

# AN IRISH BAROMETER.

BY OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER.

The best barometer to gauge an Irishman's circumstances is his face. You may be deceived by his dress, his hat, his walk, the sound of his voice, his general appearance, but his face cannot deceive you. It is radiant when a happy thought flashes upon his mind, or some pleasant event has taken place; it is dark as Erebus, when anger, or sorrow, or indignation seizes upon him. Even the cloudy weather that has not yet made its appearance can be foretold by a mere glance at the barometer of the Irish face. So emotional, however, in the vast majority of our people that any one of them lights up and clouds over almost at the same moment; without any warning the change comes and with it either joviality or lamentation. And all this applies to nearly nine-tenths of our race as a people as well as to individuals.

Thomas Francis Meagher, one of the most wonderful orators of his time, or of any time since, once made use of this significant phrase: "Today we soar to the giddiest heights of rapture and enthusiasm, to-morrow we cower before a passing cloud and sink into the 'coldest current of despair.'" Meagher was always flowery and brilliant; but equally was he always logical and exact. Had he been ransacking the English language in its every shape and form, he could not have selected a better or more applicable text wherewith to build up a lecture upon Ireland's ups and downs and Irishmen's fluctuating feelings. In a word, this description is perfectly exact and fits the case to perfection. While this alternate rapid rise and fall of sentiment cannot be considered as a fault, much less as a crime; but it is a peculiarity that exposes us frequently to losses in prestige and in business, and one that should be studiously contracted.

What we require, in order to avoid any mistakes into which this very great sensitiveness is likely to lead us, is more caution, calmness, and perseverance. We are too prone to jump at conclusions, and not always ready to acknowledge our error when we have evidently been too hasty. More especially is this the case when there is question of our own people. We overlook a great deal that may not be polite in the conduct or language of strangers, but we are unbending towards Irishmen. An Irishman has only to deviate in the very slightest degree from what we have conceived the proper course to be, when we are ready to cut him to pieces with our tongues. We have no excuse and no pardon for him; although his attitude may be far more logical than the one we would suggest or desire. And all this is exactly what should not be.

A word about caution! When the late James Stephens was leaving the

United States on a trip that was destined to be—though he knew it not—his last one, he was interviewed by some of his fellow-countrymen of advanced views. When they unfolded a scheme whereby they hoped to attain Ireland's perpetual freedom, the reply of the old and once potent Fenian was to be prudent, to have caution. When our barometer indicates fair weather, we become most enthusiastic, there is no limit to our activity, no censorship over our language. We rush along blindly and in the fulness of our hearts and the generosity of our nature we are ready to embrace every person—friend or foe—and to promise what we cannot perform, to bind ourselves where there is no necessity, to incur obligations the difficulties of which we never calculate, and to foolishly imagine that because we are in a moment of unbridled joyousness, every happy condition will need to be maintained. We are in the same considerable amount of prudence in our actions and of caution in our language, under such circumstances.

Calmness is another quality much needed! It is the man who keeps his head cool, who never allows his sentiments to play any part in the exercise of his duties, who is bound to win in the great competition match, the hot race for wealth, that is characteristic of our age. It may seem strange for me to advise that which is generally looked upon with disfavour, but the advice is based upon the useful and not the ornamental. We call the calm and successful man "cold blooded," "calculating," "heartless," and by other such like terms. It would be well for us, especially in a young country like this, had we a little more of the coolness of blood that characterizes the Englishman and the Scotchman. It is, after all, an age of calm competition upon which we now enter; and if we are buried in the contentment of the past, and forgetful of the present, or rather neglectful of it, the future will belong to others, and therein we shall have no share.

We equally need perseverance! This is a quality eminently characteristic of the Scotchman, and one which has made him master of the situation—above all in the world of commerce. The Englishman has also a kind of dogged tenacity which serves his purpose very well. We seem to be very much devoid of these gifts. We are bold, venturesome, generous, enthusiastic—but only for a time, and only as long as everything goes our way and that we encounter no obstacles or impediments. We rush into a path that may lead to success if carefully followed up; but, at the very first turn we are off at a tangent, leaving undoubted success to take care of itself while we bound along wherever the whim of our circumstances may lead us. We may say that I am bent on finding fault with our people this week; it may be so—but I am equally bent upon pointing out faults for the purpose of having them avoided.

## NOTES FROM ROME.

**THE OLD STORY.**—In every variety of manner and in every imaginable key this story has been repeated during the past ten years. This is the last edition.—  
"Although we have become accustomed to false alarms about the Pope's health, the sensational rumors current on Saturday morning were accompanied and apparently confirmed by so many details that not a few hereabouts were truly rushed to the Vatican for an official confirmation of the sad news. Only to learn, with a sensation of relief, that Leo XIII. was as well and active as ever, having, in fact, granted several audiences in his private library that very morning. It would be interesting to know whence the rumor started, and in view of the frequent repetition of these stupid canards, than which nothing could be in more execrable taste, the police ought to trace and severely punish the originators and divulgers of these periodically recurring false alarms. Prof. Lapponi, whom I have interviewed on the subject of the Pope's health, told me that Leo XIII. is now in better health and spirits than he has enjoyed for a long time, and all who saw the venerable Pontiff in the Public Consistory of the 18th inst. were agreeably surprised to find His Holiness looking so well, in spite of the fatigue and excitement of the last week, in the course of which the Holy Father has not only attended two Consistories, pronouncing an important allocation on the 15th, but has also granted an unusually large number of audiences, receiving the Cardinals and bishops now in Rome."

of the Sovereign Order of Malta, surrounded by a large number of Knights in their picturesque costumes. The Holy Father received an enthusiastic ovation as he was carried from his private apartments through the Royal and Ducal Halls, which were crowded with specially invited persons, chiefly foreigners whose cheers in a dozen different languages the Pontiff acknowledged with the usual benevolent smile, evidently moved and well pleased with the spontaneous outburst of loyalty and filial devotion. On arriving in the Hall of Beatifications, the Holy Father ascended the throne and received the homage and oath of fidelity of the new Cardinals, who, after having occupied the posts assigned to them among their colleagues of the Sacred College, returned to the throne, and kneeling, received the scarlet hat from the Pope's own hands, while the choir, ably conducted by Prof. Mustafa, the veteran director of the Sixtine Cappella, sang the beautiful motet "Benedictus." The Holy Father having bestowed Apostolic Benediction, left the Hall of Beatifications on the Sedia Gestatoria, followed processionally by the Sacred College, singing the "Te Deum." In the Sixtine Chapel the Sub-Dean of the Sacred College recited the prayer "super creatos Cardinales," after which the Holy Father, having, according to ancient custom, sealed the lips of the new Cardinals, announced the new appointments to vacant episcopal and archiepiscopal sees. The postulation of the Sacred Pallia followed, and the Pontiff, having unsealed the lips of the new Cardinals, bestowed on each the ring, emblem of their new dignity, at the same time assigning to each a titular church. His Holiness then withdrew to his apartments, where he received the new Cardinals in private audience."

**THE PUBLIC CONSISTORY.**—The following is a very vivid, if brief, account of the ceremonies on the occasion of the last public Consistory:—  
"The grand hall of the Beatifications presented a most imposing spectacle on Thursday last, when the Holy Father held the public Consistory in which he bestowed the hat, with the customary solemnity, on the newly created Cardinals. In the special enclosure reserved for Sovereigns and members of royal families were the Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and Norway, accompanied by her son, Duke Gustavus Adolphus of Scania; H.R.H. Countess Matilda, of Bourbon, with a numerous suite; and the Grand Master

**CHANGES AND PROMOTIONS.**—The elevation to the purple of several members of the Papal Court has left a number of vacancies, which are to be filled. It is now understood at the Vatican that very soon Mgr. Caggiano de Azevedo, at present "Massaro di Camera," will succeed Cardinal Della Volpe in the post of Major-domo; Cardinal Trippi will be succeeded by Mgr. Della Chiesa in the responsible position he occupied as substitute in the Secretary of State, and Mgr. Gasparri, now Papal representative in Colombia, will be appointed to the Secretaryship of

**Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs.**—formerly occupied by Cardinal Cavagnis, Mgr. Nocella, Patriarch of Antiochia, has succeeded Cardinal Santini in the Latin Patriarchate of Constantinople while Mgr. Passerini, Vice-Chamberlain of the Church, has been promoted to the Patriarchal See of Antiochia. Of the new members of the Sacred College, their Eminences Cardinals Sanninielli, Dell' Olio, Martinelli, Gennari, Skrbensky, Boschi, Riboldi, Puzyna, and Bacileri belong to the Order of Priests, while Cardinals Della Volpe, Trippi and Cavagnis belong to the Order of Cardinal Deacons.

## CATHOLIC EDITORS On Many Themes.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.**—Referring to the declaration of the National Conference of Catholic colleges held at Chicago recently, the Providence "Visitor" in the course of an article entitled "Colleges and High Schools," says:—

Washington is knocking all that nonsense out of us. The only pity of it is that it was not possible to do it a quarter of a century before. We are glad Mgr. Conaty has been requested to call the attention of the bishops at their next annual meeting to the grave need that exists nearly everywhere for intermediate schools. That is what the "High School" movement really means. We are falling into line at last, and getting something like order out of chaos. If seven-eighths of the so-called colleges, that we Catholics are aspiring to keep in a state of precarious inanity, by sending our children to them to win worthless "degrees," could only be induced to realize their limitations, give up their ridiculously impossible programmes, and become loyal feeders of the few good Catholic colleges we can honestly lay claim to, an immense service would be done to the cause of higher education here in the United States.

**THE LODGE IN POLITICS.**—Under this heading the "Freeman," of St. John, N.B. says:—The influence of the lodge room is becoming a marked feature of Canadian political life. The lodge is now-a-days behind almost every important political inspiration goes out to direct politicians and stiffen their backbone when pressure is brought to bear on them from sources alien to lodge interests. The lodge is now-a-days behind almost every important political inspiration goes out to direct politicians and stiffen their backbone when pressure is brought to bear on them from sources alien to lodge interests. The lodge is now-a-days behind almost every important political inspiration goes out to direct politicians and stiffen their backbone when pressure is brought to bear on them from sources alien to lodge interests.

**VAIN SPECULATION.**  
The writers of the secular press, and especially the foreign correspondents, seem to have a peculiar knack for finding out the workings at the Vatican. So well informed are they.

**MONEY NOT THE ONLY THING.**—Money is not the only thing that is worth saving in this world, nor is it the best thing says the "Catholic Journal," of Memphis. If both men and women would only realize this before it is too late. But the knowledge is always tardy in its arrival, they have gained the one thing at the expense of another quite as valuable, and with the price which they have paid they have lost the capacity of enjoying what they have gained. A little stopping once in while to think and to take account of one's mental, physical and nerve stock will very soon set things to rights especially if people will be sensible, think in the right direction, and be governed by those thoughts when you have fully formulated them; and, above all, if they will dare to be independent of the opinions of others, who, like themselves, are held down by tradition, and do the right and sensible thing even if it is diametrically opposed to "the old way." Why do we live if not to learn?

**MISSIONARY WORK.**—The "Ave Maria" says:—  
Whether conversions to the faith are more numerous at missions to non-Catholics than at the old-style

missions is a mere question of evidence hence the following figures furnished by a Paulist missionary "are worthy of attention:—  
There were 10 Catholic missions, comprising 11 weeks of work, in which there were no converts actually received. There were 10 other Catholic missions, comprising 18 weeks of work, in which there were 26 converts. There were 5 other missions, comprising 8 weeks, primarily Catholic, though the question box was used, in which there were 50 converts received. There were 10 non-Catholic and Catholic missions combined, comprising 14 weeks, in which there were 15 converts in the Catholic missions and 325 converts in the non-Catholic missions. The formation of the inquiry class after these missions gained 95 more. In all there were 511 converts received, of which number 91 only were received through professedly Catholic missions.

From the "Missionary" we learn that a bishop of Germany is investigating the methods and results of the missions to non-Catholics in this country with a view to introducing the plan into his diocese. It depends an American's appreciation of his own country to read the Bishop's report. Yet if it should succeed, our Protestant ministers would be the first to put a stop to it, on the plea of its disturbing existing relations.

**LACK OF UNITY.**—Referring to the lack of organization amongst Catholics in temporal affairs, the London "Universe" says:—

Catholics in these countries are frequently at a loss to account for the bitterness of the hostility evinced in Spain and Portugal, two nominally Catholic countries, against the religious orders of the Church. That such feeling does exist among a certain class cannot be denied. It is, however, equally certain that this class is a small one and also a Godless one. Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the general population of Spain and Portugal all political power is centered in the hands of a small irreligious class, the leaders of which are notorious "Freemasons." The great body of the Catholic population is without any reality of effective leadership or organization. Hence things are done in these Catholic countries which cause the people of other lands to stare in amazement. The religious orders have ever been an object of special detestation in the eyes of the so-called continental Liberals. With them Liberalism spells irreligion, and, as the great orders of the Church are the chief factors which make for the preservation of religious sentiment among the people, they are naturally hated and, whenever possible, persecuted by the Freemason Liberals.

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