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OUR IRISH LETTER.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CATHOLIC REGISTER. DUBLIN, Jan. 20.—As the opening of Parliament approaches, interest in the election of Chairman of the Irish Party waxes lively. The Hon. Edward Blake is still looked on as the most likely successor to Mr. Justin McCarthy.

The exhibition of pictures and sketches of Irish scenery, by Mr. Alexander Williams, R.H.A., was the social event of the week. Mr. Williams must have taken a great many rambles through Ireland before he got together such a delightful vista of moorland, lake and mountain, with a vision of the deep green sea crowning the prospective. His sketches of Killarney are sonnets in oils. He has caught the amethystine shades of the mountains, the purple shadows in the lakes, and the feathery foliage of the larches seem to flutter against the clear pearl-tinted sky. In his scenes from Achill Island you can nearly smell the heather, and he is equally true to nature in his studies of bogland and mountain around Letterfrack. His Excellency, Earl Cadogan, visited the exhibition and purchased "The Sands of Fintrol, Donegal," a realistic picture of a bleak coast and a cold gray sea. If ever you spend your holidays travelling through Ireland, and wish to bring back with you some souvenir of the "Old Country," you should visit Mr. Williams' studio at 4 Hatch Street. His landscapes embrace everything from a glimpse of tender green woodland, to a bold sweep of rugged coast line. This is his tenth exhibition. On the opening day Mrs. Williams held a reception, which was attended by over two hundred people representing art and fashion. It may be interesting to mention that she is a sister of Mrs. Page Throver, so well known in Montreal musical circles.

We went to see Roushey's Opera Company in "The Daughter of the Regiment." I do not care for Miss Minnie Leverette as Marie. She played to the gallery and surely Donizetti never intended that. Mr. Fred Clendon looked Sergeant Sulpipe to the life and sang splendidly. Roushey's company all round is very good. I always enjoy sitting out one of their operas, but on this occasion I found the extra acts more amusing. The first thing that attracted my attention was the low cultured tones of a man's voice declaring that Belfast was a miserable spot. It was woful to be stranded there over-night—you had no place to go, nothing to see, no one to talk to. There was only one music hall. Music halls never attracted him. The theatre was open only in winter, and there was never anything performed there but serious plays. Belfast people had no taste for things theatrical or musical. Not even to hear Patti would they go to a high class concert. Now Dublin folk would patronize any amount of concerts, the more classical the better, provided the charges were reasonable. Tree he pronounced a queer chap and wound up by saying he was a wonderful chap. Last time Tree was in Dublin he went to see him in "Hamlet." Dublin theatre goers were not at all educated up to date. They frequently mistook tragedy for comedy, even in the dress circle people laughed in the wrong place. Now at "Hamlet" there were three old ladies who really appeared to be educated, sitting behind him, and when in the grave scene Tree went over and throwing it on Ophelia's coffin, they asked one another if he was going mad too? The speaker was a man who delighted to hear himself impart information, and the girl he was talking to seemed to possess a perfectly unbiased mind. She ought to have appreciated him as a talking edition of the "Child's Guide to Knowledge." He explained to her the difference between Tree and Irving. The one so merged all personality in each role he played that when, without making any change in his stage get-up, he came before the curtain to thank the audience for their applause, the very resumption of his own manner made him seem quite a different person. The other was always Henry Irving, whether he was costumed as Matthias or King Arthur. The girl's responses consisted of "Yes" in the course of his remarks, and "How funny!" varied by "How awfully funny!" whenever he paused. Then she giggled "ad libitum." Like the old ladies, she really appeared to be educated, but unlike them she was young. Her neck and arms were plump and white, her dark hair deftly coiled off the artistic lines of an oval face and rounded throat, and her brown eyes, if they lacked intelligence of a very high order, were full and soft. When a woman is so fair to look on, it is not in masculine nature to be too captious about her education.

When Belfast men come to Dublin they vote the metropolitan "wretchedly slow." They take their standard of "lively" from a business point of

view. The hum of life in a linen factory, the whirr of machinery in ship building yards is music enough for them. In their leisure hours they prefer melodrama as played in Orange Lodges to controversy or the correct interpretation of Shakespeare on the modern stage.

We have had an epidemic of poetry for the last month. What with Jameson's raid, the wraok in Dublin bay, death of Prince Henry, &c., there has been no lack of thomes, but inspiration seems to have deserted these islands. The more illustrious the name to a verse, the more wretched the doggerel. Looks as if the grave of English poetry was being dug very deep. If any one takes the cake for rhyme without reason, it is Clement Scott, the premier dramatic critic of England. One stroke of Mr. Scott's pen can make or mar a theatrical reputation. He is credited with having snuffed out several new plays at leading London theatres, despite all spectacular effect could achieve to make them a success. As a journalist he is brilliant. His descriptive articles throb with life. His patriotism must have extinguished his sense of the artistic when he indited a jingle to "England's Queen and Victoria."

The Recorder of Dublin is a very conscientious man. He is a Mr. Falkiner of Mount Falcon, near Borrisokane. Off the bench he is one of the most prominent advocates of total abstinence in Ireland. When persons of questionable sobriety attend his court they try to sneak into his good graces by pinning a blue ribbon in their button hole. He is a clever, clear-headed lawyer, but his judgments are often tempered so with common sense and kindness that he is the despair of the Dublin bar. He is without compare the best abused man in Dublin. The articles which appear on him from time to time in the daily papers are gross outrages on the liberty of the press. Last week Messrs J. & B. Freeman, veterinary surgeons, sued the Right Hon. Joseph M. Moles for £18 9s. 0d. due to them for horse medicine, fees, &c. Alder. Moles put in a counter claim for £50 damages for the loss of a horse which, owing to negligence on the part of the plaintiffs or their servants, was injured at the entrance to their exercise ring. Mr. Freeman stated that about thirty horses were led into the ring every day and they never heard a complaint before. The Recorder said he would reserve judgment until he had visited the premises of Messrs. Freeman and personally inspected the construction of the entrance to the exercise ring. Have you a judge as painstaking as that in Canada? CHARLES DAYTON.

A LIPSA SAVED.—Mr. James Bryson, Cameron, states: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs, and was given up by the physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Foster's Kidney Pills, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on his advice, I procured the medicine, and less than a half bottle cured me; I certainly believe it saved my life. It is with reluctance that I consented to try it, as I was reduced to such a state that I doubted the power of any remedy to do me any good."

A Distinguished Convert. A United States dispatch says: Ex-Governor Woodson, of St. Joseph, Mo., was baptised by Right Rev. Bishop Burke, assisted by Father A. Newman, of the Cathedral, that city. The ceremony was performed at the ex-Governor's residence in the presence of his family. The distinguished convert some twenty-five years ago was Governor of Missouri and made one of the best chief executives the state has ever had.

NERVOUS PROSTRATION. The Barometer of Health is the Nervous System. Headache is Not Brain Disease—Don't Make the Same Mistake as so many Others—Use Dodd's Kidney Pills and get Cured. Nervous condition is the natural barometer of health. If you want to know your exact standing in the scale, consult your nervous system. If you lack pluck, courage, energy, there is something wrong. If you feel shaky you may be sure of it. Nineteen times out of twenty faulty kidney work is at the bottom of every ailment. The proof of this lies in the fact that Dodd's Kidney Pills—entirely and purely as kidney medicine—cure in that proportion of cases. Don't imagine that because your head aches that the trouble is where the pain is felt. It is quite as easy to make the same mistake when your misery takes any other form. It is safer to assume that your kidneys need help, and take Dodd's Kidney Pills, than to take the risk of any delay. D-day may cost you a wearing sickness, or it may cost you your life, while Dodd's Kidney Pills only cost 50 cents a box. In matters now what all you will forget the name of your trouble after you have been cured. The best proof that you need kidney treatment is when you have been cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

British America Assurance Com'y 62nd ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of the shareholders of the British America Assurance Company was held at its head office, in Toronto, on Thursday the 13th inst. The President, Mr. Geo. A. Cox, occupied the chair, and Mr. P. H. Sims, the Secretary of the company, was appointed Secretary. The directors' report showed that there had been a moderate gain in premium income in the first branch over 1895, without any corresponding increase in losses, so that a very satisfactory profit was shown on the year's transactions. In the marine branch, in common with all others engaged in lake under-writing, the company had suffered from the unusually heavy losses of the past season, due in part to the unprecedented low water on our inland lakes and rivers which prevailed during the entire season, and partly to the exceptionally disastrous storms in the closing months of lake navigation. The earnings from interest show a slight gain over those of 1895. The following is a summary of the financial statement: Premium receipts \$1,506,803.90 Interest account \$44,614.54 Total income \$1,551,418.44 Losses incurred \$ 981,073.13 Expenses including commissions, taxes and all other charges \$16,567.32 \$1,424,849.45 Dividends to shareholders \$ 82,500.00 Total assets \$1,507,349.45 Total liabilities (including capital stock) \$30,425.40 Reserve fund \$ 830,125.05 Cash capital \$ 700,000.00 Security to policy holders \$1,707,119.05

The Secretary having read the directors' and auditors' reports, the President said: "I am pleased to avail myself of this opportunity to supplement the necessarily brief remarks contained in the report by a few words relative to what appear to me as the most noteworthy features of the business of the past year. First, let me say in regard to the largest and most important department of the company, the fire branch, that it is seldom that companies in Canada have been called upon to face a more propitious opening to a year's business than that of the one under review. The two large fires in Toronto in January, which were referred to at the shareholders' meeting in February last, were followed by a third and equally serious one early in March. The aggregate loss by these fires was close upon two and a quarter million dollars, and the amount paid by insurance companies, in round figures, one million six hundred thousand dollars, or nearly one fourth the entire year's Canadian premiums received by all the companies doing business in the Dominion. What our share of the magnitude of these disasters, were not excessive, their effect, nevertheless, combined with rather heavy losses from other quarters during the same period, was to create a very considerable adverse balance on the first three months' operations of 1895, and to present at the end of that term a very doubtful prospect of any profit being realized from the fire business for the year. The experience of each succeeding month, however, was more favorable than might have been anticipated, and the directors had the satisfaction of seeing, as the year progressed, a steady gain in income over expenditure, and an ultimate profit balance of some seventy thousand dollars upon the business of this department at the closing of the books. This result is in fact the result of the largely attributable to the favorable experience of the company in the United States, and it affords a forcible illustration of the advantages which a company derives from a widely extended business, in providing for exceptional losses, such as are liable to occur in any of our large business centres. Passing to the marine branch, the business of which is confined chiefly to the insuring of hulls and cargoes on the great lakes, it will be unnecessary to say to any one who has been sufficiently interested in the lake carrying trade to have noted the casualties recorded during the past season that we have just passed through a year which has been unprecedented, both in the number and magnitude of its losses. From the opening of navigation till its close we have had to contend with the dangers arising from the lowest water ever experienced on our lakes, resulting in almost daily straggling in the river channels; with the full months of more than usual prolific in storms, which brought disaster upon many of what were regarded as thoroughly seaworthy craft. When I add that within one single period of ten days in the month of November, steamers in Canada were called upon to pay \$60,000 for losses on Manitoba grain cargoes (independently of the value of the vessels carrying them) it will be readily apparent that the pressure received in this branch were not sufficient to meet the losses, and that as a consequence we, in common with all others engaged in this line of business, are transacting the business of the year with a materially affected outcome of the past year's business of the company, its effect will, it is believed, also be to place inland marine underwriting upon a more satisfactory basis as to risk for the coming season."

It will be interesting to shareholders to know that the fire business of the present year has opened favorably, but perhaps the most gratifying feature regarding our present position is the steady growth in our Canadian income—particularly when considered in connection with our low ratio of losses. During the past two years as compared with the average results of all companies doing business in Canada—for the best recommendation a company can have abroad is evidence, such as this affords, of the public confidence in the value of its stock. The officers to policyholders, namely: The sum of its reserve fund (\$830,125.05) and its paid-up capital (\$700,000), making in all \$1,530,125.05, in assets of unquestionable character, is, I feel assured, such as to continue to command for it an increasing share of public patronage. In closing, I must express the directors' appreciation of the work of our officers and field force during the past year as well as of the services of our local representatives throughout Canada and the United States, who, as a matter of course, the officers of the management is building up the business of the company. The Vice-President seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks was passed to the President, Vice-President and directors for their services during the past year. The following gentlemen were elected to the office of directors for the coming year: Gen. A. Cox, J. J. Kenny, Rev. S. G. Wood, S. F. McKinnon, Thos. Long, John Henkle, G. C. L. D. H. M. Pullen, R. Jeffrey, A. Brown. A motion was duly submitted by Mr. Geo. A. Cox was elected President and Mr. J. J. Kenny, Vice-President.

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICE. FRIDAY, the twenty-first day of February next, will be the last day of receiving petitions for private bills. FRIDAY, the twenty-eighth day of February next, will be the last day for introducing private bills. THURSDAY, the twelfth day of March will be the last day for receiving reports of committees on private bills. CHARLES CLARKE, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, Jan. 14th, 1896.

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BOOK REVIEW.

THE COMRADE OF ENGLISH PROTESTANTISM. By A. F. Marshall. H. A. Oxon. Now, revised edition. New York, Boniger Brothers.

Some readers may possibly anticipate a certain feeling of disappointment from a glance at the title of this volume. Those who already know the writer's worthy southern and general style may consider the title not the happiest that could have been chosen; but they will have full confidence in his judgment in the proper treatment of a subject in which he—in common with thousands of Catholics and adherents of the English Establishment—has deeply interested himself. In truth the subject is no serious one and has been written upon and spoken about by so many intensely serious people, that the author is rather to be commended upon the effective admixture of comedy—or should we not say attractiveness—which he has here imparted to it. The great question of the reunion of Christendom, full of interest as it is for all Christian people, may possibly be overdone by disputation and grave debate, except by the most prudent and experienced writers of our time. There have been too many important articles and speeches lately appearing from Anglican bishops and clergymen on the Anglican side. Anglican debate has warmed up the Non-Confessionists, and Roman Catholics have thus heard much to interest them concerning the impossibility of reunion with the Holy See. These contributions to the subject of reunion have, naturally enough, perhaps, thrown the problem of Protestant reunion as a separate question, into the shade. The argument of Mr. Marshall's work seems to be that the shortest way for the Church to return to the unity of Christendom is to seek for common ground amongst themselves. That road must logically lead to the reunion which takes the form of a verbatim short-hand report of a meeting in Exeter Hall, London, where there is assembled a Grand Council of all the sects in Great Britain to the rescue of the Church of England. I presentatives are there of the Ritualists, Low Church party, Broad Churchmen, Wesleyans, Methodists, Salvation Army, the Home Mission Society, the Independent and Baptist churches. The more the delegates discuss their unapparent divisions the more evident does it become that the portions of truth lacking in this sect and that cannot be supplied by any branch of Protestantism. After a while the opinions are expressed with more frankness, and by the time the Wesleyan delegate, Rev. Walter Sterling, takes the platform, the reader has become so wrapped up in the debate that he cannot put the book aside until he has finished it. Indeed the personal will well repay the most careful reader as the speeches cover practically, although of course briefly, not only the whole history of Christian Britain, but the unity, catholicity and continuity of the Roman Catholic Church from St. Peter to Leo XIII. The Wesleyan delegate is an admirable debater, and his earnestness in preparing the Council for hearing an Irish Catholic, invited to come upon the platform from amongst the audience. Later comes Prof. Millmay, of Oxford, who, while seeming anxious to agree with the members of the Council respects them on every possible point. He goes into the early history of the Catholic Church in England, and establishes that Christian unity under the Popes existed then and cannot exist again until the true conditions of unity are restored. One very curious feature of the work is the completeness with which references are made to old and modern authorities. For example the references are exact that from the time of William the Conqueror down to Henry VIII, there was on the part of the English kings no acknowledgment of the moment of the spiritual supremacy of the Popes.

The book will be prized by anyone who is really interested in the present movement within the Church of England back towards Rome. Nothing is left to be desired in regard to the printing and binding.

A LADY AND HER LETTERS: By Katherine E. Conway. Pilot Publishing Company, Boston.

The "complete letter-writer" may have passed into the cold shades of contempt more than a little while ago; but the fact remains that the art of writing a readable letter to a friend, or a correct letter of a business or formal character, still remains but imperfectly understood. Here, however, we have the "complete letter-writer" to public confidence. A woman of education, gentle nature and large experience of the world, writes a dozen or more chapters for the benefit of young women who else their inexperience in the hundred and one ways of life-day that their grandmothers never dreamed of. We have read these letters with interest and pleasure; especially with pleasure since the excellent motto of Miss Conway is to do nothing but to preserve those ties that to the home, no matter how far distant the conditions of their occupation may keep them from it. "What a delight to the homesick sojourner in a distant city or a strange land are long, intimate and warm-hearted letters from home!" she writes. "And she should at least equal to the home dwellers, especially if their circle of relations be small, and their lives uneventful, are the letters from the absent dear one, descriptive of a larger life and of unfamiliar scenes and customs." Of course the natural love existing between members of the same family, or the friendship of friends, will always inspire the written page in such cases; yet the hints and suggestions here thrown out are often in startling sympathy with that longing expectation of a letter, or the sense of relief and pleasure awarded by the oft-re-read family letter, if it be well written. But if not! Dull disappointment and uneasiness for the time being, gradually frequent interchanges and leading conversations of frequent nature. Miss Conway knows it all. More than that, she writes it with so tender a touch that most women's hearts must melt under it. Then, again, young women living amongst strangers have a hundred different sorts of letters to

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write. There is advice—prudent, friendly, experienced advice—about all of them. And there is still something better—the letters a young lady should not write. This is a most important point, and what to do with letters that should not be replied to. Indeed, Miss Conway has entered into all difficulties, large and small, of a lady's correspondence, and by what she has to say, both positively and negatively, there are few young women who will not obtain profit. We warmly recommend the little volume, which should have a place in every Catholic young lady's collection.

MAGAZINES. Review of Reviews. "The Progress of the World," the editorial department of the Review of Reviews is a most lively and vigorous in the February number. Its paragraphs are packed with information about Venezuela, British Guiana, South Africa, and Canadian politics, to say nothing of its comment on the American financial situation and the outlook of the immediate national importance. The department is illustrated with the usual number of timely portraits and maps. The Venezuelan Commission, as it meets for its business sessions in Washington, is a dignified and propitious body of men. Photographs of the group has been made for the frontispiece of this number.

North American Review. Under the caption of "The Anglo-American Imbrolio," the North American Review for February opens with two noteworthy articles, the first being from the pen of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and entitled "The Venezuelan Dilemma," and the other by "The American Commonwealth," who graphically describes "The British Feeling" on this very important question.

Nuptials. The always interesting event of a wedding attracted quite a congregation to St. Basil's Church, 1030 a.m., when the nuptial Mass was celebrated on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Jas. J. Quarry of Ann Arbor, Mich., to Miss Josephine L. Harrison, daughter of the late John Harrison, Esq., of Parkhill, Ont. The Rev. Father Ryan, C.S.B., officiated. The bride, who was becomingly attired in a brown tailor-made costume, was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. Frank Caverhill of Montreal. Miss Quarry, sister of the groom, attended the bride and Mr. Gibbs of Parkhill assisted the groom.

The wedding party, which consisted of the near relatives only of the bride and groom, partook of a sumptuous wedding breakfast at "The Queens." The newly-married couple, with a family train for the West, followed by the heartfelt good wishes of their many friends.

OBITUARY. MRS. MARGARET SMITH, TORONTO. Mrs. Margaret Smith, relict of the late ex-Alderman John Smith, died at her residence, 44 Isabella street, on Friday night, the 14th instant. Though she had been some time in declining health, she was not considered serious, and the announcement of her death came upon those who knew her with painful surprise. She had lived on Isabella street for forty years—herself and her husband locally—the first ten years of her life being spent in the home of her father, Mr. Smith, who was possessed of a kind and sympathetic nature, which was always accessible, especially to those in need. Her special means endeavored to dispense her bounty with a generous hand; and she never knocked at her door in chilled demand. Her warm heart went out in charity to the distressed and suffering; and many there are who will miss her cheering word and timely aid, now lost off by the grim reaper, who spares not age or sex.

The funeral took place on Monday to St. Basil's church, where a requiem Mass was said by Rev. Father Brennan, Rev. Father O'Donohue and Mr. Reith. The deceased and her remains were placed in the vault of the family in St. Michael's cemetery close to the remains of her husband. Three sons and five daughters are left to mourn the loss of a mother whose loving care they shared to the end of her useful and edifying life. May her soul rest in peace.

MR. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, OF OTTAWA. Mr. Michael Sullivan, one of the oldest and most respected residents of Ottawa, died at the advanced age of 86 years. The deceased has been in failing health lately, the result of old age, which was the cause of death. The deceased was born in the county of Cork, Ireland, and when a young man came out to this country settling first near Toronto, where he lived for about five years. He then moved to Ottawa, which was rather rough country then, nearly half a century ago. He was married after settling in Ottawa to Miss Catherine McCoy, who survives him with six children, four sons and two daughters. The family

Western Loan and Savings Company. The stock of this well-known institution has always been quoted favorably in financial circles, and its investments have never failed in profitable yields to depositors and shareholders. The year just closed was one in which much difficulty was experienced in placing loans to advantage; yet the "Westerns" has succeeded in putting large sums where the gain helped to swell the dividend, and to give our stockholders a return of 100 per cent. The net profits for 1895 were \$144,475.00, of which \$122,492.30 was divided among the shareholders, and \$22,072.70 carried to contingencies. The result of the year's business is a most gratifying one, and the President, in his report, has said that the "Westerns" will be found in another column.

Trusts Corporation OF ONTARIO And Safe Deposit Vaults. Bank of Commerce Building, King St. TORONTO. Capital, \$1,000,000. Hon. J. C. Aikin, P.C., President. Hon. Sir R. J. Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Hon. S. O. Wood, Vice-Presidents.

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Seed\$ That Raise Money Largest and most complete CATALOGUE OF Good Seeds, Pretty Flowers, and Farm Implements issued in Canada. SENT TO YOU FREE WRITE US IT WILL PAY The Steele, Briggs Seed Co. MENTION THIS PAPER TORONTO, ONT. TELEPHONE 5087.

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P. J. BROWN, M.D. Cor. Queen St. East and Carlaw Ave. Office hours—10 a.m. to 12 a.m.; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. AN IRISHMAN SAID "THAT TO SOLDER THIS TO THAT AND THAT TO THIS," The Wiping Wire, or 1-2 and 1-2 Solder MANUFACTURED BY W. G. HARRIS. WAS THE BEST. 25-31 WILLIAM STREET. TELEPHONE 1720.

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CATHOLIC SOCIETIES.

C. M. H. A.

Branch 49—Grand Master.

Cameron Hall was crowded, and scores were unable to find even standing room on the evening of Tuesday, 13th, when Branch 49, C.M.H.A., held its third annual musicale. It was as fine an audience as could be assembled by a first class musical society...

hour pointed out the many benefits flowing from membership in the grand Order which he had the honor of presiding over in Ontario. In glowing and enthusiastic words he predicted the wonderful strides it had made in the twelve years of its existence until it had now numbered 35,000 members and had paid last year over \$225,000 in death claims...

It is expected this Court will commence with fifty charter members and that after a short time it will have reached the hundred mark.

C. Y. L. L. A.

A most pleasant evening was spent by the members of the Catholic Young Ladies Literary Association on Monday the 10th inst. Dr. Dwyer of St. Michael's Hospital addressed them on this occasion, taking for his subject "Respiration." Only one fault was found with the lecture—that it was much too short...

On Monday evening Feb. 17th, Division No. 1, Ancient Order of Hibernians organized a Ladies Auxiliary in connection with their Division. The meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. M. B. M. Rosch, Guard, Miss C. Carnoy.

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At the last meeting of St. Mary's Commandery No. 216 Knights of St. John, the following officers were duly installed for the year 1896: President, Jas. Whelan; 1st Vice-President, Chas. O'Brien; 2nd Vice-President, Jas. Enright; Rec. Secy. Wm. Hogan; Fin. Secy. T. A. McIntyre; Messenger, P. C. Rossiter; Sergeant at Arms, Jas. E. O'Reilly; Board of Trustees, Sir Knights J. Furlong, P. Herbert, Chas. O'Brien, Jas. McEvoy and John Whelan.

VENEZUELA AND THE VATICAN.

Text of an Address from the President of the Republic to His Holiness.

The following is a copy of the letter addressed by the President of Venezuela last year to the Pope on the failure of the proposal that his Holiness should arbitrate on the boundary dispute which has since assumed such a grave complexion: "Most Holy Father—When in the June of last year through the intervention of His Excellency Monsignor Torri, the diplomatic representative of the Holy See in this Republic, and by means of a special communication directed by my orders to his Eminence the Cardinal Rampolla, I prayed for the intervention of your Holiness to obtain the consent of England to a transaction proposed shortly before by the Government of Venezuela for the final settlement of her boundaries towards the Colony of Demorara, I was entirely convinced that the good will of your Holiness would express itself in the same certain and decided manner in which it has always been displayed whenever there has been question of measures tending to the welfare of nations and the peace of the world.

Father Ryan at Brockville.

On Sunday week St. Francis Xavier church, Brockville, was well filled by a large congregation to listen to Rev. Father Ryan of Toronto. Father Ryan was called to the pulpit about eight o'clock, and for over an hour held the audience spellbound by the masterly and scholarly way in which he handled his subject. He took for his text the following words: "Blessed is he who understandeth concerning the needy and the poor, the Lord will deliver him in his evil day."

Wedding at Arthur. In St. John's church, Arthur, on Monday before last, took place the marriage of Mr. W. J. Riordan, of Peel, son of Mr. Timothy Riordan, of this village, to Miss Honorah O'Donnell, daughter of Mr. Thomas O'Donnell, 8th son of Arthur township. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. Father Dube, who also was the celebrant of the nuptial Mass. A large number of friends and acquaintances of the bride and bridegroom assisted at the services. The bride, modestly—but very becomingly attired, was attended during the nuptial ceremony by her sister, Miss Margaret Ann O'Donnell, a similar service being very graciously rendered the groom by his brother, Mr. Jeremiah Riordan.

The Constitutional Question. In his recent speech at Montreal Sir Charles Tupper said: Sir Alexander Galt had written with his own hand the clause of the constitution that demanded on behalf of the Protestant minority of Quebec a guarantee that would prevent the rights of any minority, whether Protestant or Catholic, being invaded by a majority of a different kind. (Applause.) The constitution provided that in case the Local Legislature infringed upon or took away the right of the minority, its power ceased, and it became a matter for the Federal Parliament. Sir John Thompson, previous to the session of the Privy Council, had stated that he was prepared to stand by the decision of the court, and that was a position that the (the speaker) held, that every man in Canada, whether Protestant or Catholic, was bound to maintain.

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