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## RECENT HAPPENINGS IN EUROPE.

### OUR REGULAR WEEKLY REVIEW.

There is a good deal of talk in English political circles about the possibility of a general election being held during the coming autumn. The whip of the Conservative party, Captain Middleton, found it necessary to give an official denial to the rumor; but his statement was so worded as to justify the misgivings of a large number of members on his side of the House of Commons, who have no desire to be put to the expense and risk of a general election so long as it can be postponed. Several considerations, however, easily suggest themselves in favor of a dissolution this year—considerations from the point of view of the Salisbury Government. The Liberal party is disrupted, the Irish party divided, the country is prosperous, the army has been victorious, and a wave of imperialism has swept over the land. Could there be a more opportune time for seeking anew lease of power, especially when delay gives a chance to the Liberals to organize and to formulate a popular policy, and to the Irish nationalists to unite under a capable leader who can count upon the hearty and loyal support of his followers?

The opposition offered by Mr. John Morley to the grant of \$150,000 to Lord Kitchener as a reward for his victory in the Sudan was futile, although his denunciation of the desecration of the Madia's remains was very effective, and will doubtless be useful when the general election comes on. Mr. Balfour made a clever excuse for the evidently brutal act, but admitted that it violated every rule of good taste. Lord Kitchener occupied a seat in the gallery of the House during the debate, and must have felt some remorse at his conduct. It is a good thing to be a British general. When he triumphs he obtains glory and money and a peerage. The poor soldiers to whose brave efforts the triumph is due get nothing. They must keep on marching and fighting; and if they don't keep their bare cropped like convicts they will be court-martialed and imprisoned, as the soldiers at Halifax have learned to their cost.

The Supreme Court of France has granted a new military trial to Capt. Dreyfus. It will be held at Rennes, so that interference from the Paris mobs may be rendered impossible. President Loubet is becoming a target for popular disfavor.

The most noteworthy event which has happened recently in connection with Ireland was the annual meeting of the Irish National League of Great Britain, to which attention is called in another page in this issue of the "True Witness." Under the presidency of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M. P., the League has done a vast amount of good work since its foundation seventeen years ago; and it is as vigorous and united to-day as ever. If proof of this were wanted it was supplied by a recent municipal election in an Irish ward in Liverpool, where the League's candidate, Mr. Thomas Burke, was opposed by a factionist, Mr. J. P. Kelly, who called himself an "Independent." Mr. Burke received 680 votes, and Mr. Kelly only 303. There are great rejoicings over the defeat of the representative of disunion.

It is gratifying to learn that the rumor that Mr. Justin McCarthy, whose "Reminiscences" are having a large sale throughout the United Kingdom, was about to retire from Parliamentary life is unfounded. The announcement that he intended to retire called forth columns of eulogistic references in the British newspapers of all shades of politics. No better tribute to the literary ability and personal urbanity of Mr. McCarthy could be forthcoming.

The Catholic Union of Glasgow is rendering immense service to Catholic interests. Its main object is to see that Catholics get their fair share of representation on public bodies, such as Parish Councils and School Boards. The Central Council is composed of the Vicar General, the rectors of each of the parishes in the city and two lay delegates from each of the latter, elected by popular vote. Whenever occasion offers the Union takes a hand in municipal and parliamentary elections. It is increasing in importance and usefulness every year.

The anniversary of the death of England's greatest statesman and Ireland's greatest English friend, Mr. Gladstone, was commemorated by a special service in Hawarden Church, which was largely attended. Mrs. Gladstone who is recovering from the effects of the terrible bereavement attended the church later in the day. The Rev. Stephen Gladstone, one of the dead statesman's sons, officiated. The fund for the national memorial to Mr. Gladstone has reached \$200,000.

## Notes From American Centres.

The Wishita (Kan.) "Eagle," has spread its wings and is screeching, as loud as its voice and powers will permit, for more room, for more expansion. After declaring in its wisdom, that Canada is more French than English, more European than American, and more an enemy than a friend of the United States, the fiery "Eagle" proclaims:—

"We are in favor of wiping her out, either by annexation or conquest." This is surely brave language, and if serious and at all practical would be a terrible menace. But unfortunately, for the "Eagle's" ambition, it is one thing to wish the wiping out of our Dominion, and another thing to carry that desire into effect. We do not think that any of our Canadian fellow-citizens will lose very much sleep on account of the threatening attitude of the Kansas journalistic bird of prey. We have a few barn-yards in which our domestic fowl might be endangered were a Wichita "Eagle" to hover in sight, but as a rule, the farmers that own these premises keep old-fashioned shotguns that usually suffice to guard their hen coops from hawks, kites, vultures and such like unwelcome visitors.

Moreover it sounds very funny, coming from a patriotic American journal, to be told that annexation means the wiping out of Canada. We admit that here and there in this country there may be found an odd annexationist; but even such a rare specimen would scarcely adhere to his principles if he were convinced that they lead to the "wiping out" of the Dominion. As to "wiping out," by conquest," the

idea is worthy of the peculiar genius who presides over the destinies of the "Eagle." It is now some little time since the United States has made a conquest in Cuba, but we have not yet heard any report of the "wiping out," or probable disappearance of that island from the map of the world. If our Kansas friend's idea of conquest is the effacing of the country conquered, we must conclude that he knows as little about the subject as he does about Canada—and that is evidently infinitesimally little. If the great American Eagle does not lie on its guard, the more insane "Eagle" from Kansas will some day usurp its place.

Here is an item of news, gleaned from the weekly press, and which speaks most eloquently for itself. We give it in full, just as it came to us, and we beg of our young readers, and especially of the members and leaders in our various Catholic associations, to read it, and ponder over the example thus set for them. The item says: "Elaborate preparations have been started for a monster rally to be given under the auspices of the Catholic Young Men's Diocesan Union at the Academy of Music or some larger hall next October or November. A meeting was held recently at the residence of the Rev. William J. McGuire, pastor of the Church of the Visitation and President of the National Association. A committee to be known as the Committee on Plans and Scope for the rally was appointed. It is composed as follows: Chairman, Assistant Corporation Counsel Peter P. Smith, St. Peter's Literary and Dram-

Continued on Page Eight.

## THE NEW BISHOP OF THREE RIVERS.



MEMBERS OF THE CLOUTIER FAMILY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE.

At last it has been decided that the late Bishop Laflèche's successor, in the Episcopal see of Three Rivers, is to be Canon F. X. Cloutier of that city. The Archbishop of Quebec received the news by cable, and the Papal Bull is at present on the way from Rome. While the official announcement will not be given to the press until after the arrival of the Papal documents, still there is no longer any secret as to who the new Bishop will be.

The Rev. Francois-Navier Cloutier is one of a most exceptional and wonderful family. He was born at Ste. Genevieve de Batiscan, on the 2nd of November, 1848. His parents were Jean Cloutier, a farmer, and Olive Rivard. He entered the Three Rivers Seminary in 1864, and there completed his course of studies. As early as 1868 we find him teaching a class, completing a year of philosophy and commencing a course of theology. This was the beginning of a life of unremitting labor, which, after thirty years, finds Episcopal dignity awaiting it. He was prefect of studies, professor of rhetoric, and occupied nearly every position in that institution to the development, progress and success of which he has contributed, very possibly, more than any other individual.

In 1880, the late Mgr. Laflèche appointed the Abbe Cloutier to the responsible parochial position of vicar of the Cathedral. In 1883 he accompanied Mgr. Laflèche to Rome. On his return he was named Chancellor of



RIGHT REV. F. X. CLOUTIER, Recently Appointed to the See of Three Rivers.

the Diocese. In 1882 he became "curé" of Three Rivers and a Canon of the Cathedral. In 1897 he celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination, and on that occasion he received most touching evidences of the esteem and veneration in which he was held by all the diocese—both clergy and laity. The Cloutier family is surely one of

the model religious families of Canada. The new Bishop's father was born in 1819, and led a most exemplary life until the day of his death, in 1877. His mother, whose maiden name was Olive Rivard, was born in 1824. She died in 1892, in her sixty-eighth year.

These two good people were the

parents of fifteen children, one died young, and fourteen are still living; of that number, ten are leading lives consecrated to God in religion. Apart from the Bishop elect, the members of the family, in religious life, are Prosper Cloutier, pastor of St. Etienne des Grées, and Joseph Cloutier, curate of the same parish. Of the seven sisters who are religious, five belong to the Congregation de Notre Dame, and two are members of the religious community of Providence. The sisters in the Congregation are the Sisters du Sacrement, Saint Jean de Dieu, Jeanne de Valois, Sainte Emence, and Saint Coeur de Marie; those in the Providence Order are Sisters Felicie and Edouienne. Amongst the lay members of the family are Theophile, a farmer, who has inherited the paternal property, Ernest, a farmer, of St. Titre, and Jean, also a farmer in the same parish. All three are married and have large families. Finally the only remaining sister is Miss Emma Cloutier, who has consecrated her life to the duty of taking care of her brothers, and is house-keeper and companion for the pastor and curate of St. Etienne des Grées.

It surely can be said that the Bishop of Three Rivers will be at once the head of an important diocese, and the chief of a unique and important religious family. What congratulations! What joy! What happiness! Households, communities, parishes, all will hold jubilee!

## The Hibernians of Quebec And the Ship-Fever Victims.

### SPECIAL TO THE TRUE WITNESS.

Quebec, June 7.—The Ancient Order of Hibernians of this city have obtained permission from the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. S. Fisher, to erect a memorial monument on a suitable site at the Grosse Isle Quarantine Station for the purpose of honoring the graves and perpetuating the memory of their kinsmen who fell victims to the ship fever of 1847, and were buried there. This is an enterprise which should awaken the sympathies and receive the hearty and practical support of all Irishmen in Canada. Scattered throughout our Dominion are hundreds of prosperous children of the Irish race whose parents met an untimely death during that dread year of 1847. And even apart from the direct descendants of the fever-stricken emigrants there are hosts of others connected with them, either by marriage, or through various forms of association, all of whom should rejoice in an opportunity of contributing to a testimonial that might serve to perpetuate the memory of those pioneer sufferers of our race. Moreover, every Irish-Canadian, whether directly connected with them, or not, should feel it a sacred duty to

add one stone, at least, to the "cairn" that love and veneration will raise over their commingled ashes.

The story of those emigrants is a tragically sad one. Flying from famine and persecution at home, they met fever and death on the threshold of their adopted country. The grim spectre of want stalked through their native vales and blasted, with his very presence, their prospects and hopes; sailing away from those scenes of desolation, and looking forward to a future of peace and prosperity beyond the Atlantic, the scarlet bird of disease hovered over them, and in the shadow of its wing their crushed spirits went forth to eternal rest.

The idea of a monument to those numberless victims is not at all of recent date. It may have taken a more practical shape of late years, but we recall—as far back as 1887—Mr. Martin Battle, late collector of Inland Revenue at Ottawa, suggesting a fitting memorial of the kind now under consideration. Mr. Battle's idea was at once practical, patriotic, and in a sense poetic. As these few lines may come to the notice of the

persons immediately and actively engaged in the undertaking, we think it is very opportune that we should reproduce, as closely as our memory will permit, the words he used.

After advancing several strong arguments in favor of such a project, Mr. Battle added: "And that monument should take the form of an Irish Round Tower. It would there stand at Canada's gateway to greet the gaze of the future Irish exiles, whose last lingering looks at the old land may have rested upon one of those 'Pillar Towers of Ireland.' It would be at once a reminder of old Erin and a harbinger of sympathetic greetings in the new land. Beneath its shadow many a lone and unfortunate exile's dust might rest the more peacefully since the ashes of their forefathers sleep beneath some similar tower upon an Irish hillside, or in an Irish glen."

We need add nothing to these eloquent words. The mere reproduction of them should suffice to suggest such a fitting monument, and we can only express the hope that the Ancient Order of Hibernians may have these words brought to their attention and that whatever committee may be formed to carry into effect the patriotic enterprise, may deem it well to accord them a favorable consideration.

We cannot close this brief reference to the important subject now before us without paying a sincere tribute of

gratitude to the noble French-Canadian families, who came to the rescue of the Irish orphans of 1847, who adopted them, educated them, and opened out for them fresh prospects in life. As an evidence of that practical sympathy and Catholic charity, we have hundreds of prosperous and even eminent men to-day, to all intents and purposes French-Canadians, but actually Irish by parentage—McDonalds, Honans, McMahons, Frazers, O'Neills, O'Briens, Kelleys, McArthurs, Fitzpatricks, Prendergasts, O'Learys, and scores of others. Certainly, if the Irish have faults, ingratitude is not one of them; and if the French-Canadians have shortcomings, lack of hospitality is not of the number.

### PERSONAL.

We are pleased to learn, that Miss Victoria Scott, of 1061 Berri St., was awarded on the 30th ult., a diploma for her success in the study of Solfeggio by the Canadian Conservatory of Music. Still higher honors await her, which in the near future we feel confident she will reap.

Dr. Harrison, graduate of McGill University '83, and for the past 15 years practicing in Cornwall, has taken up practice in Montreal at 666 Sherbrooke Street.

### FORTY HOURS DEVOTION.

The Forty Hours commenced this morning at St. Anthony's parish at High Mass.









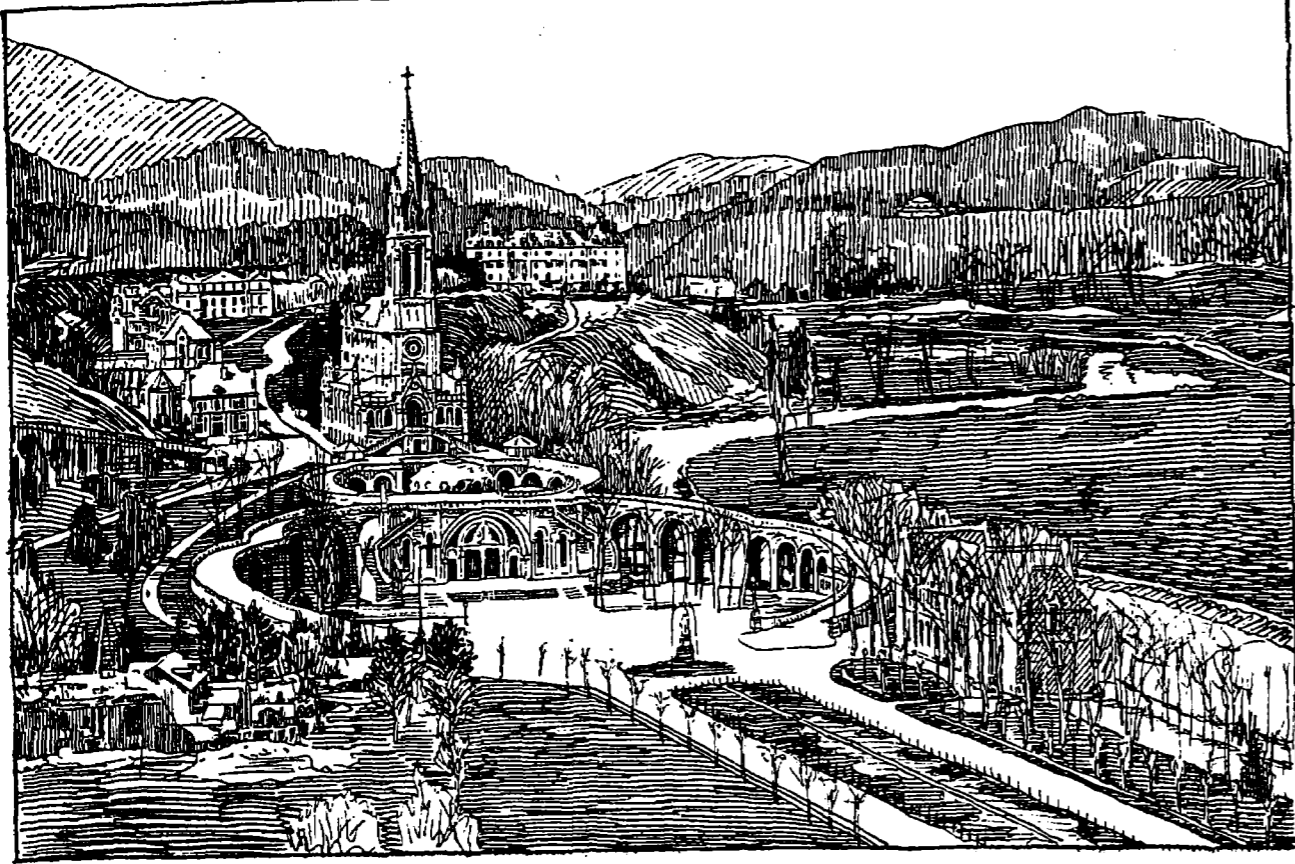








# LOURDES AND THE PILGRIMAGES.



THE BASILICA OF LOURDES.

We have almost reached the season of the great pilgrimages to the world renowned shrine of Lourdes, in France. It was only the other day that "La Patrie" announced the departure, in a short time, of Mr. Joseph Rivet, who is the general organizer in Canada of these grand pilgrimages. In so doing our contemporary treated its readers to an elaborate article, profusely illustrated, on the subject, and gave several columns of Mr. Rivet's enthusiastic descriptions of the shrine and of the scenes that constantly take place there. While the theme is one of the deepest interest for all Catholics, and especially for those in this Province, we do not feel that we have the necessary space to reproduce such an elaborate account. But, with the accompanying illustration of the grand Basilica at Lourdes, we would like to give our readers an account of a first visit to that blessed resort of the faithful, from the pen of the Rev. Father Jas. O'Haire, who sends his letter from 54 Avenue de la Grotte, Lourdes, France, May 9th, 1899.

This letter is addressed to the Liverpool "Irish News" and runs thus:— "You have on several occasions opened your columns, with great kindness and courtesy, to my correspondence. Perhaps this letter may not be altogether unacceptable to your readers. Who in the Christian world has not heard of Lourdes—the sanctuary of faith and piety and miracles? It is my first visit. I have come on account of my broken down health, and I thank God that I have lived to see here splendid open demonstrations of religion such as would become the early ages of Christianity. The "Grotto,"

the Church of the Rosary, the Crypt, and the Grand Basilica, all may be considered as one magnificent pile, every day attest, by the presence of crowds of pilgrims from all parts of the world, the power of the Catholic Church and the burning fervor of its children. The processions through the streets, and the carrying of the sick to the waters of the Grotto, all together form a picturesque and religious scene, which eclipses anything that I have witnessed in any or all the countries I have visited (and I have seen nearly the whole world). I have had the good fortune to be here, too, when vast pilgrimages came from Alsace, Switzerland, when the very air vibrated with all that was holy. Who could describe the grand spectacle of 43,000 Frenchmen—all men—who came a few weeks ago headed by several bishops, to sing the praises of Our Lady of Lourdes, and to proclaim with no uncertain sound their belief in the Divinity of Jesus Christ?

"One of the most touching spectacles in Lourdes is the cave of letters in the Grotto into which people cast their letters addressed to the Holy Virgin asking for some favor."

"I shall be glad to render any service I can to any of your readers, but correspondents should be careful to see that their letters are fully post paid, as otherwise the expense at this end would be great, and if people desire a reply on a souvenir they should enclose me a postal order to cover expense."

"One personal remark. After thirty-five years of very hard missionary work I have been obliged to retire from active duty, and therefore have

come to Lourdes. My financial position is very low but I am content. Each morning I celebrate Mass in the Basilica, and then go to the Grotto, where, kneeling before the Statues of Our Lady of Lourdes, I crave the intercession of the Holy Virgin for those thousands to whom I formerly for many years ministered in Africa, and for those hundreds of thousands for whom I gave Missions and Retreats in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and elsewhere, and still more for those now departed this life, to whom I often administered the Sacraments. This very morning in the Grotto I begged a blessing from Heaven upon the editor and staff and readers of the Irish News because of its advocacy of the interests of the Catholic Church. Three years ago I visited Downpatrick, my father's birthplace, and travelled over nearly all Down and Connor, where I was kindly entertained, and especially in Carrickfergus, where I spent with its pastor several of the happiest weeks of my life."

Although this is somewhat of a special and a personal matter, as far as the reverend writer is concerned, still it will suffice to show what a mighty magnet the shrine of Lourdes has become, since it draws to itself men and women from all ends of the earth, and is visited yearly by crowds that number several hundred thousand. It is certainly one of the greatest shrines on earth, and happy the person whose means will permit of a pilgrimage to a spot consecrated by the actual presence of the Blessed Virgin and where daily miracles are performed that confound science and prove revelation.

## MASONIC MORALS.

"La Verite," quoting from the "Journal de l'Ain," of the 15th of May last, gives us a very interesting article, and one that certainly does not tend to increase public confidence in the principles of the Continental Masonic Brotherhood. It is thus the French organ speaks:—

"While we stated that Freemasonry in France was the cause of all fallings off of our time, we did not, however, believe that it would go as far as to become the advocate of drunkenness. Yet, here is what one of its leading writers published a few days ago, in the Lyon Republican:— "In depriving the city workman, the field laborer, the man who suffers and plods, of that alcohol which is his mainstay and his pleasure, perhaps the consoler that helps him to support the social injustices, the burdens of life, the miseries of the existence and the rigors of the domain to which by forced labor he is restricted in order to gain his food, what do you leave him? A sense of suffering, a hatred and envy in regard to others, and a desire to have recourse to violent methods of satisfying his appetite and his passions."

"Alcohol allows the one condemned to labor to carry his chains. It is his reward, his life, his happiness. Do not deprive him of that key to a heaven within his reach; a heaven that is not too dear and that has the merit of being terrestrial and real. The enemies of alcohol wish to deprive the great mass of men of the small amount of happiness that is within their reach. What can they give in place of it?"

E. LEPELLETIER.

"This Lepelletier is the same who had so audaciously calumniated Brother Flamidien. And, according to

him, drunkenness is the only remedy for the miseries of life and the woes of existence. We must admit that the church offers other remedies and presents another ideal of life. Is it possible to write, in cold blood, that man has no other resources against the pains of the present moment, but that of degrading himself to the brute level and of devoting his posterity to crime and insanity? Is it possible that men, so-called learned men have worked knowingly to destroy religion in the heart of the people, while possessing nothing better than this degradation to offer them in return? Such men deserve, far more than do common murderers and criminals to be treated as public malefactors."

That Lepelletier is a leading French Mason is perfectly well-known; that he wrote such an abominable letter is a fact that no person can deny; that he has some kind of belief in the morality of what he has written must be supposed—otherwise he is either a fool or a demon—but that his letter conveys the teachings of the Masonic body is rather doubtful. We are not generally given to jumping at conclusions and condemning even a bitter enemy upon what might be a mistaken presentation of facts. Freemasonry has sufficient to answer for, and is easy enough to expose, without inventing arguments against it. Even were the spirit of Continental Freemasonry, in accord with the spirit of Mr. Lepelletier's letter, it is highly improbable that the Masonic body would admit the same, or accept any responsibility for the individual expressions of even its most distinguished member.

We know that it has been—all over the continent—the grand aim of the

Church by perverting youth, and killing all sense of moral responsibility in the hearts of men. But this aim was never acknowledged; the very fact of this system being carefully guarded and masked, has been one of the grandest tributes ever paid by vice to virtue, by error to truth. Not the most frantic and hell-inspired fury of the Carbonari, the Illuminati, or the Secret Conclave would dream of publishing an open plea for intoxication; decidedly this Mr. Lepelletier was never authorized to write such a letter in the name of Freemasonry. Were a Catholic to be insane enough to give them expression, it would be the height of nonsense to attribute his opinions to the Church, merely because he happened to be a member of the Church. We have not such a poor idea of Masonic ability and diplomacy as to suppose for a moment that this letter could be traced to the Fraternity. But we do believe that the letter in question—like ten thousand similar letters and articles—was purposely written to draw away the critical attention of the Catholic world from the real and important move, or subject, or design on the part of the Masonic body. It is an old trick and Mr. Lepelletier may have learned it from the past-grand-master of dissimulation—Mazzini. Whenever that knight of the dagger had any, deep and terrible project in hand, he caused the press of Europe to ring with false alarms, with threats that were meaningless, with plans of campaign that were imaginary. So it may be with the "Lyon Republican" gentleman. While the opponents of Masonry are busy proving that this letter is highly immoral and dangerous, they are entirely oblivious of the real attacks that are being carried on, by Lepelletier and his associates, against the Catholic Church. That letter in itself, is beneath contempt; but to all who have followed the career of those societies during half a century or more, it is a mere "decoy."

## AN AUSTRALIAN PRIMATE IN AMERICA.

Archbishop Carr of the diocese of Melbourne, Australia, has arrived in this country on his way home. The Archbishop expects to sail from San Francisco about the middle of June, remarks an exchange. Since leaving Australia more than a year ago. His Lordship has visited Rome and many other European cities, but spent most of his time at his birthplace in Ireland.

The Archbishop is a good conversationalist and a close student of affairs, and, after a trip which has taken him almost around the world, he is able to draw some very interesting conclusions in regard to the progress made by Americans.

"When I left Australia, about one year ago," he said to a reporter, "with the intention of visiting my home in Ireland, after an absence of about twelve years. I thought I could not do better than visit America on my way home, with a view of studying the institutions of the country as far as possible, particularly in relation to the Catholic Church. Americans are the most progressive of people, but I find that, in some respects, Australia is ahead of you."

"I have been particularly interested in industrial questions, and I find that Australians have been more successful in securing legislation for the benefit of the working people. For instance, we have an eight-hour law, and now all over the colony the rule is eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, eight hours for recreation. We have also passed a law establishing a minimum rate of wages in all government works, factories and corporations. This has been in operation only a short time, and it is too early to make statements in regard to the success of this experiment. We have also given the women an opportunity to vote and to run for office; so that now they can vote and be voted for."

"I find many evidences of the wonderful progress made by Americans, and, in fact, Australia has made much of its progress through Americans. All our locomotives, street cars and carriages are purchased in the United States, and many other things that are not manufactured to any great extent in Australia."

"Do the corporate interests interfere with progressive legislation, as

they are said to do in this country?" was asked.

"No; we have no trusts in Australia. By that, I mean not in the sense that you have them here in America, where there are vast combinations of capital. Then, again, the government has greater control. All the railroad systems of the colony are under government control, and are run in the interest of the people. By this means much of the country has been opened up, and some of these railroads will not show a profit on the money invested for, perhaps twenty years. The railroads in some parts of the country are, however, good paying properties."

"Are the street railways under government control?"

"No, they are not. In Melbourne, for instance, the street railway was built by a private corporation, which made a lease with the city, and one of the terms is that in thirty years the entire property reverts to the municipality. At the expiration of that time the municipality will probably conduct the street railroad system."

"Melbourne has its own electric system, and the municipality supplies light and power to private concerns."

"It has been very gratifying to find such evidences of the great advances made by the Catholic Church in this country. I have visited Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Providence, before coming to Boston, and have been surprised at the work that is being done by the charitable institutions, the homes for children, the hospitals, the institutions for the blind, and in so many other lines."

"When you consider that the great majority of the Irish people came here with little means, many of them being forced to leave home during the famine, the work done has been wonderful. In every city I have visited the churches have been very fine, comparing favorably with those of other countries. We have also some very fine churches in Australia. Just before I came away we dedicated the Cathedral in Melbourne, and it will compare very favorably with any I have yet seen in America. It is larger than the Cathedral in New York, and I think it as fine a church."

## Notes of Irish News.

— FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.—Following up the policy of railway development inaugurated by his brother for the pacification of Ireland, Mr. Gerald Balfour has been on a visit to the Innishowen Peninsula. On Tuesday, the 23rd May, at Carrondagh, the first sod of a new line of railway to be laid between that place and Buncrana was cut by Lady Betty Balfour.

THE TRADES CONGRESS.—The Irish Trades Union opened their sixth annual congress on Monday the 22nd of May, in Derry. The attendance of delegates was large, and they were extended a cordial civic welcome by the Mayor. The President, in an able and practical address, epitomised the events of the year, referring particularly to the altered conditions which have been brought about by the Local Government Act.

IRISH TOURISTS.—The Irish Tourists' Association in keeping with its great desire to encourage tourists to visit Ireland received a large party from England composed of members of both Houses of Parliament and their lady friends, two weeks ago. The party was met at Holyhead by Dr. Callaghan, the secretary of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company, and conducted on board the mail steamer Ulster. The cross-channel trip was made in a little over two hours and a half. The visitors were delighted with the passage, and one and all were loud in praise of the magnificent steamer, which is so luxuriously fitted up as to give one more the idea of a floating palace than a ship. Not a member of the party was sea-sick, indeed the danger of mal-de-mer is reduced to a minimum on these fine boats, the equals of which are not to be met on any similar journey. On Saturday evening the entire party and many of the citizens were entertained at a banquet by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.

LOCAL BANKS.—Parish banks was one of the important questions under consideration at a recent meeting of the County Down No. 1 Rural District Council (Maybridge), and was strongly advocated by the chairman. The advantages which have followed the introduction of co-operative dairying have been thoroughly appreciated

in those districts where co-operative dairies have been established. The great drawbacks to Irish agricultural industry hitherto have been, after landlord rackrent, the high rate of interest charged by the joint stock banks and the still higher demanded by the usurious "gombeen" man. To give both institutions their due, however, they have had some warranty for their action. Owing to rack-rents, insecurity of tenure, and uncertainty of crops, their security was not always the most reliable. The principle on which the proposed parish banks are operated has been in vogue for half a century on the continent, and has been found to work admirably. Both borrowers and depositors are neighbors in similar walks of life; interest is allowed on deposits at a much higher rate than that allowed by the post office savings or joint stock banks, and loans, which must in every case be for productive purposes will be made upon reasonable terms.

THE CAUSE OF UNITY.—At a monster meeting of the men of Clare, Cork, Limerick and Tipperary, held in Limerick two weeks ago, Mr. William O'Brien in referring to the cause of unity said:—

There is one very significant fact about this meeting, and that is that you have not invited any member of Parliament of any shade or section. I don't think such a thing ever happened before in my recollection. Well, that is, perhaps, an extreme but the circumstances are extreme, and I have not a doubt on my mind that you have done the right and the wise thing. The time has come for reminding all whom it may concern that it is "not the members but the people are the masters of the situation." Your unity committee did all that men could do to conciliate these gentlemen, to bring them together, to beg and entreat them to listen to the voice of the country, and to remember that they were not sent to Parliament to disgrace themselves and disgrace the country with their petty quarrels. I don't care who was in the right or who was in the wrong as to the breakdown of this conference. It would be the merest waste of time to discuss it. The point for the

country is that the members themselves either cannot, or will not, unite without the intervention of the people. There is no use of shutting our eyes to the fact. They have not got the nerve to keep the peace in their own ranks. If you wanted to cross over into the county there you might as well lie down on the banks of the Shannon and wait till the river ran dry to cross over as expect that this stream of controversies between members of Parliament and their newspapers will run dry if the people simply lie down and wait. What the people have got to do is to throw a bridge across themselves, and pass over this little barrier and show that a whole nation is not to be kept waiting on its road to freedom until a few gentlemen and their newspapers are pleased to move out of the way.

HOME MANUFACTURE.—The Dublin County Council has properly led the way in adopting a resolution providing that all supplies required shall as far as possible, be of Irish manufacture, and that all work and contracts shall be given only to those who guarantee to employ competent workmen at the standard wages of the Dublin District.

A VETERAN GONE.—A veteran Nationalist and a prominent figure in local public life in Enniscorthy has passed away in the person of Mr. John Mernagh, D. C. Coolamurry, Davidstown. The deceased's life was an unspiced record of honor and integrity. He was father of the Rev. A. Mernagh, C.C., Enniscorthy.

RELEASED ELECTION.—At Belfast, on May 19th, there was great excitement at the close of the polls over the result of the election for the Aldermanship of Pottinger Ward. The election was fought with great bitterness by the two rival candidates, Councillor John McCormick (Independent), and Councillor Dr. Brown, the nominee of the Conservative Association. The result was arrived at amid a scene of wild excitement. Nearly 5,000 votes were polled, and Mr. McCormick was returned by a majority of 106 votes. His return was secured by Catholic support.

IRISH LITERATURE.—Everything promises well for the approaching Oirraochtas. The sub-committee are pushing on the arrangements with great energy. The entries for the various competitions have closed, and the compositions of Irish prose, poetry and folk-lore are in the hands of the adjudicators. The object of the Oirraochtas is to foster genuine Irish literature—it is, in fact the common festival of Irish-speaking Ireland. As an interesting proof of the wide popularity the movement has secured, the list of competitors this year contains names from almost every county in Ireland. The Oirraochtas takes place at the Rotunda, Dublin, under the presidency of Cardinal Logue. His Eminence has been already interested in the revival and preservation of the Irish language for many years, having spoken it from his childhood. It is needless to remark he is the first Irish-speaking Cardinal Ireland has possessed, if not the only one in the Sacred College.

IRISH HEROISM.—Francis O'Neill has the rare distinction of having won the Stanhope gold medal of the Royal Humane Society as his reward for the greatest act of gallantry during the year 1898. On the 29th of September an explosion occurred in the Ammagher Pit, Conliskland, County Tyrone. In the pit were four men, of whom two succeeded in escaping. Three times O'Neill went down the shaft (195 feet deep) to rescue the other two, but was each time driven back by the suffocating atmosphere. On his fourth attempt though his light went out within thirty feet of the surface, he touched bottom, seized one man, and lifted him into the cage. In an unconscious condition both men were landed in the fresh air. O'Neill had no sooner recovered than he went down again, and brought up the remaining man, but this poor fellow had succumbed. The Duke of York when presenting the medal, paid a warm tribute of praise to the hero whose courage and self-sacrifice well deserved the highest distinction which the Humane Society could confer. During the centuries of Irish independence the O'Neills were Princes in Tyrone. It was Hugh O'Neill, Prince of Tyrone, who had defeated successive armies under Elizabethan commanders, and went within an ace of delivering Ireland from the dominion of England. Francis O'Neill is only a miner but in his veins courses the noble blood of his race.

The music teachers of Mount St. Marie Convent have shown their appreciation of the Karn Pianos by selecting four of them for use in their musical review. Fine stock of Chickering and Karn Pianos always on hand. The D. W. Karn Co., Ltd., Karn Hall, Building, St. Catherine Street.





