THE TRUE WHENESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLES

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Christmas of 1902 will have come and gone. Although this cannot be called the Christmas issue, yet we are within the atmosphere of that holy season, and, in my ramblings-for I ramble a great deal in these contributions, ell as actually from curbstone to curbstone-I love to dwell upon the attractions of this most de lightful period of the year. There in something about Christmas, apart from its sacred religious character, that is full of the spirit of home It is the time when the fireside is the brightest, when the aged and the young gather around the table and hold a yearly communion heart.

rgan reaches the readers the

"When 'round the festive Christmas board,

Or by the Christmas hearth, That glorious mingled draught poured,

Wine, melody, and mirth; When friends long absent tell low-

toned, Their joys and sorrows o'er, And hand grasps hand, and eye-lids

fill, And lips meet lips once more: Oh! in that hour, 'twere kindly done Some woman's voice might say:

'Forget not those who weep tonight,

Poor exiles far away.' "

At this time these lines of Martin McDermott come to my mind, and I feel the better for the mere act o. transcribing them. And if there is joy and light in the heart on the holy Christmas Eve, and the sacred Christmas Day, the very reunions, the very exchange of little tokens, the very turkey that traditionally adornes the board, have all their sad ociations-for there are so many vacant chairs in the homes of the world. But not of these striking reminders of losses sustained and of sorrows experienced did I propose writing this day; my theme is Christmas hymns.

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THE MIDNIGHT MASS .- It seem to me that there is no more solem and no more glorious hour, in all the year, than midnight of twenty-fourth of December. The Mass that we attend may be offered up the majestic dome of great+basilica, or under the roof of a convent chapel, or within the walls of a piencer, remote country church; it is still the same midnight Mass that has been sung, all over the world each year, throughout the ages of the Christian era. When one els in presence of the crib, and follows the priest as he performs the greatest act of adoration known to man, there is something in the air that breathes memories of the past, that tells of days long gone, and that conjures up faces that have forever vanished. I never attend a midnight Mass that I do not live over, for an hour or so, several of the happy days, when in the comthose that have long ago pany of one to heaven, I knelt at other altars, in oth same Mass. How the manger, the images of the Holy Mother and St. the tiny Infant, the familiar forms of ox and donkey, the tapers, sats, the various decorations recall similar objects seen in young er years, and by the side of a parent near relative, or a school commanion, or of some dear one, whose nce added to the happiness of Then the chant of the the hour. Mass; the hymns that were familiar ear and that seem so special ly adopted to and entwined around mas! It is of these I would write to-day.

honest, I scarcely know in what form EFORE another issue of thie to express the thoughts that my mind harbors. There are times when one may be exposed to the danger of being considered critical, who to criticise is furthest from the in tention. It may be that I am la ing in my musical training, but I confess that I am not enthusiastic over classical music-possibly be cause I do not understand it. I am very fond of melodies, of the simple, old-time airs, the songs and hymns that were so familiar youth, with which my mother rocked me to sleep in the days that were golden. And I love the Christma hymns of the past; but they seem to have lost, to a great extent, their former place of prominence in our midnight and Christmas Day devo tions. Of late years I have noted how few of these dear old hymns ar sung in our churches. Yet Christ them. Last year I attended Midnight Mass in one of the most "popular" churches of this city (as modern term goes), and I believe that the singing and music were equal to anything upon this conti ent; but I would have so much loved to have heard the old "Adest Fideles;" the new one, with its variations, its flights of harmonic companiments and variations did not seem to be the Christmas hymn that I was accustomed to associate with the Nativity. The year before heard the Midnight Mass in Notre Dame. The mighty swell of the organ, the splendid rendering of Mass by the full choir, and the gorgeous ceremonies in that vast temple were all most inspiring and elevating; but the simple "Il Est Ne, Le Divine Enfant," sung during the Low Mass, went to my heart

and brought back to my mind th picture of a much humbler Church far distant from here, where I mad my First Communion, where I had learned to serve Mass, and where on Christmas Eve, we lads of that day congregated around the altar and felt all the charms and devo tional emotions of that holy night I could mention a half score of thos hymns that appear to have been relegated to oblivion by the amateur of high class music. Even the "Noel" of Adam has undergone such trans formations that no person would recognize the original hymn in the antastic composition that I heard last Christmas. "Les, Anges dans nos Campagnes," has vanished with inspiring chorus of "Glorias, its just as if we no longer commemor ted the chanting of the celestial choirs that once startled the shep herds of Judaea from their slumb ers, and filled the heavens over the royal city of David.

REFLECTIONS .- It would be that am growing old and old-fashioned that I am falling behind in the race that the age is too far in advand for my feeble steps to keep' pace with it; yet I do not consider my self beyond the noon of life. Still whenever Christmas comes I have a longing for olden customs, traditions, methods, and pleasures, and equally for olden devotions. I have lived long enough in the world and have observed sufficiently to know the wheel of custom is conthat stantly turning and that soon later we come back to the practices that have grown absolete. It is so even in the realm of fashion; the cos umes that our grandmothers word are being revived by the most mod ern of dress-designers, and no per-son seems shecked, nor does any one appear to think, for that rea that the world is retrograding. Th tens of thousands of printing presser all over the earth, are pouring out a daily supply of literature that daily supply of interative that dall only be compared to a vast deluge; yet, we are obliged to wade out of that tide and to seek the authors and authorities of other days. They have come down to us, through th bearing the imprimatur O universal appreciation, and thei laces cannot be taken by those who places can with our melodies and songs, with our music and hymns. They were written for all time, they were written for an time, they were com-posed for immortality, and though we may consign them to compara-tive neglect to-day, they are certain to arise again to ill the places they to arise again to mi the places they once held in the hearts of the faith-tul. If I knew exactly the church in which the old hymns would be sung, there would I go to the Midnight Mass-even though I had to walk

Financial Aspect Of the Irish Land Question.

To the special correspondent. in Ireland of the Chicago "Record-Herald" Mr. William O'Brien, M.P. has just indicated, in a clear and concise statement, how simple how practicable the permanent set-tlement of the Irish land question will be. With that great question out of the way, Home Rule, as h points out, would quickly come, for which he gives. O'Brien, says the correspondent, "is to-day one of the leaders of the Irish people in their struggle for their rights.

In reality, as Mr. O'Brien shows the Irish land question is not a dif There are 480,000 ficult problem. tenants in Ireland. We want wheme that will enable 400,000 of them to buy their holdings. The re-maining 80,090 are the larger and more prosperous farmers, who can take care of themselves. It is the 400,000 who are living from to mouth on little patches of bad land that we care about.

"Now, the difficulty is just here The landlords want a higher price for their lands the tenants can af ford to pay. Generally speaking, landlords would be willing to the sell at twenty years' purchase twenty times the yearly rental. They would jump at the chance to do so But at an average the tenants afford to give only sixteen years' purchase, and they would jump at the chance to buy at that figure. So this little barrier of four years' purchase is all that stands between the two sides-all that is in the way of carrying out the great project turning the land over to the people. "Here is where we want the government to come in and bridge over the difference. It can afford to do as a matter of public policy, even if it has to bear all the costs of the margin. But as a matter of fact it can take up that four years' experi-ence without the cost of a single penny to itself." How can this be done? Very casi-

ly. Mr. O'Brien cays:-"The annual rental of these 400,

000 poorer tenants averages about That makes a total of, about £3,2000,000 a year. If the govern ment gives the landlords twenty years' purchase the total sum volved will be £64,000,000. If the tenants are permitted to buy at sixteen years' purchase in yearly installments. The difference is about £13,000,000. This is the sum which the government would have to undertake as a sort of bonus for peac and prosperity. It is a trifle, considering the good that would tlo from it. If it all had to come out of the exchequer it would be the best investment the empire ever made.

'But, as I have said, it would not cost a penny in the long run. The government would lend its credit would issue stock or consols at say 3 per cent. interest. The yearly interest on £13,000,000 would be about £400,000 a year. Six hundred thousand a year would pay the interest and provide an ample sinking fund for extinguishment of the principal.

"Where could the government' re-coup this outlay? Well, the police force maintained in Ireland consists of about 14,000 men, and it costs e1,350,000 a year. It is a standing Notes From the army of occupation. There is no arthly need of it. least criminal country in the world Is that what Sir Antony MacDor nell told you? He is right. Broadly speaking, there is no crime in Ire land. There is no stealing and no pilfering. We never lock our doors in this country. They are the most honest people in the world. The only possible excuse for the maintenanc of this standing army is because the andlords want them. They imagine they need protection. we settle the land question and abolish landlordism there will be no more need, real or fanciful, for this useless army of constabulary. No one will want them. There will be nothing for them to do. There is very little now, beyond looking after a few tipsy people on market days and spying on mempers of Parliament and officers of the Irish League. "Settle the land question and the "Settle the land question and the constabulary army can be reduced to one-third or one-quarter its pre-sent dimensions. Bay it is reduced only one-half, and that saves over \$6600,000 a, year, or enough to meet the interest and sinking fund on the entire sum the government is to undartake between land sellers and land human " undertake between land ad land buyers." "There is another way in

ent could get at the roblem," was the reply. "Many of he landlords are heavily in debt. ey are carrying mortga, nds on their estates and 01 bonds on their estates and paying interest at the rate of 5, 6 or 7 percent. Many landlords are so incumbered that with nominal in comes of, say, £2,500 each, they have but £300 or £400 left they can call their own. If the govern ment were to provide a scheme ase which should take up this paper and convert into stock bear ing 8 or 8¹/₂ per cent, interest, the money saved would go far toward defraying the cost of the margin which the government is to age as between the seller and urchaser. The landlords should be pleased with such a project, because it solves their financial difficultie and gives them a certain rather than certain income. Then creditor

cation that the dogma of the

culties, Affiliated Colleges

clesiastics, laymen, I welcome you

presentative of Leo XIII.

illustrious Pontiff and beloved

ther. We welcome you as the cessor of delegates who by

the higher culture of the youth

this Republic, and that they

profit by it. Encouraged by

Supreme Pastor of the Church,

acting upon his wise counsels,

with confidence in their minds

will be able to work with succes

Davitt and Edward Blake, the men

America. The struggle in which

they are engaged is not being accom-

ways. These men are fighting for Home Rule. What may we not ex-

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York "Sun" says:-

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conversion they would gain greater security in compensation for accept-ing a lower rate of interest. In this vay, by simply lending its credit, the government could go very far toward reimbursing itself for ever outlay might be required. These two plans could be worked in com bination, for in any scheme of land settlement the creditors of the pre ent landlords must be reck with.'

should be content, because in the

As to the condition of a number of the tenants whose farms are at present too small, Mr. O'Brien says: "I think the act should create

land department to deal with this question. It is a problem which pertains almost exclusively to this teach with soundness of principles, and the students how to treasure up province of Connaught. In the other parts of Ireland a great majority of the tenants can get along with the land they now have. But in Con-naught there are 80,000 so-called farmers trying to live on four or five acres of poor land apiece. They could not exist at all did not some thing like 20,000 of them migrate every summer to England or Scot land to work in the harvest fields sleeping in barns and suffering all sorts of privation that they may turn home with from £8 to £15

each. These earnings, coupled with heroic self-denial, enable them and their families to eke through the winter.

ton, on the occasion of the celebra-tion of the patronal feast of the in-"These brave, poor people must be given a chance. If the English and Scottish harvests were to fail starvation would be their fate. Already they are menaced this year by failure of the potato crop in some tions, as on Archill Island.

"The government must make its mind to face this problem. must take the great areas of rich lands now devoted to cattle turn them over to the people. Thousands of families must be transported from the congested districts, where men and women and children swarm on wretched little patches to the lands now held by the gra ziers. The removals will give more land for those who are left behind If the government is in earnest in its desire to solve the Irish problem it must put an end to the reproach which we have here in the West that where there is plenty of good land there are no people, and where the people are there is no good land. The trouble is not that there is not enough land, for there is. The trouble is that the people were thirty of forty years ago forced off the fertile areas and jammed together upon the bogs in order to make room for cat-Any government scheme that tle. fails to deal, and deal on a big scale, with this phase of the prob-lem will be a failure."

SATURDAY, DEC. 20, 1908,)

"That won't do," said the priest, "He must have a place right away, I've got to be back at the house in two hours, but I'm not going back till I've placed the boy, and you're

scholars of your Order who are iden-tified with the universities of the world and rank as saints of God. You will find among our Affiliated Colleges, the college of your breth-ren, and among our students the members of your beloved Order. I take it as a good omen that you are here on our Patronal Feast, sharing with us the glory and the graces of this day. We remember with grati-feastion that the dorma of the Imsitive announcement from the priests "Father Farley, you'd make a good politician," he said. "Send the young man down to-morrow morning I'll put him at work."

aculate Conception found its foremost champions among the sons of St. Francis. As Rector of the Uni-versity, and in the name of its trusliberal 'contributors to 'the many charities of Archbishop Farley. Afhad promoted the priest to succeer Archbishop Corrigan, the "boy ried his compliments to the A bishop and for the fiftieth time mong us as the Apostolic Delegate, Arch our ferred which the priest had found for him, 8110-

earning, piety, and kindly sympathy have won the deepest affection of our twinkle in his eye, "I wonder if I put you on the right road. At any In reply Monsignor Falconio said Your sentiments of attachment and rate, some of the money is going in gratitude towards the Supreme Ponthe right direction." tiff for all that he has done for the

> The priest administered the sacra-ments for the dying. Wife and daughwere in such a state of mind that they were indifferent for the time to the possibility of losing the insurance benefit.

The priest got the assessment slip, doubt that, under his guidance, you earned the address of the treasurer of the lodge and hurried into the and that the blessings I have menstreet. On his way, the carriage of tioned will form the happy inherita wealthy man of his parish overtook him. As the priest spoke to him the man stopped and at, his THE HON. EDWARD BLAKE, M. motion the brougham wheeled up to P., and Mrs. Blake were amongst the gueets entertained by the Rector of

> travelling in that direction, are might I ask you to set me down at

IRISH DELEGATES. - Senator "And now another favor," said the priest, who had glanced at his old Patterson, of Colorado, presided at the meeting held in Washington, to hear the Irish envoys, Messrs. Blake nilver watch and found that 12 "Don't o'clock was drawing near. and Davitt. In introducing them he abuse the horses, but may we drive little faster?" "I greet the two patriots, Michael

The driver on the box was a mem-

Arrived at the office of the lodge ecretary the priest went in, but he came out a moment later just a bit confused. In his haste in responding to the sick call he had left the house without money.

pect with an Irish Parliament meet ing at Dublin, making laws for their fellow-men, providing for the educa-"Mr. A.," said Father Farley, 'you have been very good to bring me here. May I presume on your tion of the rising generations? I can kindness to borrow \$2 from you unindustries and the joyful notes of a

The alsessment was paid, and the land is an inspiration in every Irish priest returned the loan that afternoon, although the lender insisted that he did not want the money LESSONS AND EXAMPLES .- In

That night the patient died, and a sketch of Mgr. Farley, the New thanks to the priest's practical ministrations, the wife and daughter got Tales of the practical Christianity

While he was Auxiliary Bishop of New York, Bishop Farley wrote an the long period of his priesthood in article on a theological question for a review. The Bishop accepted the very liberal compensation of the magazine for the article. A literary ordination in 1870, and laymen who man who had read it spoke of it to have been close to his work as pasa member of the Bishop's household.

going to help me." The man was surprised at this po-

The boy is now one of the most

ter the announcement that the Pope to the story of the place

"Sometimes when I read about the wickedness down in your Wall Street," said the Archbishop with a

Father Farley was summoned for welfare of this institution are a a sick call one morning. He found source of great consolation to me, a parishioner dying of a stroke of and afford me the hope that the apoplexy. Knowing that the man Catholics of America will appreciate was the only wage earner in the fathe deep interest which the Holy Family he made some inquiries of the wife and daughter to learn what prother has taken in promoting more and more, through this University, vision the dying breadwinner nad made for them. He was, the priest will learned, a member of a mutual benefit association in which he had an insurance of \$2,000. The latest asand was overdue, and not superiors will know how to govern paid by noon the man was liable to suspension, in which event his famwith success, the professors how to ily could not collect the money after his death.

in their hearts the precious teach ings of science and religion, and to put them in practice. Attached as you are to the Supreme Pontiff, the infallible teacher of truth, I have no

the curb. "Mr. A.," said the priest, "as you the Catholic University at Washing-

No.——— street?" The man was delighted to be of service to his pastor.

ber of the priest's congregation al-so, and the horses did travel. who are so successfully bringing about a unity of Irish sentiment in

til this afternoon?" happy nation. Home Rule for Ire-

back.

the insurance money

pardy, the Party r don, at great sacri solidly for the those members of now clamour about Catholic Education most entirely abser tumn session came vinced ourselves th the Catholic school could not be jeopar sence. and that the Irich cause impera our presence in Irel were for an instant interests of Ca or to the views and Irish hierarchy, and plated the possibilit gency arising when duty to return to W When I returned f anxiously considered could gain anything ing attendance to Commons, and I wa conclusion that all would be to swell an ous Government ma of the clauses of the

SATURDAY

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Directory United

THE EDUCAT

John Redmond, 1

the Irish party, h

following letter v

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My Dear Sir.-I

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It may be well t

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Dublin,

Party:-

vote now and again Cecil, in ridiculous gainst proposals upo coalition of both House, the Governm of from 200 t Bill has been in any ed from a Catholic which I doubt, the l cannot be placed upo The facts of the pr are, that the Bill has the Report Stage in

Commons. Its only

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OLD CHRISTMAS HYMNS .- There are three Masses on Christmas Eve. The Midnight Mass is usually a High Mass; the second and third Masses are Low Masses. For the High Mass as a rule, especially in large cities, where we have trained and extensive irs, some specially prepared Mass of grand music. Then some riate canticles, arranged by musicians, serve to impart y and life to the more silent votions of the subsequent Masses, are it is that I desire to come in the my few reflections; and to be

United States.

MONSIGNOR FALCONIO. - Th welcome accorded to Monsigner Fal-conio, the new Apostolic Delegate to the United States, on his visit to the Catholic University at Washington, was of an enthusiastic charac-ter. In the course of his address Bishop Conaty, Rector of the Uni-Bisnop Comity, Rector of the Difference of the Com-versity, said:-There is a special de-light for us in welcoming Your Ex-cellency, because as a religious and a superior of religious, you have had

years of experience in our country. We are not a little proud that while clothed with the highest authority of the Holy See among us, and exer-cising the fullest spiritual jurisdic tion, you are also a citizen of our Republic and enjoy all its political privileges. Then, again, as the son of the great St. Francis, your learnof the great St. Francis, your learn-ing and piety and gentleness com-mend you to all who know you. In our neighboring Canada your mis-sion as Apostolic Delegate has call-ed forth the kindliest sentiments of

and affection for your per-haracter. You have that tra-

ditional love of learning which has been the inspiration of so many

tor of St. Gabriel's in E Thirt seventh street since 1884, know of the earnest and resultful labors for his church and for humanity. Rec ognized by all New York as a man of gentlemess and piety, he has other acteristics that shine forth from time to time showing the aggressive gractical, gainful mind

who have been in daily

He is a determined man, times to the extent that ne might by called a fighting man in his purmit of some beneficent object. A story is told of his early days

the pastorate of St. Gabriel's The death of the head of a family in Father Farley s parish left the fam ity with no source of income except a son, whose salary in a downtown office was so small that it would not go half way toward the maintenanc

of the house. Father Farley knew the boy to be unusually bright and well informed. He went down town one morning to find a better employment for the young man. His first call was at the office of a figure in the business world with whom the priest had a purpose. The business man was in a hurry. Said he:--"Till take the young man's name.

"I'll take the y Father Farley, and if I see an op ing for him I'll send you word, haven't anything in sight now."

"It is a splendid argume " said the man. "It is sure to bear fruit." "It has borne fruit," said the the priest. "It has bought breeches and hoes for a lot of youngsters who couldn't go to school in their rags." Personal gifts of money to dishop from time to time all ishop from time to tim always went to his charities. His church, in the heart of the East Side, embraces a lot of rich people, but a great many more very poor ones. A politician went to see Father

Farley at the priest's house in the middle of a close local campaign. The priest's pastorate extended over his political field, and the politician "If you help me and I win," said the politician, "I'll give \$500 to the

"They do need money." said the priest in his mildest voice, "but they don't need it that badly."

THE SEE OF CHICAGO. -The American secular press state that he Congregation of the Propaganda has decided to propose to the Pope he appointment of Bishop. James I. Quigley, of Buffalo, N.Y., as reduling of Distance in security Archbishop of Chicago, in succ to the late Archbishop Feehan

made in its provision case, the presence of bers in the House of C the measure returns t bly, may be of real in For these reasons, ence to the strong v by the Irish hierarchy upon which they have to speak with author request you to hold readiness to come to diately should you red graphic whip, which w

> I remain, etc. JOHN E.

you should the contin

mentioned arise.

MORE COERCION .-Roche, M.P.; Denis Jo Monahan, Charles O'K chael Garrick have b 9, at Knockcroghery, a minal Law and Proced Act to appear at the 1 ty Sessions on Wedness December, 1902, before as shall be there in pursaid Act.