



## RECENT HAPPENINGS IN EUROPE.

The County Councils in Ireland have settled down to business. First on the programme was of course the election of chairmen—a very important task. Twenty-six out of the total thirty-two are not only staunch Nationalists, whose devotion to Home Rule and the cause of unity in demanding Home Rule, but men of capacity as well. There would have been twenty-eight Nationalist chairmen but for Unionist trickery in one case and division in the Nationalist ranks in the other. In Limerick Lord Dunraven put himself forward as a candidate for chairman, but he was defeated by a very large majority. Still, 26 Nationalist chairmen out of 32 constitute a great victory for the popular cause. Proof of this was not long in forthcoming. Immediately after the election of chairmen these 26 County Councils passed strongly-worded resolutions reaffirming Ireland's determination to obtain the restoration of her legislative independence.

A leading Dublin Nationalist weekly paper has begun a series of sketches of the 26 chairmen. The four published are those of the following:—  
Mr. Henry Egan, J. P., chairman of the King's County C. C., a prominent merchant of Tullamore, born in 1847, a Home Ruler since the movement started, and one of the late Mr. Forster's honored suspects of 1881; Ald. McHugh, M. P., mayor of Sligo, and editor and proprietor of the Sligo Champion, and one of the first young men of the West to be "honored" under Mr. Balfour's Coercion Act, of 1887; Mr. E. P. O'Kelly, of Wicklow County Council, another imprisoned "suspect," who while imprisoned in Kilmalsham jail resolved to resume the Celtic "O," which his family had dropped, and who was once member of parliament for East Wicklow, and has been a magistrate and chairman of the Board of Guardians for several years; and Mr. P. A. Meehan, chairman of the Council for Queen's County, another "suspect," a merchant, and the first Catholic guardian ever elected in bigoted Maryborough.

An important proposal has emanated from the Wexford County Council, a proposal worthy of the historic associations of that gallant county. On the motion of Sir Thomas Esmonde, M. P., the members unanimously passed a resolution suggesting the establishment of a representative National Assembly, composed of delegates from each of the Borough and County Councils, whose duty it would be to meet in Dublin from time to time to discuss such matters of public and national interest, and take such action regarding them, as might be deemed advisable. Such a National Assembly would be of vast importance to the interests of the country as a whole, for the Borough and County Councils are of course, purely local in their operations, and cannot deal effectively with such questions as Ireland's financial relations with England, the creation of a peasant proprietorship, university education for Catholics, railway construction, and the general industrial development of the country. Such matters would naturally fall within the scope of a National Assembly sitting in Dublin. And, moreover, the corollary to a National Assembly would be a National Parliament.

The celebration of the 470th anniversary of the raising of the siege of Orleans, by Joan of Arc, which was held on Monday at Orleans was a magnificent success.

Every prominent building was gayly decorated with bunting, the arch and banner of yellow and red predominating here, while the statue of the Maid of Orleans in the public square was covered with flowers and laurel wreaths.

The stately Cathedral presented a superb appearance, richly draped as it was for the occasion, with the ecclesiastical and military processions, with their bands of music, made the whole ceremony, both inside and outside the church, most impressive.

The event of the celebration was Archbishop Ireland's magnificent oration, which held spellbound for two hours a congregation of 5,000 of the intellectual and social elite of France and many foreign lands.

Canadian Catholics will naturally be interested in the announcement that the Pope will hold a consistory in a week or two, at which His Holiness

will create at least ten Cardinals, one of whom, it is anticipated, will be a Canadian, to fill the vacancy created by the lamented death of the late Cardinal Taschereau. There are now no fewer than fifteen vacancies in the Sacred College, and two of its members are over ninety, while two more are dangerously ill.

Talking about Cardinals suggests to the "True Witness" mention of the interesting fact that Cardinal Vaughan has invited Cardinal Gibbons to preach the dedicatory sermon at the opening of the new Cathedral of Westminster, which is rapidly approaching completion. It is not improbable that a Canadian Cardinal may also be present at the historic event.

For the first time since the establishment of Protestantism, the Holy Sacrament was carried in solemn public procession through the streets of London, a few weeks ago. It is a remarkable sign of the times, as well as a proof of the rapidity with which England is returning to the Faith. A Catholic Lord Mayor of the English Metropolis a few years ago, a Lord Chief Justice at present, a Catholic Postmaster-General, thousands of converts from Protestantism every year—all these are indeed cheering signs of the times.

An address recently delivered by Bishop Whiteside of Liverpool, contains so obvious a moral for the Irish Catholics of Montreal, that it merits extended mention; and it should be taken to heart by all our young men. Catholics should, said his Lordship, throw themselves into every good work that came before them, and should recognize that it was not ignoble ambition to thrust themselves forward in positions where they could be of service to those around them, especially to the poor. More Catholic men were needed in our civil and social life. From politics the clergy were debarred, but not so with laymen. They could be of any shade of politics they liked, but let them throw themselves into public life and do all the good they could for those around them. This is wise and most useful advice. The education given in our Catholic schools is good; the talent of the youth trained in them is, as a rule, above the average; yet it must be confessed that we do not contribute to public positions numbers at all in proportion to the ability of which our young people give abundant promise. How far this may be due to want of character is a matter for careful consideration. But this much is certain, that the cure must be largely effected by stimulating legitimate ambition, as Bishop Whiteside has done, and awakening Catholic young men to a full sense of their civic and national responsibility.

The Radical Daily Chronicle of London contains this reference to Lord Russell of Killowen:—

"The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Russell of Killowen, is always an interesting figure. A judge is usually shaped to the imagination as a man of cold, austere nature. That is far from the case with Lord Russell. He keeps on the bench the same hot, impetuous nature, the same capacity for wrath and enthusiasm that he used to display when he flourished his red handkerchief on the front seat in the House of Commons long ago, or when he thundered against Light in the Law Courts. He is, perhaps, the finest type of an Irishman in a high station, weighted with heavy responsibility, and yet escaping from that tendency to formalism and fixity which so often freezes the Englishman."

As a sample of snobbishness, as well as of ignorance of the importance of one of the leading positions in the gift of the British Government—the second highest paid position in the Empire, and one which was once held by Lord Aberdeen—the following cablegram from the New York World's special London correspondent is worth quoting:—

There is some talk of the Duke of Marlborough becoming the next Viceroy of Ireland if Earl Cadogan, on account of ill-health and his recent troubles, should resign the appointment in the autumn. This would be convenient for the Duke and Duchess, as they are buying up as many as possible of the small buildings around Curzon Chapel to include it in

their new house, and as the house is to be the most beautiful and sumptuous in London it will naturally take a very long time to build and decorate. Further comment is needless.

By his recent speech in London, in which he practically renounced Home Rule, Lord Rosebery has ranged himself, where he should have been classed long ago, with the anti-Irish Tories. Every rich British or Irish peer is, as a general rule, an opponent of Home Rule, Irish Nationalists remember well his hostility to Home Rule expressed while he was Premier under the excuse of England's "predominant partnership"—an idea which the Hon. Edward Blake recently showed to be utterly absurd. Now the Scottish lord has advocated the idea of relegating Home Rule to the background forever, and of reuniting the Liberal Party, on out-of-date Whig principles. The next logical step will be for him to join Lord Salisbury's party.

## CONVENTION OF CATHOLIC LIBERALS OF TORONTO

The following statement regarding the forthcoming convention of the Catholics of Ontario, associated with the Liberal Party, appears in an issue of the Toronto "Globe" of a few days ago:—

"During the recent visit of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier to attend the installation of his Grace the Archbishop of Toronto, a deputation representing the Executive committee having in charge the coming Catholic Liberal convention waited upon the hon. gentleman for the purpose of explaining to him the reasons for calling the convention and to ask for his co-operation in making the gathering a success. They pointed out to him that since the Conservative party in Ontario had abandoned their anti-Catholic attitude and were endeavoring to undo the mischief that attitude had caused them there was danger that many of the Catholic electors who formerly voted with the Conservative Party, but who for some years past have supported the Liberal Government in Ontario, might return to their former allegiance if something was not done to retain their confidence.

"The illness of Mr. Hartly and his determination to lay down the burdens of office made it imperative that an able man should be chosen to succeed him. Mr. Hartly, they pointed out, had the entire confidence of the Catholic people, and if he could retain his post nothing better could be desired. Only an able man could creditably succeed such leaders as Mr. C. F. Fraser and Mr. Hartly, and it behooved the Catholic Liberal electors to meet in convention and bring forward their very best men. The deputation also pointed out the desirability of having for the representative of the Ontario Catholics at Ottawa a member of the House of Commons, and if possible an eloquent and able exponent of their interests—one who in the Cabinet Councils, on the floor of the House and on public platforms would be an honor and a credit to the Liberal electorate of Ontario.

"Sir Wilfrid's reception of the delegation was extremely cordial, and the interview cannot fail to enhance the success of the Convention. He recognized the desire more especially of the Irish Catholic Liberals, for a leader of whom they would be proud, and recommended the ambitious a laudable one. Conventions of this kind had on other occasions brought forward able, but at that time unrecognized men. He gave some valuable and kindly advice, and hoped that the convention would be a success, and that its results would be in the interests of both the Liberal party and the Catholic people.

"A deputation also waited on the Hon. Mr. Hartly and explained to him as they had done to Sir Wilfrid, the objects which the promoters of the

convention had in view. They assured him that it was not called in any hostile or critical spirit, but in the best interests of the Liberal party. They recognized the splendid services he had rendered during his tenure of office, and assured him that if he found it possible to remain at his post he would have their confidence and loyal support. They congratulated him on the chivalrous and unselfish spirit he had shown in standing by his friends at a critical time, and, in spite of infirmities which would have driven a less brave and generous man into private life, throwing himself into the thick of the fight at the general election. He had not only carried his own constituency, but to him was due, in a measure, the victory of the Hardy Government, at the last general election. If he found it necessary to retire they did not presume to dictate to the Government who his successor should be, but pointed out that one chosen with the approval of a representative Catholic Liberal Convention would be more likely to prove a source of strength to the party than a choice from motives of expediency. The Executive did not wish their motives to be misunderstood; they did not seek to establish any new principle, but merely as devoted Catholic Liberals to advise their leaders concerning the best interests of the Liberal party.

"With regard to the motives which generous and envious persons had attributed to them it was necessary to say but little. Every movement of this kind provokes criticism and they only ask that it be fair. Mr. Hartly, in reply, stated to the deputation that he was convinced that the gentlemen interested in promoting the convention were actuated by the kindest motives towards him, and that he would give any information he could to promote the success of the convention, which, he hoped, would be of benefit both to the Liberal Catholics of Ontario and the Liberal party.

"The committee are now in a position to state, as a result of information received from prominent Catholic Liberals in all parts of the Province, that the convention will be an unqualified success, both as regards the character of the delegates and the number attending. Five hundred gentlemen in various parts of the Province have been communicated with, and replies received from many stating that organization would be undertaken in their ridings at once. The tone of the replies in every instance justifies the action already taken.

"Organization is well under way already in Lincoln, Welland, the three Wellingtons, Brockville, Leeds, the two Peterboroughs, the Victorias, Ottawa, the Hurons and the Brueses. It is expected that all constituencies will be well organized by the end of this week."

## The "Star's" "Irish Letter."

Editor "True Witness,"  
Sir,—In Monday's Montreal "Star" appears the usual letter from "Our Special Correspondent," T. S. B.

The correspondent gives forth a plaintive jeremiad over the result of the recent elections—"a sweeping defeat of the great majority of the men, who, as Grand Jurors, managed the affairs of the Counties,"—aye, just so, "managed" everything and anything in the shape of County cess, Baroney cess and so forth, without let or hindrance or responsibility towards any one or any body of the people,—did those "gentlemen of the land," as the correspondent styles them, but politely known as the "Landed Gentry" vulgarly, as Irish Landlords.

But it never seemed to strike T. S. B. that, after all is said and done, it was only the Irish way of "celebrat-

ing," the Cromwellian anniversary, so generally but so differently celebrated, on the oppositeside of the channel. Yes "Landlordism is gone!" as some one has said recently, and seeing that the latest confiscation of the soil of Holy Ireland and its bestowal on his sanctimonious, hypocritical troopers was by the ruthless, bloody Cromwell, it seems but meet that his glorification by his English admirers and the annihilation of his accursed Irish Landlordism should be of simultaneous occurrence.

By the way, does the Irish correspondent of the "Star" imagine that his readers are all anti-Irish Unionists and worshippers of the hunting squires and squires? Why does he not give some really Irish news, news of the people?

Yours truly,  
TRAWLEY.  
2d May, 1899.

## CARDINAL RAMPOLLA, Secretary of State.

"Let us hail the Pontifical policy," writes M. Julien de Narfon in a book just published, "and especially in the Pontifical policy towards France let us salute him who was the most disinterested and most devoted auxiliary of this policy—Cardinal Rampolla, Secretary of the Holy See." In respect of every country as well as France the same thing might be said of Cardinal Rampolla's devotion and disinterestedness in carrying on the Papal policy.

The indefatigable Secretary of State who has for eleven years seconded the action of Leo XIII. in his projects of political and social reform, belongs to the nobility of Sicily. His Eminence Cardinal Mariano Rampolla del Tindaro was born on August 7, 1843, at Polizzi, in the diocese of Cefalu, in the northern part of the island of Sicily. He is one of the youngest Cardinals in the Sacred College. He went to Rome at a very early age and began his studies at the Vatican Seminary. After a time he left that institution and passed to the Capranica College, situated near the Pantheon. Of his residence there he has many pleasant recollections, which he loves to recall to mind with any of those who were his fellow students during this happy period of his boyhood. From the Capranica he passed to the Accademia di Nobili Ecclesiastici—that college which is known as "the nursery of Cardinals." It is said of him that he defied his masters and his fellow-students by the example he gave of great industry combined with a remarkable faculty for work.

During his stay at the Accademia, says a recent writer, he published a Latin essay entitled *De authentico Romani Pontificis magisterio, solenne testimonium ex monumentis Patrologiae Ecclesiae Universalis deponit* M. A. Rampolla, sacerdos. His work he aimed at demonstrating by liturgical texts the infallibility of the Roman Pontiffs. The Civiltà Cattolica spoke in the highest terms of this early proof of the learning of the young priest, afterwards destined to become Cardinal Secretary of State. After having been ordained, and having obtained his degrees, he worked for a time in preparing himself for the Pontifical diplomatic career, as most of the Accademia students did at that time. He was employed in the Congregation of Ecclesiastical Affairs; and the attention of Pius IX. being attracted by the solid work achieved by Don Mariano, he was appointed Domestic Prelate and Canon of the Basilica of St. Mary Major's.

In 1875, Mgr. Rampolla was sent as Councillor of Nunciature to Spain where Mgr. Simeoni, afterwards secretary of State and Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda, was Nuncio. On the promotion of Mgr. Simeoni to the post of Cardinal Secretary of State, Mgr. Rampolla remained in Madrid as Charge d'Affaires. Recalled to Rome in 1877, Mgr. Rampolla was first nominated Secretary of Propaganda for Oriental Rites, and soon after he was transferred to the Secretaryship of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, being at the same time promoted Canon of St. Peter's.

In 1882 Leo XIII., who had a deep appreciation of Mgr. Rampolla's qualities, sent him as Nuncio to Madrid, and as is usual he was preconized Archbishop, the titular See of Heraclea being assigned to him. It is noteworthy that the substitute Secretary of Cardinal Rampolla, Mgr. Rinaldini, when he was appointed Nuncio, also became titular Archbishop of Heraclea. During his stay at Madrid, Mgr. Rampolla was called upon to solve many important questions which his diplomatic tact brought to a successful issue. Having thus contributed a great deal to the unification of the many parties which unhappily divide Spain, he helped to create hopes of better times for that unhappy country. Among the questions which came before him were the marriages. It is especially to him that is due the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in ecclesiastical political questions. It is especially to him that is due the erection of an archiepiscopal See at Madrid.

On March 14, 1887, Leo XIII. created him Cardinal priest, with the title of St. Cecilia in Trastevere; and a few months later the Pope confided

to him the Secretaryship of State, which position he has occupied for about twelve years.

Amongst his numerous and engrossing occupations he has found time to continue his studies, and there is now appearing in book form a study of his on the martyrdom and sepulture of the Seven Maccabees. During the twelve years of his occupancy of the office of Secretary of State, Cardinal Rampolla has been distinguished for his remarkable manner, the uprightness of his proceedings, and his perseverance in his resolutions. He has given great satisfaction to Leo XIII., whom it is not easy to please in this department.

Personally Cardinal Rampolla is tall and has a distinguished appearance. A sadness seems the prevailing expression of his countenance. On grand ceremonies in the Vatican, at which he presides as Archbishop of St. Peter's, and again as Titular in St. Cecilia, he towers high above all others, and attracts the eyes of all. His piety and his noble presence have led people to compare him to St. Charles Borromeo, the holy Secretary of State of Pope Pius IV.

He is an early riser; his morning hours are spent in prayer, meditation and the celebration of Mass. At nine o'clock he begins to receive his under secretaries, who communicate to him the letters which have arrived during the evening. He enters the rooms of the Holy Father about half an hour later every day, with the exception of Tuesdays and Fridays, when current affairs are referred to the Holy Father by his secretaries. After returning from these audiences with the Pontiff he receives the officials to communicate to them the commands of his Holiness, and he devotes the remainder of the morning to the reception of Ambassadors, Bishops, Generals of Religious Orders, and many high ecclesiastics and civilians. Dinner is served to him in his study and he frequently takes it while working. His only recreation consists in an afternoon drive to one of the chief churches of Rome, generally St. Gregory on the Coelian Hill, where he spends half an hour before the Blessed Sacrament, returning home to the Vatican at the Ave Maria, when he again receives his under secretaries and the many visitors who come to Rome on important affairs. Two hours after the Ave Maria his apartments are closed to visitors, and he continues work until midnight. He is the only Cardinal who gets no holiday outside Rome. In the course of his twelve years tenure of office he has never left the city for a single day.

Leo XIII. holds him in high esteem on account of his piety, prudence and sagacity. The Pope does not allow himself to be directed by others but he has often accepted the suggestions of Cardinal Rampolla. To be Secretary of State to Leo XIII., and the present time, is not a slight affair, but Cardinal Rampolla fills his office with devotion.

While he was Nuncio in Spain, a prelate of high standing in Rome gave the following judgment of him:—"Had I to designate a successor to Leo XIII., it would be the Nuncio to Madrid, because he is of high birth, a man of deep learning, a priest of distinguished piety and a prelate who seeks nothing for himself, but whose only wish is to serve Christ and the Holy See."—New Era, London, Eng.

## PERSONAL.

Miss McHugh who has been visiting her mother at Lachine for the last two weeks has taken her departure for Boston, to resume her training in the Boston City Hospital.

## MR. C. R. DEVLIN COMING TO CANADA.

Mr. C. R. Devlin, Dominion Immigration Commissioner at Dublin, Ire., is a passenger on the steamer Vancouver, which sailed from Liverpool on Thursday of last week. Mr. Devlin has not been enjoying good health lately, and acting upon the advice of his medical attendant, this trip was decided on with the hope that it would be the means of restoring to him his former vigor and energy.