

The Ontario Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est, Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname.)—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

VOLUME XVII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1896.

NO. 912.

THE IRISH RACE.

Reception to the Canadian Delegates.

The Pavilion of the Horticultural Gardens, Toronto, we learn from the *Toronto Globe* of the 28th, was crowded when Archbishop Walsh, followed by a numerous company, came upon the platform on the previous evening. The gentlemen who had acted as representatives of the Canadian Irishmen at the Convention were given a right hearty reception, and in return rendered such an account of their stewardship as will go far to revive the old-time interest in Irish politics. From the speeches of the delegates there appears reasonable ground to believe that the convention has resulted in satisfying Irish public opinion, a fact which will be followed by an alteration in the methods of recruiting Irish members or by their rejection at the polls. Father O'Reilly, of Hamilton, aptly summarized the effect of the convention when he said it had given fresh heart to Mr. Dillon, had revived the hopes of those who had begun to despair of Home Rule, and had warned the nation that they must make an end of their policy of wreck and ruin or be driven from public life. Dean Harris, with accustomed appositeness, impressed the folly of withholding support from the majority party, the very object for which the dissenters are striving.

WELL-KNOWN MEN.

On the platform were: Archbishop Walsh, Sir Frank Smith, Messrs. Hugh Ryan, John Heney, John McKeown, J. J. Foy, Revs. F. Ryan, F. O'Reilly and Dean Harris, delegates; Rev. Dr. Burns, Hamilton; Messrs. F. B. Hayes, B. B. Hughes, John Hanrahan, D. A. Carey, H. T. Kelly, M. O'Connor, James Ryan, E. O'Keefe, Dr. Cassidy, T. Winterberry, P. J. Lyner, A. T. Hornon, P. Hynes, Jos. Connolly, J. G. O'Donoghue, F. A. Anglin, E. J. Hearn, L. V. McBrady, P. Boyle, E. J. Hearn, C. J. McCabe, N. Murphy, Rev. Messrs. Allaine, Treacy, Grogan, Morris, Heydon, Crinion, Whitney, Sullivan, McEntee, L. Minehan, N. Minehan, Wynn, Walsh, Carberry, Canning, Aboulin, McCann, Hand, Gallagher, Brennan, Goarin, Kelly, Smyth, Teffy, McCann. Letters of regret were read from Hon. C. Fitzpatrick, Hon. John Costigan, Hon. R. M. Scott, Canon McCarthy of Ottawa, Hon. Mr. Mulock, Mr. Peter Ryan, and others.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S SPEECH.

His Grace, who received an enthusiastic ovation on rising, said: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me sincere pleasure to preside at this large and influential meeting, assembled to greet and honor several of our Canadian delegates who assisted at the great Irish race convention recently held in Dublin, and to hear from them an account of that memorable and epoch-making event in the history of Ireland. (Applause.) It will not be out of place on this occasion to give a brief sketch of the events that led up to that convention. The general election which took place in Great Britain and Ireland in the summer of last year resulted in the return to power of a Conservative anti-Home Rule Government, backed by an immense majority. At that election, however, Ireland returned the usual number of Nationalist representatives, but they were sadly divided amongst themselves. Though professing to labor for the same identical object, viz., the obtaining of Home Rule for Ireland, they wrangled and quarrelled about men and methods and frittered away their strength by internecine dissensions. An anti-Home Rule Government was in power, and the Home Rule Parliamentary supporters, like a panic-stricken army, turned their weapons against themselves. The Home Rule cause seemed wrecked and lost. It is true the great majority remained united and in proper subordination to their leaders; but their efforts were paralyzed and their cause discredited by the destructive work of faction. The Redmondites labored hard by tongue and pen to keep up the unnatural strife, wishing to make of the name and memory of Parnell an immortal misfortune and a constant source of ruin to the very cause with which his name and his fame are forever identified. (Hear, hear.)

THEY BROKE FAITH.

Mr. Healy and his followers, though pledged to support majority rule in the party, shamefully broke their pledged faith and made the confusion doubly confounded by bitterly assailing the leading Nationalist representatives with the weapons of misrepresentation and calumny. No wonder that, under these deplorable circumstances, and that Irishmen abroad and at home should hang their heads in shame and humiliation at this disgraceful spectacle! (Hear, hear.) The Hon. Edward Blake (loud cheers) came in for his own share of obloquy and slander, notwithstanding the great sacrifices he had made for Ireland and the immense and unpayable services he had rendered to her cause. (Hear, hear.) At or about the time of these happenings the honorable gentleman came to spend a short time with his family and friends in Toronto; and our Irish people decided that during his short stay it would be for them a duty of honor and gratitude to make a suit-

able recognition of his magnificent services to Ireland. (Loud cheers.) It was resolved to give Mr. Blake a public reception, to which the leading citizens would be invited, and at which proper expression would be given to the sentiments of esteem, confidence and admiration with which he is regarded not only by his fellow-citizens of Toronto but by his fellow-countrymen throughout this great Dominion (applause), and at which also due appreciation and grateful recognition would be manifested of his unselfish labors, his loyal devotion and knightly services to the cause and for the honor and welfare of dear old Ireland. (Great cheering.) The Hon. Mr. Blake, who was then in poor health and strength, declined the proffered reception for the reason that he considered his health would not be equal to the strain and excitement of the occasion. In view, however, of the unjust and malicious attacks made upon him by certain Irish politicians, it was deemed advisable that in my representative capacity as Archbishop of Toronto I should address to Mr. Blake an open letter expressive of the esteem and confidence in which he is held out here where he is best known (applause), protesting against the vindictive calumnies uttered against him and assuring him of our grateful and heartfelt appreciation of his invaluable services to the cause of our mother land. (Loud cheers.)

UNITY MEANT STRENGTH.

In compliance with the wish of our friends, and for the purpose mentioned, I published an open letter to Mr. Blake in October of last year. In that letter I deplored the fatal dissensions that rent and destroyed the unity of the Irish Parliamentary party, broke and shattered its ranks and rendered it powerless for good. Unity meant strength and life (applause), division meant weakness and death. How was this necessary unity to be restored to the Irish Parliamentary party and perpetuated among them? I suggested an Irish race convention to be held in Dublin, composed of chosen representatives of the clergy and people of Ireland and of an advisory representation of the Irish race abroad. In that convention Ireland should speak out her mind, insist on unity and condemn faction. (Applause.) In that assembling the voice of Ireland's sons abroad should be heard (applause), and their advice considered. Surely, I said, representative Irishmen in convention assembled, free from prejudices and passions, having at heart not the triumph of party or faction but the welfare and honor of their race and the triumph of their country's cause, will be able to concert and adopt such measures as will enforce proper discipline and compel due subordination in the ranks of the nation's representatives, and in this way that unity of purpose and of action so absolutely vital to their efficiency and success. (Hear, hear.) This idea at once commended itself to the Irish people at home and abroad, and like the click of the electric battery, it quickly flashed a message of hope and joy to the scattered children of the sea-divided Gael. (Cheers.) Accordingly the convention was decided upon by the leaders of the Irish national forces at home, it was accepted by the Irish people abroad, held in Dublin in the first week of September last, and has now become a memorable and epoch-making fact in Irish history. (Applause.)

RETURN OF THE EXILES.

One feature of that convention was unique and instructive, and was touching and pathetic in its character—I refer to the large numbers of representative Irishmen from abroad who left their homes and their business pursuits, and at their own expense, and out of strong, pure love for their native land went back to Ireland to aid, if it might be, by words of counsel and encouragement the men at home in their struggles for their just rights. (Loud cheers.) The return of these exiles for such a purpose must have appealed to the great heart of the Irish people, and a pathos that words cannot express. (Hear, hear.) In the beginning of the seventeenth century the northern chieftains with some of their retainers took flight from Ireland to avoid imprisonment or death. In describing this sad event and its pathetic incidents poor McGee wrote as follows:

"Far on the sea to night ye are—ye noble Princes and captains brave and ladies fond, And sweet children happy in your trouble. Who know not to what trials you are born. No port in sight—no nobly lighted mansion To greet you in your lordly banishment. Cleaving I see you by the sea washed station, Praying for any but your native land. For God in heaven will not permit for ever This exile of our greatest and our best. Who for the faith, in lifelong lead endeavor, Upheld the holy Crucifix of the West. They will return: O God the joy and glory Of that proud day to all the race of Con. They will return and in their story Find solace for the woes they've undergone."

BEYOND THE SEAS.

In 1847 and subsequent years there was a flight from Ireland, not of chieftains and nobles, but of the Irish people fleeing from the horrors of famine and pestilence and from oppression and tyranny. These cruelly tried people were flung like seaweed on the shores of America, Canada and Australia without organization or guid-

ance. Poor, poor in everything save in their faith and hope in God, and yet this noble people, strangers in strange lands, "no star in the mirk sky to lead them on," have built up a greater Ireland beyond the seas, have made themselves bright and happy homes, have conquered the respect and good-will of their fellow-citizens, have won, many of them, power and influence and honor in their various walks of life. (Applause.) Representative men of these exiled people, men of influence and position, men of eminence in their various spheres of life, like the northern chieftains went back to Ireland to teach its people by word and example, and by the success they had achieved, the priceless blessings of well-regulated liberty, the liberty inspired by free institutions, and the untold benefits conferred on peoples by representative native Parliaments (applause), in other words, by Home Rule. May the lesson so taught be laid to heart by the British and Irish peoples, so that the paper union that now exists between them being repealed and Home Rule being restored to Ireland, they may be united in heart and affection, laboring together for the peace, contentment and happiness of the united kingdom and for the strength, security and greatness of the empire. (Applause.) In conclusion I beg to congratulate our Canadian delegates on the able and efficient manner in which they discharged their duty at the convention. By their good sense, their ability and eloquence they shone conspicuously among the distinguished men that composed the convention. (Hear, hear.) I am personally and specially beholden to Father Ryan, rector of the cathedral (applause), for the able and brilliant part he played as my special representative; indeed, he more than repaid me, and did infinitely better than I could have done myself. For his great and patriotic work I take this public opportunity of tendering him my sincere and hearty thanks. (Loud cheering.)

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. Patrick Boyle read the following address: To the delegates to the Irish Race Convention: Gentlemen—The Home Rulers of this city, in public meeting assembled, take the first opportunity to heartily congratulate you on the success of the Irish Race Convention held in Dublin. The idea of the convention, as you are aware, originated with me, and I am particularly proud to have been able to bring to Toronto, Love of the fatherland, may be pardoned for saying, has always been a prominent feature in the course of His Grace's life, and it is with a sense of pride that we find him in the "sear and yellow" as well as in more youthful days holding fast to the great principles which uphold the free Government of free people. His Grace being the father of the movement, it was but natural that, with his blessing, the convention should be held in his city. We regret to learn of the convention's magnificent proportions, its thoroughly Irish representative character, the wise and soundness of its patriotism and the noble devotion of its members, pledged and proclaimed not alone by men, but by women, and by the young of the race, who have homes as far as other and distant lands. It was gratifying to your fellow-citizens of Irish birth to notice that you do not concern yourselves with the mere details of your mission to the Irish capital. Your mandate was for a union of the Irish forces—their rights to be maintained, their wrongs to be redressed, and their common interests to be promoted. The once invincible phantoms whose constancy and courage had paralyzed a powerful and heroic people, and who had imposed a yoke within the range of practical politics. You cared not who was King. What you desired was that those who made the King should be wise and just, and that they should fight under the flag around which surged the battle for Ireland's legislative independence. Our efforts in this direction were sincere and unswerving, as were the efforts of those thousands with whom you assembled; and although it would be too much to expect immediate results, there is ample ground for hoping that the time will come, and that much sooner than may be anticipated, when the good work done at the convention will bear fruit in an imposing array of electoral success and harmony, fresh from the Irish ballot and free from the deadly taint of discord.

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Gladly would your fellow-countrymen here have heard that the call to the convention was accepted by the wisest and best of us, and that we believe it was intended, and availed of as a means by which existing differences and estrangements might be dissolved and reconciled. But that is not the case. There were symptoms of dissent in limited degree outside the portals of Leinster Hall was slightly apparent, but the cause of this was certainly not due to anything said or done within its walls. From the first to the last of the conventions sessions on the olive branch was held out by every delegate, from the patriot prelate who governed with such grace and dignity down to the end of the credential list. All made it plain that the respective positions which they stood was broad enough for every man willing to forgive and forget and start anew in the crusade against the foes of Irish liberty. And yet those men of mark and ability—Irishmen who have done many a trenchant blow to the enemies of Home Rule, not only held aloof from the convention but ridiculed and belittled its deliberations and personnel. More in sorrow than in anger will every true Irishman regard this untoward conduct, and his earnest hope will be that those disposed to wrangle while the enemy is at the gate will in time hearken to wiser counsels and wiser life.

But whether our refractory kinsmen take their proper place in the national ranks or not the fact is that the convention will go on, and men go, and generations pass away, but a nation's cause can never die. This old axiom is nowhere made more manifest than in the history of our beloved country. Though beaten to its knees, alas, too often by brutal force, yet it arose again and again, and to-day stands erect in assertion of its nationality. The spirit which animated our ancestors still lives, and the heart of Ireland is still true to the principles for which men have died, and which will never be sold. In proof of this we have your very point of view, an eminent success, so far as success can be achieved by unselfish and unswerving patriotism.

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Rev. Father Ryan, in replying to the address, answered the query so often heard as to whether the convention had been a success. From both the character of the gathering and personal investigation subsequently he could answer without reserve in the affirmative. He had found many persons who before were opposed to the majority party, but who were now its ardent supporters. He had consulted men of all shades of thought. He had called upon Mr. Timothy Healy in order to form his opinion at first hand. He had found him a cordial, hospitable gentleman, a man of brilliant intellect, but politically a hard man to manage. Mr. Healy based his hostility upon three grounds: the incapacity of the present leader, the improper management of the party fund, and the tyranny of the present management in the organization of constituencies. In all these matters personal observation convinced the speaker that Mr. Healy was wrong. Mr. Healy's ability as a critic is of the destructive order, and is now being turned against the cause he is elected to espouse. This will be no longer tolerated. Unless he amends his services will soon be lost to Ireland. The Irish people have now an admitted argument in the report of the committee on financial relations which proves Ireland to have been paying annually into the Imperial exchequer an immense sum over and above her rightful proportion. The cause of Irish self government had received a distinct impetus from the meeting, and the speaker looked confidently to the time when Home Rule would be an accomplished fact.

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