

## HISTORY OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

By the Abbé J. E. DARRAS.

(Translated from the French for the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.)

## § IV.—MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS.

## 19.—POLICY OF HEROD RELATIVE TO THE MAGI.

THE illustrious worshippers, whom the East sent to the Crib of Bethlehem, were strangers to the passions at that time agitating Judea, from the throne of the aged Herod, down to the tent of the shepherd. Even had not the Evangelist informed us that they came from a distant region, the boldness with which they express themselves, without any concern as to the anger they may awaken in the breast of the tyrant, would be a sufficient proof. Their sincerity is as evident to us as it was to Herod himself. It forms around the Gospel narrative a guarantee of incontestable authenticity. The Jews, during the past thirty years, victims of the inexorable cruelty of the Idumean King, must have trembled for the life of the noble strangers; and this feeling, doubtless, was mingled with the emotion, which, in view of the national hopes, the arrival of the Magi excited among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The conduct of Herod in these circumstances, is in keeping with all that history tells us of his insidious policy, profound dissimulation, and cunning tricks. He was deeply interested to know the private opinion of the Sanhedrim, of the Priests, and of the Scribes, with regard to the mysterious King, expected by the whole of Judea. The Messianic traditions, familiar to the Hebrew race, brought up in the study of the Law and the Prophets, appeared, to the eyes of the monarch, under a very different aspect from the reality. We have already said that Herod had designed to turn them to advantage for the benefit of his power, and that his courtiers, under the name of Herodians, applied to the royalty of their master, the prophetic characters of the empire of Christ. This flattery, attested by Josephus, implied in Herod an absolute ignorance of the traditional details, therefore, the eagerness with which he seeks to profit of the impression produced by the arrival of the Magi, to inform himself officially on the import of the national hopes. The convocation of the Priests and the Scribes was a measure doubly skilful; on the one hand, it instructed Herod as to the precise point over which his tyranny would henceforth have to extend its vigilance; on the other, it afforded to his distrustful character the opportunity of measuring, from the Doctors, individually, the degree of importance that each one attached to the prophecies, and consequently, the devotion, more or less sincere, that he professed for the existing régime. This policy aided the designs of the tyrant much better than a premature severity could have done. And for this reason, he affects towards the Magi a system of hypocritical sympathy. "Go, he says to them, and diligently inquire after the child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I also may come and adore him." Unwittingly, the noble strangers would thus have become, as it were, instruments for forwarding the views of the old king. The "Interrogate Diligenter" of Herod, is a master-piece of duplicity and knavery. To baffle this perfidious scheme, the Magi, when they shall have laid at the feet of the Infant Jesus, the productions symbolical of their native country,—the gold of royalty, the frankincense of divinity, the myrrh of mortal humanity,—will return by another way, into their own country. The Son of Mary will be carried into Egypt, and the sanguinary projects of the tyrant will have their realization too late.

## NEW CARDINALS.

DEC. 27.—The Pope in the Consistory of the 22nd, created the following Cardinals:

In the order of Priests:—1. Mgr. Ignazio do Nascimento Moraes Cardoso, Patriarch of Lisbon, born at Murça, archdiocese of Braga, on the 20th of December, 1811.

2. Mgr. René François Régulier, Archbishop of Cambrai, born at St. Quentin, 1st of June, 1795.

3. Mgr. Maximilian de Tarnoczy, Archbishop of Salzburg, born in Schwatz, 24th of October, 1806.

4. Mgr. Flavio de' Principi Chigi, Archbishop of Mira in Partibus, Nuncio in France, born at Rome, 31st of May, 1810.

5. Mgr. Alessandro Franchi, Archbishop of Thessalonica in Partibus, Nuncio in Spain, born in Rome, 25th of June, 1819.

6. Mgr. Mariano Fallcinelli Antoniaci, of the Benedictine Order, Archbishop of Athens in partibus, Nuncio in Austro-Hungary, born at Assis, 16th of November, 1806.

7. Mgr. Mariano Barrio y Fernandez, Archbishop of Valencia, born at Jaga, 22nd of November, 1805.

8. Mgr. Luigi Oreglia di Santo Stefano, Archbishop of Damaita in partibus Nuncio in Portugal, born at Bene, diocese of Mondovi, 9th of July, 1828.

9. Mgr. John Simor, Archbishop of Gran, born in Alba Reale, 23rd of August 1813.

10. Mgr. Joseph Hippolyte Guibert, Archbishop of Paris, born at Aix, 13th of December, 1802.

In the Order of Deacons:—11. The Most Rev. Father Camillo Tarquini, of the Company of Jesus, born at Marta diocese of Montefiascone, 27th of September, 1810.

12. Most Rev. Father Tommaso Martinelli, of the Order of Eremites, of St. Augustine, born at Lucca, on the 3rd of February, 1827.

Of these twelve Cardinals, the eldest is the Archbishop of Cambrai, Cardinal Régulier, born in 1795, and now 78 years old; and the youngest is Mgr. Oreglia, the Nuncio in Portugal, who was born in 1828, and is but 45 years of age.

Seven members of the Pope's Noble Guard left Rome on the evening of the 22nd to carry the hats to the Cardinals in foreign countries.

## IRELAND IN 1873.

(Correspondence, 'Boston Pilot.')

DEATH has been pretty busy amongst us in 1873. The Catholic Church has lost two venerable Bishops, Dr O'Brien, of Waterford and Lismore, and Dr Feeny, Bishop of Killala. Many excellent priests, too, have passed from amongst us, including the lamented Canon Roche.

The ranks of the laity have been thinned by the demise of the following, amongst many others, men of eminence:—Lord Kilmaine, Sir Beresford McMahon, Sir W. Verner, M.P.; Major L. E. Knox; Jonathan Henn, Q.C.; Sir J. McClure, Lord Athlumney, Canon Forde, Mr Lefanu, Mr James Haughton, Mr McCann, ex-M.P. for Drogheda; the Right Hon. Lowry Corry, M.P.; Sir Francis Knox Gore, Bart.; Lord Annull, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr V. O'B. O'Connor, and many others.

Amongst the memorable incidents of the year is the dedication of the national Cathedral of Armagh, which was attended by the Cardinal and a large number of Bishops and clergy, and by 30,000 people, who subscribed £10,000 on the occasion. Rathkeale, Edgeworthstown, and the other handsome churches were also opened with great ceremony. The Callan Schools, the controversy in the National Board, the proceedings in the House of Commons, the Select Committee, the change of rule, and the refusal of the Board to recognise the claims of Mr O'Keefe, are incidents in the year of which the last has yet to be seen. Politically, the country had but two exciting topics before it in the year. The University Bill at the opening, and Home Rule at its close. The defeat of the former by the small majority of three votes, led to the resignation of the Ministry, who, however, were recalled, Mr Disraeli being unable to form a Ministry and accept office with the present House of Commons. The passing of Fawcett's Bill abolishing tests in Trinity College was a consequence of the defeat of the Irish University Bill. The Catholic Bishops, Trinity College, the Catholic University, the Queen's University, the Dublin and other Corporations, and the Presbyterians, and other religious bodies, were all set in active motion during the pending discussion of the University Bill, in February and March. Recently, the Catholic Bishops have reorganised the Catholic University, and increased its staff, so as to raise favorable hopes of its entering on a career of increased practical usefulness.

The discussion of the Home Rule programme has yet to come, and the general election once over, that question will be one of the first taken up by the Imperial Parliament. All Irishmen must be deeply interested in the result.

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The political ledger of the year will be closed to-day, and before opening a fresh page it may be well to see how the account now stands. There are few entries of a remarkable kind, but viewed as a whole it is by no means discouraging. It is satisfactory to be able to state that the shock of a financial crisis, which has been felt severely in great centres of commerce, has not brought any disaster upon the stable trade of Ulster, though it certainly checked its prosperity. The linen manufacturers and merchants have held their ground, though they shared in the general depression produced by the panic among their best customers in America, and their prospects are now improving. The commercial tone of the country is good. It is a noticeable fact that, although the linen manufacture has been less active, the traffic return on the northern lines, as well as on the Irish railways generally, have continued to improve. The increase in the carriage of goods is a certain indication of a steady and regular development of local industry and enterprise. Some important public works also bear testimony to the march of improvement. Among the most remarkable are the new harbor of Greenore, which was opened last summer, new docks at Limerick and Waterford, and the Spencer Dock, which has been called for by the increasing trade of the port of Dublin. Another work is in contemplation by the Government—the improvement of the Shannon. The city of Dublin continues to exhibit on all sides substantial proofs of prosperity. New banks and other buildings, the imposing architecture of which contrasts strikingly with those of a former period, are adding to the beauty of the leading thoroughfares, and the lines of business houses are extending in all directions. There is no change of importance to be noticed in the imports of foreign grain, but more flour has been received than last year; and imports of American bacon are on the increase. A very active demand has prevailed for horses, and considerable numbers have been shipped. There has been also a very noticeable increase in the shipments of cattle and sheep.

## THE O'CONNORS AND THE CENSUS.

(Auckland paper.)

To the Editor: Sir—My name is O'Connor. Nothing I think would justify ignorance of the country in which I was born. The name O'Connor, which (I need hardly tell you) was the beginning of a long succession of valorous Irish rulers, is as illustrious as it is ancient. This certainly is no reason why the name should be wantonly dragged into ridicule and contempt through the advertising medium of a census paper. There, I see in the "mode of filling in the form" several males and females bearing respectively the very common and undistinguished names "Thompson" and "Swinton" being dissenters in religion; all made to read and write. But Bridget O'Connor, the last in an unnecessary list of names (and the only Roman Catholic enumerated) is "ticked off" as a domestic servant; and, under the "degree of education," is inserted the humiliating remark, "cannot read or write;" that is to say, an Irish girl, having the good and noble name "O'Connor," is derisively suggested to be classed as one of the most inferior, and expressively the most ignorant, in a specimen census list of twelve persons. It is meant, I suppose, to be ridiculously jocose, and to go through the colony as such, but the empty-headed Government snob, who so intended it, forgets that Bridget O'Connor, amongst many others of her nationality, enables him to draw his monthly "screw."—I am, &c., AN O'CONNOR.

The most trifling actions that affect a man's credit are to be regarded. The sound of your hammer at five in the morning, or nine at night, heard by a creditor, makes him easy six months longer; but if he sees you at a billiard table, or hears your voice at a tavern, when you should be at your work, he sends for his money the next day.—Franklin.