machinery which will relieve Ireland of the necessity of coming to England for her lesser local legislation.

How will this proposal be received in Ireland? We have no doubt it will be accepted, not as a finality, but as a measure of half justice while more is to be expected. It will be at least an improvement on the present condition, and if the powers of the "central machinery" be extensive it may be that the new policy will be a fairly good *ad interim* measure, until real Home Rule be conceded by a future Parliament.

Mr. Long, while foreshadowing this new policy, has thought proper to accompany his statement with insulting words. He said: "If the Irish choose to accept this because, like whipped hounds, they could get nothing else, and call it Home Rule, they are welcome."

It certainly reflects but little credit on Mr. Long and the administration he represents, that the concession they propose to grant is accompanied by an insult. It serves only to indicate that the concession is grudgingly given, and this language will not increase the respect entertained for the Government by the honest electorate. Notwithstanding the decisive victory gained by the Government at the polls, the use of such language as indicates the blustering bully shows that the unanimity of the Irish people in making their demand keeps themselves in

terror of the whip: for it is certain that the unanimous demand of the nation cannot be forever resisted. The Conservatives are strong for the moment, but they know well that a united phalanx of 82 votes will have its effect at some time or other, and will force any reasonable concession they demand. No doubt it is the consciousness of this that has brought Lord Salisbury to make the present offer, and Mr. Long's cowardly bragadoocio is simply intended to conceal the fact that the resemblance to a whipped hound is more perfect as applied to the Government than to the Irish party.

PROSELYTIZING SCHOOLS AND CATHOLIC INVENTORS.

A few weeks ago a school teacher of Massachusetts, speaking of an invention, asked his pupils who had made it, and some of them and among them a Catholic child, replied "A Protestant," whereupon he said: "Of course: a Catholic never invented anything." The insulting remark was expressly intended to make an impression on the Catholic child who gave the answer, and the other Catholic children in the school.

It is in this way of sneering against Catholics that some of the so-called non-sectarian schools are turned into Protestantizing institutions, and in almost every case the teachers who do this are sustained by the trustees. Thus the booby of the Massachusetts school was sustained by his trustees, who gravely maintain that all this kind of teaching is justifiable, as it is historical and not religious. It was on this plea that a Boston High school teacher was sustained some time ago by the A. P. A. style of fanatics for attacking the Catholic doctrine of Indulgences, and distorting history in regard to the practice of the Catholic Church concerning Indulgences.

The constantly repeated statement, which is made habitually by many Protestants, that Indulgences are licenses to commit sin granted by the Pope for a certain sum of money, was introduced by the Boston teacher as a lesson in history, and the same method of introducing sectarianism under guise of teaching history was adopted by the ignorant fellow who recently told his pupils that Catholics never invented anything, because they are kept in ignorance, and thus have not the intelligence to invent.

We do not propose to enter into any set refutation of this statement of the school teacher, for it is as notoriously false as it is malicious and impudent; but we will cursorily call attention to a grand invention which was recently made by a Catholic priest of Sicily, Father Calendoli, of the Dominican Order. A full description of this invention was given in last month's issue of the *Rosary* magazine, with cuts representing the various parts of the machine, and a portrait of Father Calendoli working it.

The invention consists of an electrical type-setting machine, which surpasses by far anything which has hitherto been made in this line. It enables a good compositor to set up 50,000 letters in an hour. The importance of the invention may be estimated from the fact that the best machines hitherto in operation enable the most expert compositor to set up about 14,000 letters in an hour, whereas, by hand, only about 3,000 can be set.

It is surely true that New England school trustees should insist upon it that their teachers should confine their pretended historical teaching within the bounds of truth; but we do not expect this to be done. They will continue to make "the little red schoolhouse" the medium for inculcating falsehoods against the Catholic Church on the minds of the Catholic pupils, in order to Protestantize them if possible. And yet these people profess to be greatly scandalized because Catholics prefer Catholic parochial schools to their proselytizing institutions!

COMPULSORY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN BELGIUM.

A cablegram informs us that in the Belgian Chamber of Deputies the bill has passed by a fair majority to make religious education compulsory.

The bill was favored by the Catholic party in the House, but was bitterly opposed by the Infidel socialists, who must have had some support from the Liberal or weak Catholics, otherwise the majority would have been much larger, as the Catholic party constitute about two-thirds of the Chamber.

This compulsory religious education does not signify that the teaching shall be Catholic for all the children. Protestants and Jews are allowed to

have their own schools, and in these, of course, the distinctive religious tenets of each will be inculcated, but parents must select the religion which shall be taught their children; and in case the large majority in any locality be of one religion, so that there are no distinctive schools for those who are in the minority, the clergy of the minority creeds will supply the necessary religious teaching to the children of their own belief.

These are wise provisions, though their introduction into the school laws was opposed by most of the Protestants, who appear to have made common cause with the Infidels for this purpose, though their religion has been carefully provided for by the new law.

The Belgian bill is similar to that which was proposed by the Emperor William for Germany, but which was defeated by the Reichstag. It would appear that the principal motive which induced most of the Protestant party of the House to oppose the bill, was that Catholic education might be rendered more difficult. This is the same motive which influences many in Canada to oppose religious education, difficult as it is to conceive that any Christian body can seriously throw obstacles in the way of having their children religiously educated. The opposition of the Infidels, however, is easily understood. They are anxious to have the rising generation educated without a knowledge of God, and, if they had their way, the name of God would not be heard in the school room.

It will be remembered by our readers that Mr. Dalton McCarthy in his argument before the Canadian Government, against Separate schools in Manitoba, instanced the example of Belgium, where he said the schools are secular and efficient. We pointed out Mr. McCarthy's error at the time, mentioning that the Belgian schools teach religion. The new law makes no change in this respect, but it prescribes that all parents must select the religion in which their children shall be instructed.

It may be fairly inferred from this that Mr. McCarthy is very careless about stating the truth when he has an object in concealing the facts.

The liberality with which Catholic Belgium and Quebec provide for the religious education of Protestants should be a reason for the people of Manitoba and those in other Provinces of the Dominion to deal generously with the Catholics, by permitting the latter to maintain their Catholic schools without any obstacle being thrown in their way by hostile legislation.

ROYALTY AND THE REGICIDE.

It is positively stated that her Majesty the Queen was delighted at the defeat of Lord Rosebery's Government on the question of erecting a monument to honor the memory of the Regicide Oliver Cromwell. Her Majesty entertains a profound veneration for King Charles I., whose obstinacy in upholding the doctrine of the divine right of kings, and their absolute authority, was the direct cause of his deposition, resulting finally in his mockery of a trial and his condemnation to the scaffold, and his memory is cherished by the Church of England to the extent that he is still honored as a martyr in the offices of that Church. The wonder is that even a small majority could be secured in the British House of Commons on the first vote taken on the question of the erection of the statue. This majority would not have been attained were it not for the support given by Irish Orangemen to the proposition, but that support was withdrawn when the matter came before the House a second time, under the form of reducing the appropriation to so low a figure as to make the proposition of raising the statue ridiculous.

When the reduction of the appropriation was carried by a substantial majority, the Government acknowledged its defeat and withdrew the proposition. To the Irish Nationalist party the chief credit is due for the fact that the Parliament did not stultify itself and cast discredit upon monarchical Government by approving of the statue. Her majesty should feel grateful to the Irish Nationalists for having saved her from the humiliation of seeing the Parliament of Great Britain honor the memory of a Regicide whose name she detests. The consistency of the Nationalists forms a striking contrast to the vacillation of Orangemen on the question.

When Charles II. came to the English throne he had the bones of Cromwell and his chief advisers taken from their graves and exposed to public ignominy and scorn on Tyburn gibbet.