

HOMERULE IN IRELAND

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO.

The Government and Constitution Prior to 1612—The Federation of Kilkenny—The National Assembly.

The administrative talents of Irishmen have been displayed in every part of the British Empire. To name a conspicuous example, Edmund Burke's speeches and political tracts are the storehouse of progressive statesmanship to which every public man in England turns for knowledge and inspiration; and there is not a British colony or dependency that has not been governed by an Irishman during the last twenty years.

THE FALLERS OF THE TYRANTS of the remainder: I do not intend to embarrass myself by considering what the result might have been if the Parliament of Ireland truly represented the entire people and possessed the powers of a sovereign legislature.

PLACE AT THEIR DISPOSAL. Although the King's influence and his army in Ireland were exerted against them, the Catholics proclaimed their loyalty to the sovereign as a basis of their action, and that their government would only continue until the king should be relieved from "his present troubles and be in a condition to redress their grievances."

UNQUESTIONING OBIEDIENCE. Freedom of worship became a secondary consideration, and national freedom was of no consideration in the face of such an obligation.

but their Gal. To them a Stuart, a Tudor, or a Plantagenet was a man no better than themselves. Superior force in the beginning and political considerations afterwards, compelled them to accord to him the respect and support due to the first magistrate.

Several of the lords and some of the principal gentlemen of English descent, representing their brethren, rode, attended by their servants, to the Croft, in the County Meath, in order to meet the representatives of the chieftains of the old Irish.

DEBATED AND VOTED as one body, under the presidency of a speaker selected from the commons. Their first important duty under the constitution they had formed was to elect a supreme council as the executive of the nation, six members from each province, to carry on the government, with unlimited authority over all civil and military officials.

SUCH A PRIVILEGE can with safety be granted to the counties of Ireland. The supreme council took a great seal struck, and one of the earliest orders issued under it was to enroll orders issued under the province of raise money and men in the province of Leinster for the war.

of ordinary government a certain training, with the assistance of permanent officials, will enable statesmen of moderate talents to cut a good figure. For seven years the assembly waged a great war against superior resources, ruled the parts of the country in their hands from time to time with a justice and wisdom that gave peace and safety to the inhabitants, made treaties with foreign powers, and made one of them the instrument of the king and his viceroy, Ormond, to ruin themselves, the royal cause, and their country.

FAILED TO SECURE the results it hoped for because the supreme council was allowed to exercise control over the generals in command. At the beginning of its administration the council had to provide against the dangers of a famine, threatened, in consequence of the destruction of crops in the preceding year, by the combined arms of the king, lords-justices and the Scotch.

THE SUPREME COUNCIL. The radical difference between the principles of the old Irish and the old English which pervaded the general assembly were still more fatally reflected in the supreme council, because the majority of this body belonged to the latter element.

THE ANNUNCIATION Not a Feast in this Province this Year—The Reason Explained.

The Semaine Religieuse of Saturday last contains the following statement as to why the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) is not a day of obligation this year:

AMOS ELLIS was hunting at Wolfe Island. On coming to a piece of ground which he wished to cross, he first undertook to test its solidity with the butt end of his gun, but the jar caused the weapon to explode, the charge of shot striking him in the back of the head, tearing away part the scalp, some shots lodging in his head.

EASTER. THE QUEEN OF CHRISTIAN FEASTS.

Some Facts About It—The Chronological Features—Easter Eggs and Other Customs.

The reader has probably heard it remarked a good many times within the past few days that Easter comes early this year, falling as it does upon the 29th of March. The fixing of the proper time for celebrating this holiday was a famous matter of dispute as far back as the second century, when the Eastern Church contended that it ought to be observed on the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month, holding it to be the same as the Hebrew feast of the Passover.

Since the beginning of the present century Easter has only fallen on its earliest possible date, March 22, to wit, in 1818, and, if you were not alive to see it then, you can make up your mind that you never will behold it, as the same thing will not happen again, either in this century or in the following one.

THE MOST ANCIENT of all customs connected with Easter is probably that of the Beltane fires, though the origin of these is unquestionably pagan, and the fires were tokens of worship to the Sun god, whose return to the northern skies was celebrated at the vernal equinox, as was his departure therefrom observed later in the year.

AN EASTER FEAST: The young folks of a hamlet meet in the moors on the first of May. They cut a table in the green sod of a round figure by cutting a trench in the ground of such circumference as to hold the whole company. They then kindle a fire and dress a repast of eggs and milk in the consistency of a custard.

tians to interchange gifts of eggs with each other on the day that commemorated the Resurrection of the Redeemer of the world from the tomb. The early Christians of Mesopotamia got the credit of being the first to dye and decorate Easter eggs, and their decorations were all symbolical of Christian thoughts.

ON A POLITICAL ERRAND. LONDON, March 23.—Queen Victoria left Windsor Castle this morning en route to Grasse in the Department of the Alpes Maritimes, France, 25 miles west of Nice.

Good Suggestion. QUEEN, March 21.—A petition has been signed by Cardinal Taschereau and the Roman Catholic clergy of this diocese and addressed to the Governor-General, Senate and House of Commons, praying that the electoral act be so amended as to imprison without the option of a fine any person distributing liquor gratuitously to the electors between nomination and polling days.

Clerical Appointments. La Semaine Religieuse announces that the Archbishop of Montreal has made the following appointments: J. A. Lippe, vicar of Berthier; A. Xoual, vicar of Ste. Cecile; H. Laberge, of Ste. Brigid; A. J. Lalbert, of St. Eustache; N. Romillard, at The Cedars; E. Choquet, of Longueuil; C. Gauthier, of St. Henri; A. Broseau has been called to the Archbishop's Palace.

Distinguished Visitor. Dr. Alfred Fox, M.P. for King's county, Ireland, who has represented that county for several years, arrived in the city on Saturday and registered at the Hall. He is a supporter of Mr. McCarthy, and, it is understood, is looking America over to ascertain the trend of public opinion.

Funeral. The late Mr. George Fullum, city meat inspector, took place on Saturday morning from his late residence, 22 Montcalm street, to St. Brigid's church. The pall bearers were Messrs. J. Hamel, meat inspector; J. N. Duhamel, clerk of St. Ann's market; J. Loranger, J. Richard and Gareau.

Huntingdon Election. HUNTINGDON, March 21.—The election in this county to-day for the House of Commons resulted in the election of Julius Scriber, Liberal, over Duncan J. McCormick, Conservative, by a majority of 255.

THE MASS.

A Short Sermon for Busy People.

"How lovely are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts. Thine altars, my Lord and my God."—Psalm. The Eternal Son of the everlasting God left sources of graces innumerable with His Church. But the greatest of all is the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. And the grandest, the most sublime, the most grace bestowing phase of the Holy Sacrament of the altar, is that whereby Christ is offered, and mystically immolated to His heavenly Father, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

When ever, says the Imitation of Christ, a priest says Mass, he clothes Christ, he rejoices the angels; he strengthens the Church, he helps the living, he gives rest to the dead, and makes himself a participator in all that is good. The fact is that, as the Victim of Calvary was of infinite value, so is the Victim of our altars infinite in the glory He gives to God, in the joy He gives to Heaven, in the comfort He imparts to the suffering souls, and in the grace He obtains for those of us who yet live in exile here below.

First, we should desire to learn all we can about it, in order that we may more thoroughly appreciate and more fully realize its immense dignity and value. This knowledge can be obtained from the reading of books like "Oakeley, on the Mass;" "O'Brien's History of the Mass;" the chapter on the "Holy Eucharist" in Chaloner's "Catholic Christian Instructed," and Dalrymple's "Holy Communion."

Fourthly, we should be careful not to come late for Mass. More than a few are found whose consciences are very lax upon this subject. God asks but one half hour in the week, though the whole week is His, and yet we dare to shirk from that half hour all that we possibly can. Lateness, when it occurs frequently, is simply the result of either sloth or carelessness.

Sixthly, we should strive when we hear Mass to be filled with the most profound attention and devotion. To attain this end we can vary our method of hearing Mass, using sometimes the beads, sometimes the Ordinary of the Mass, again the Prayers for Mass, we find in our prayer book, at other times meditating upon the details of the life, passion and death of our Divine Lord, or on some of the other great mysteries of religion. It is very useful to change prayer books from time to time, and not to use the same formula of prayers at Mass from one's early youth down to extreme old age.