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London, Saturday, August 22, 1896 THE IRISH NATIONAL CON-VENTION.

There is now no doubt that the great Irish National Convention, which will meet in Dublin on the 1st September and will continue its sittings until the business in hand be disposed of, will be the most representative gathering of the Irish people all over the world that has ever assembled. It gives promise that it will effect what years of the bickering of factions could not possibly succeed in, that is, in giving once more a fixity of purpose to the Irish

representatives in Parliament.

It was due to the late Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell that a united Irish Nationalist party was created out of very unpromising materials. The Nationalist feeling of the Irish people was lively, but before Mr. Parnell, by his strong personality and indomitable perseverance, gathered into one the discordant elements, the Irish representatives in Parliament could never succeed in bringing the cause of their oppressed country before the House of Commons for practical consideration. His policy of obstructing the proceedings of Parliament until it would consent to give consideration to the needs of Ireland, though a very extreme measure, forced the members of Parliament to recognize that there were real grievances to be remedied in the legislation which affected Ireland, and when at last it was found that he had supporting him a solid phalanx of 86 Irish members, it was seen by Mr. Gladstone that the demands of Ireland could not be resisted any longer, and that great statesman generously undertook to redress her grievances, beginning with an attempt to educate the people of England to acknowledge that a remedy should be applied to the ex-

The history of Mr. Gladstone's efforts is still fresh in the memory of most of our readers. It seemed that they were about to be crowned with success, inasmuch as though at first the measure for Home Rule which he brought before Parliament was rejected through the secession of a body of Liberals, who have since become known as the Liberal-Unionists, Mr. Gladstone at last obtained a Parliamentary majority pledged to support a Home Rule Bill and the Bill actually passed the House of Commons, but was rejected by the Lords.

isting state of affairs.

A continuously united Irish Nationalist party would have been undoubtedly a strong force in Parliament, and such would have been its influence that the Government of Mr. Gladstone, having declared itself to be in favor of granting Irish autonomy, would have been maintained in power. Such a party would have been powerful throughout the three kingdoms, as it would have concentrated in favor of Mr. Gladstone's party and his Home Rule policy the votes of the Irish Nationalists everywhere, and would have turned the scale in many constituencies. The earnestness of Irish men would also have encouraged the Liberals to adhere to their party's policy without wavering, and the party would have been greatly strengthened in its appeal to the people at each general election which followed the declaration of the Liberal policy in regard to Ireland. But at a critical moment the dissensions we so much regret arose in the Irish party, and the consequence of this was a distrust of the Home Rule policy on the part of Liberals generally, which resulted in the utter rout of the party at the general election which followed miership.

We do not desire on the eve of the

all parts of the world are to meet for consultation it behooves these parties to listen to the council on which the great convention will unite. Outside of Ireland there exists not only enthusiasm in the cause, but also unanimity of sentiment to the effect that the petty disputes between the factions should be laid aside in order to ensure the greatest good to the country. In the presence of a convention representing this unanimity of feeling we think the factions will not dare to raise their heads for the perpetuation of their bickerings, and so the convention can scarcely fail to secure the union which is so much to be desired. There is, therefore, good ground for the hope which has already been generally expressed that peace and unity will be the result of the assemblage. The present apathy which seems to have fallen upon the Irish parties will thus be warmed into earnestness and energy, and we believe that any who in sheer surliness hold themselves aloof from the convention, or who refuse to accept its decisions, will render themselves powerless to do harm, because the Irish people will abandon those who will endeavor to keep up the fences of separation which have been erected to put them asunder.

Mr. Timothy Healey's followers have signified their intention to be present at the convention, and are in favor of its aims. It is said that Mr. John Redmond will take no part in it. We hope this is not so, for he has a certain amount of influence, but even should he act the part of an Adullamite it is to be hoped that his followers who have the good of Ireland at heart will take part in the deliberations, and will thus aid in bringing about unity, and if they do so either Mr. Redmond must yield at length to the general aspirations or he must be abondoned as an impracticable politican.

A satisfactory decision reached by the convention will show to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and the other enemies of Home Rule that the question is still a living issue, and that it will not down till victory be gained.

There is not a country in the world whose children love it better than the Irish love their native land, and this love of country extends to the ends of the earth wherever there are Irishmen or the sons of Irishmen living. The proposed convention is a proof of this. and we have confidence that it will so make manifest the determination of Irishmen to stand fearlessly by their country that the most resolute of the enemies of Ireland will see that it is useless to resist the granting of justice to so faithful and determined a people.

The gratitude of all Irishmen is due to the Most Rev. Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto, for the practical suggestion he made when he proposed the holding of this convention. It is expected that he will be present at it, as he has been appointed as one of the delegates from Toronto, and his presence as the parent of the thought that such a convention should be held will be an assurance of its successful issue.

The delegates sent to the convention from Canada include the most able and patriotic Irishmen to be found in the Dominion, and the same is to be said of those who will come from other British colonies. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, will all send to it their best and ablest Irishmen, and the United States, which contains a New Ireland within itself, will also be most ably represented by a liberty living delegation. These delegations, and the representatives from Ireland, England and Scotland, together cannot fail to arrive at a practical solution of the difficult problem how the present dissensions are to be healed. So may it

TURKEY'S FUTURE.

The insurrection in Crete against Turkish oppression seems at the present moment to be on the point of producing that collapse of Turkish power which Christians of all denominations must consider desirable.

The methods employed by the Turk ish Government to perpetuate Moslem rule did not begin with the Armenian massacre of September 1895, which has been going on ever since that date. The predominance of the Osmanlis, Mr. Gladstone's resignation of the pre- the ruling tribe in the Turkish Empire, has been preserved by the oppression of other races from the time that attempt now being made to restore Constantinople fell under Turkish anity to the disorganized Irish party, power; and even long before that by the former will occupy Armenia and to throw blame on any one of the fac- time the Christians who were within the latter Crete; and not only is this tions into which that party is divided; the limits of the Turkish dominions but it is evident that the blame be- were subjected to the greatest cruelties. state that there is an agreement to that compelled to go into "places which are 'Nearer, my God, to Thee.' We would longs somewhere, and it is possible It was the oppression of Christian effect. If this be true Turkey's time that it may lie somewhat on each of the pilgrims visiting the sacred places of accounting for her iniquities is at

in their immediate object they un doubtedly had the effect of keeping back the Mahammedan hordes from the invasion of Europe at a time when they were contemplating such an extension of their empire. In after years they succeeded in gaining not only the whole of Asia Minor, but also an extensive territory in Europe, including Greece and the Balkan provinces, which have since been able to throw off the Turkish yoke. It was only by almost superhuman efforts that they were finally restrained from establishing themselves over the whole of South Eastern Europe, as their kindred races from Africa had even succeeded in reducing to subjection a large part of Spain, until they were finally driven out by Ferdinand and Isabella.

Were it not for the union of the Catholic nations against the common foe the Turkish power would even now extend over all Southern Europe, and Northward even beyond Vienna.

The collapse of Turkey has been fre quently foretold by the European press as being imminent, but it may still be far off. With the object lesson of the treatment of Armenia before our eyes it would be very bold to predict that the time of that collapse has even now arrived. Time and again we have been assured that the European powers were on the point of avenging the Turkish atrocities in Armenia; but though they went so far as solemnly to warn the Turkish Government that the time of settlement for all its enormities had arrived, and made a display of their united naval power which they thought would impress the Turks with fear, the latter astutely penetrated the designs of the powers, and took their threats at their true value, so that they gave promises to conduct themselves more humanely, but in fact the massa cres were still being carried on even while these delusive promises were being given.

The Turks appear to believe that Christian Europe may still be defied with impunity. The population of Crete is about three fourths Christian, and the Christian majority would have been satisfied even under Turkish rule if they had been allowed a limited autonomy, but this is not given them. The laws of the island can be changed or modified only by a two-thirds majority of the Chamber, and as the franchise is so arranged that the Mahommedans have over three eighths of the members of the Assembly, the Turks are able to prevent the useful legislation demanded by the Christians. This appears to be the cause of the existing discontent, and at the present moment there is a provisional Christian Government, and the people demand annexation to Greece as a remedy for the evils of which they omplain. The Turks attempt to repress the demand for reform by masssacre and by burning the Christian villages, and this is the way the dispute now stands. Turkey has so for succeeded in gain-

ing over the Christian powers to its side that there was within but a few days past almost a European concert to blockade Crete against the introduction of munitions of war for the insurgents, and against the Greek volunteers who are flocking in to aid the Christian insurgents. The obstacle to this concert is the refusal of England to consent to this blockade, and as England still rules the sea the blockade is of course impossible.

Not only in Crete has Turkey a large insurrection on hand, but also in Macedonia, and in this district the situation is nearly the same as in Crete. The people are mostly Greeks both in race and religion, and Greece is sending volunteers to aid them on the pretext that the Turks either do not or will not protect the Greek inhabitants from Bulgarian and Turkisk maraud-

It appears that the Greeks are fully determined to assist their contending countrymen both in Macedonia and Crete, and impossible as it is to foretell the result accurately there is a strong probability that the insurgents will succeed if the other nations of Europe only leave them alone. It is even possible that Russia and Great Britain may come to an understanding wherethree factions. But now that the which were the scenes of our Blessed hand. Atrocities perpetrated in the sometimes by day." mepresentatives of the Irish race from Lord's life on earth which led to the past have been the cause why she has

Crusades or holy wars undertaken been stripped of many of her possesfor the purpose of rescuing Christ's sions, Greece, Roumania, Bulgaria, sepulchre and the Holy Land from the Servia, Montenegro and Bosnia, and if power of the Turks, and though these Russia and England have really holy wars were not finally successful reached such an agreement as is stated we may take it for granted that the boundaries of the Turkish empire are to be once more restricted. If so, it is all the better for the cause of humanity. Macedonia is not taken into account under this arrangement, but there is no doubt that if this conclusion be reached, Macedonia will be provided for also. Perhaps the powers will agree to hand it over to Greece ; but we may be sure if they once occupy Armenia and Crete their occupation will be made permanent, or the districts occupied will be autonomous. In either case they will be delivered from the tyranny under which they are now suffering.

RELIGIOUS COSTUMES.

The garb worn by the Catholic clergy, and those of the various religious orders of the Catholic Church, have long been regarded by ultra-Protestants as highly objectionable, it being maintained that they foster pride or vanity by making an unnecessary or odious distinction between the priest or religious, and the layman.

It was chiefly on the pretext of the distinctive dress worn by Father Marquette, and reproduced in his statue, which has been placed in the statuary hall of the Capitol at Washington, that Congressman Linton and other Apaists based their opposition to this honor accorded to the renowned Jesuit explorer; or at least the objection was ostensibly based on this, for one of the A. P. A. objectors, we believe Mr. Linton himself, declared on behalf of that organization that it was not either on account of Father Marquette's religion or of his profession as a priest that they made objection to the statue, but on account of the distinctively religious dress in which the Father is repre-

Of course it is readily seen that the excuse is but a flimsy one, for it is well understood that their objection was really based upon their hatred of the Catholic religion to which they have sworn hostility; and they conceal this hatred behind the plea that it is un-American for the Government to recognize any form of religion. But it does not follow that the Government shows a preference for Father Marquett's religion, or that it gives any special privilege to or recognition of Father Marquette's religion by admitting his statue to the hall, with the dress which he was accustomed to wear. His cassock, with the crucifix, was both his ordinary and his official dress, and in placing him in the category of the benefactors of the American people it was quite proper that he should be recognized as what he was in life, and therefore that he should be represented in his own garb.

But the opposition which has been shown in the past to the use of a pecial dress for the clergy and religious has so far disappeared that now, when the different sects are having their own religious orders, they have also adopted special religious habits, and they are not slow to defend their use against controversialists of other denominations who use against them just such arguments as they have been accustomed to use against Catholics.

An example of this is to be found in the Christian Guardian of the 5th inst. in which an article appears from the pen of a Methodist deaconess, showing why the wearing of a special religious garb by deaconesses is eminently proper and expedient.

The deaconesses wear a very simple uniform without other ornament than certain conspicuous white ties. The bonnet is of black or blue serge, and though some ladies regard such a dress as unbecoming, and will not join the order on account of it, it is remarked that those who have taken it deserve houor for the spirit of self-abnegation ciples," is very much shocked that the

they thus manifest. Here, then, is one motive of action

possible, but the latest cable reports is their best protection when they are We would receive the author of notoriously unsafe for men, and much have no hesitation in receiving George more so for women, by night, and Fox and Wm. Penn."

for economy. The economical principle on which the Deaconess Homes are conducted gives confidence to the public that they will give the largest returns in the shortest time, and this confidence ensures public support to the work in which they are engaged. Besides, there are both wealthy and poor members of the Deaconess corps. The necessity of all adopting the same dress, which is furnished by the establishment, prevents class distinctions and petty jealousies and heart-burnings; and the wearing of a uniform, besides, contributes toward establishing an esprit du corps among the Sisters.

We call attention to this matter, not for the purpose of finding fault with the Deaconesses and their work, but to show that, after all, such was the wisdom of the Catholic Church in the discipline she has followed for centuries, that, after three hundred years of experimenting with a different discipline, the Protestant Churches are beginning during the past half of the present century to find out that the Catholic Church was right, and they are also finding reasons whereby to refute the very arguments they have been using heretofore against the practices they are now adopting.

Brotherhoods and sisterhoods have been established in other Churches besides the Methodist. The Anglicans have had them for many ears, and the Methodists and Presby terians have adopted them more recently, but they all find that a special religious costume contributes much to the success of the experiment.

STRANGE TERMS OF CHRIS-TIAN REUNION.

The annual meeting of the "Disciples of Christ" has made advances toward a practical union with the Church calling itself "The Christian Church of Ontario," and the "Disciples" are recommended to take membership in the Christian" Church in cases where there is no Church organization of their own. The Christian Church on its part also recommends its isolated members to join congregations of Disciples, and both denominations agree to receive such members to full communion without requiring them to abandon their peculiar doctrines.

This agreement seems to be accept able enough to members of the "Christian" Church generally, and the reason for this is not to be looked for far away. The "Christians" are characterized by great laxity in doctrine, and throw open the doors of their denomination to persons of almost any or of no special belief. Their published statement of the terms of membership declare that "Christian" character or vital piety is the only test of fellowship or Church membership."

All this has a very liberal sound, according to the views which have of late become quite prevalent among many rotestants especially among those who, mistaking the sense in which the Church is said in the Apostles' Creed to be Catholic, interpret Catholicity as meaning that the Church should tolerate within her bosom every species of doctrine, even to those doctrines which destroy the very foundations of Christianity. That this is not the sense in which Christianity is Catholic is clear both from Scripture and the constant teaching of the Church from the beginning. According to St. Augustine the catholicity of the Church consists not in ignoring the doctrines which Christ commanded to be taught, but in her teaching the same doctrines everywhere as Christ commanded them to be taught to all nations. But the programme of the so-called Christian Church means the free intercommunion of sectaries, whatever may be the doctrines they believe and teach.

The Canadian Evangelist, which has been hitherto the organ of the "Dis-'Disciples'" convention should have declared in favor of such intercommunion peculiarly Catholic which is strongly with the "Christians," who do not in commended, the motive of self-abnega- clude Christian baptism as part of the tion or penance, which is thus held to test of Church membership, and thus the be highly praiseworthy, though when Evangelist has declared that it cannot Catholics declared that penitential adhere to the decision arrived at. To works are pleasing to God it was show the laxity of the Christian test maintained with great show of zeal the Evangelist quotes from the response that such works are superstitious and given by the Herald of Christian Liberty to a question put to it by a "Dis-Again, the writer of the article in ciple" preacher, B. B. Tyler, of New question maintains that the dress of the York. The Herald said: "We would deaconesses marks them out as "relig- rejoice to receive any Christian withious women," and that this character out regard to his belief on dogma.

Brother Tyler points out that this is

ity, for Sarah Flower Adams, who wrote Nearer my God to Thee," was a Uniterian who did not believe in Christ's divinity, while George Fox and Wm. Penn were Quakers who rejected Bap. tism and the Lord's Supper, two sacraments which are certainly enjoined by Christ. Mr. Munro, the editor of the Evan-

gelist, is sustained by a minority of the 'Disciples" in protesting against the proposed lax principles on which this kind of practical union is to be carried out between these two organizations; and as the Evangelist is on the side of orthodoxy our sympathies are rather with it than with the party of laxity, which would practically do away with all Christian dogma, and open the portals of Christianity to the broadest Infidelity. But we cannot refrain from pointing to the fact that it is a natural consequence of the rejection of Church authority that all Protestantism should finally come to the conclusion reached by the "Christians" and the majority of the "Disciples" Board of Co-operation. The minority cannot stem the tide; and if they sincerely desire to raise a barrier against total unbelief they should build their faith, not upon human fancies, but upon the rock of Peter, against which alone, according to our Lord's promise, the gates of hell shall not prevail.

We heartily endorse the sentiment intended to be conveyed by the following extract from the Christian Oracle, quoted approvingly by the last number of the Evangelist :

"Not even for the union of God's people, for which we have labored and prayed so long and so earnestly, can we consent to set aside the 'All Authority' of Jesus, our Divine King. God's people cease to be His people when they cease to know His Son, and they cannot know the Son without hearty submission to His will when they know what that will is. A union based on any other conception of Discipleship is . . a cry of peace, when there is no peace.

But our contemporary and those who agree with him might well see and acknowledge that this is just the position taken by the Holy Father Pope Leo XIII. in his encyclical on Christian Reunion. The Holy Father declares in effect the impossibility of compromise in regard to any revealed truth. and calls upon those who are desirous of Christian Reunion to accept the

whole truth as constantly taught by the Catholic Church, which is alone the Christian Church established by Christ on His Apostles, and which has never ceased to exist since its first establishment, and which therefore is alone the Church whose teachings and decisions Christ commands all to hear under penalty of being regarded as heathens and publicans.

THE PROTESTANT HORSE IN NORTH GREY.

Canadian politicians have been so often taught by practical lessons that the road to success is not through appeals to local prejudices founded on the differences of race and religion which exist in Canada, that we would have supposed that ordinary discretion would dictate to them the necessity of keeping such issues out of all election campaigns; but it appears that the lesson has to be inculcated anew whenever an election takes place, at least in Ontario.

We regret to see that the election which is to be held on Tuesday in North Grey is being fought out on these lines, and for this purpose a troop of speakers has been brought into the riding to support Mr. James McLaughlan, the Conservative candidate, with specimens of oratory which would be more suitable to the taste of a 12th July gathering of fanatics and hoodlums, than of an intelligent audience of Canadian electors desirous of securing good government for the Dominion; and the press which supports Mr. McLaughlan is following on the same lines. The Protestant horse, which has been used on some former occasions, with the result of bringing its riders to a disastrous end, has been brought out again to do service of the most disreputable character, and appeals of the most violent kind are being made to the Protestant prejudices of the electors.

The Wiarton Canadian, which is one of Mr. McLaughlan's organs in the constituency, has been especially offensive in this respect. It appeals to the electors to oppose Mr. Laurier's colleague, Mr. Paterson, the Reform candidate, on the plea that there is no Orangemen in the new Dominion Government, and also because Mr. Laurier is "not only a Catholic Premier, but a French one at that." Further on it dedeclares that "The French Catholics now run this country."

Deaconesses also wear the costume the broadest possible sort of Christian ! It required no small amount of

brazen-facedness on Canadian to make a Irish Catholics to sup candidate in the same it thus appealed to I dices, yet the Canadi to this task. In the s in the very middle Quebec for being Frei it tells the Irish Cat confidence in the " The French Catholic Catholic even worse Protestant." The CATHOLIC RECOR

kept aloof from parti it will continue to whatsoever source a upon the Catholic Chur terests, it feels bound independently of any or combinations, and duty to reprobate the now being pursued in which is calculated to discord and dissension The grounds on wh

bases its violent appe false. We admit that any recommendation view if there were O Laurier's Governme nothing in Orangeisn sirable that that pa Protestantism should presented in the Cab tolerance towards a of the population o makes it a very ment in a Government say justly, therefore, antism of Canada sho fied that Protestants belief are ably and fu and it would be absure there should be specia of a politico-religiou only claim to recognit someness and intolera It is scarcely necess

the effort of the Wia sow dissention betw French Catholics will gives as a proof of th French toward the Ir fact that Mr. Dobell, a ant, was elected in ol Irish Catholic. Th that the French-Can faithful to their It proves that in t Quebec the considera religion in politics ha that is given to them stituencies in Ontar strong reason for whi lowed by the Canadia North Grey should be all patriotic Canadian It has been asserted

by Mr. George Taylor ative whip, that he tell the electors that party has dropped its After the recent decla Sir Charles and Sir they will continue to policy of justice to Manitoba, Mr. Tay should be repudiate may justly entertai that Catholic rights an as a shuttlecock by the Catholics of the made merely the ins ting one party in an power. We want to not this is the case, a have found this out

what action to take. For the rest we ha present that Messrs. lace, Dr. Sproule, Dr. and others advocated election on the groun able as an opponent of in Manitoba, and Dr far as to declare Mr to be the future leade Mr. McLaughlin will no authority to d be the future leader ives, but we may sa lieve that the party selves to certain destr up Mr. Wallace as the er. If they do so, have an easy task bef

EDITORIAL

THE prospects for the Irish parties, we not seem very brig spatch states that nei ites nor the Healeyit convention. Mr. Re extraordinary statem called by the Dilloni sequently he does should take any part ley appears to have for non-attendance. ever, conclude that h his own opinions t