

ST. IGNATIUS AND THE JESUITS.

If ever there was a society, (says the *Liverpool Catholic Times*), in speaking of the recent celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius, which could claim to be proof against adversity, it is the community founded by Ignatius of Loyola. From its very inception it has continually experienced trials and vicissitudes of no ordinary kind. It has struggled against them all, and betrayed a vitality which is indestructible. If we turn to the pages of history we are forcibly reminded that growth and decay are not only the law of individual life but that of society itself. Where are now the great empires which were raised up in antiquity by military art and diplomatic skill? The first Assyrian Empire was destroyed in the flames which consumed Sardanapalus. The second was shattered into pieces by Cyrus, and the Persian Empire which he founded on its ruins has also perished off the face of the earth, overthrown by Alexander the Great. The Macedonian Empire was likewise broken into fragments, and the Roman Empire was laid desolate in the East and in the West. In the same way early historical records show how great cities and powerful societies sprang up in various countries, but in the course of time lost their prestige and completely disappeared. Of those institutions of the past all that now remains is the name. They succumbed in accordance with the general law of decay.

One common feature pervades the story of their last days. When the breath of dissolution set in, no matter how they struggled against it, they went down irretrievably. In view of this an interesting historical problem presents itself to the mind in considering the troubles and difficulties which the Society of Jesus has surmounted, nay, the apparent death from which it has more than once risen to energy. In battling for the Church the Jesuits have gone into the foremost points of danger, and have aroused the fiercest enmity of the foes of religion. The force of intolerance could not go further than it has gone on many an occasion against them. They have been met not merely by open methods of warfare, but by all the forms of opposition that the ingenuity of malevolence could devise, and their opponents have many a time sung pæans over what was believed to be their utter collapse; but the Jesuits have always revived and entered on fresh action with unrelaxed effort.

Macaulay has told in words which have become familiar to every one at all acquainted with English literature now the great Order went forth conquering and to conquer. "In spite of oceans and deserts, of hunger and pestilence, of spies and penal laws, of dungeons and racks, of gibbets and quartering blocks, Jesuits were to be found under every disguise and in every country: scholars, physicians, merchants, serving-men; in the hostile court of Sweden, in the old Manor houses of Cheshire, among the hovels of Connaught, arguing, instructing, consoling, stealing away the hearts of the young, animating the courage of the timid, holding up the crucifix before the eyes of the dying." The history of their struggles is in a fact a record of triumphs.

By a strange coincidence, St. Ignatius was born in the same year as Luther, and the first signal achievement of the society was the effective opposition it offered to the so-called "Reformers." Luther and Loyola have been rather aptly described by a Protestant writer as the action and reaction of that time. Between the Jesuits and the Lutherans there was certainly a most striking contrast. The "Reformers" announced principles destructive of all spiritual authority. The Jesuits affirmed as their first and most important rule complete submission to superior ecclesiastical power. Luther and his followers in showy language appealed to the passions; the Jesuits, whilst not less brilliant, addressed themselves with logical precision to the intellect. Luther was always a boor. The Jesuit was ever refined; his weapons, offensive and defensive, were used with delicacy and discretion, but were not the less keen. His devotion to the cause of religion in times of difficulty since the days of Ignatius, has rendered his name amongst unreflecting Protestants a by-word for deceit. When they have been driven out of countries because of their ability in bearing the brunt of the Church's battle, the Jesuits have returned and faced the terrors of death to secure the salvation of individual souls. Like other priests they have at such critical periods adopted various disguises, and have done so with such success that non-Catholics in many instances supposed them gifted with an occult power somewhat akin to necromancy.

Yet, there have not been wanting Protestants ready to take a just and generous view of their actions and motives. M. Dallas, a Protestant writer, has given to the world an appreciative account of what they have done for religion and civilization in some parts of the world. "These men," he says, "planted the Christian Faith in the extremities of the East, in Japan, in the Molucca Islands; they announced it in China, in Tibet and Further India, in Ethiopia and Caffraria. Others in the opposite hemisphere appeared on the snowy wastes of North America, and presently Hurons were civilized and Canada ceased to be peopled only by barbarians. Others almost in our own days, nothing degenerate, succeeded to humanize new hard featured tribes, even to assemble them in Christian churches in California. They were but a detachment from the body of their brethren, who at the same time were advancing with rapid progress through Cinaloa, among the unknown hordes of savages who roved through the immense tracts to the north of Mexico. Others again in great numbers, from the school of Ignatius, with most inflexible perseverance amidst every species of opposition, continued to gather new nations into the Church, to form new colonies of civilized cannibals, for the Kings of Spain and Portugal, in the horrid wilds of Brazil, Maragnon, and Paraguay. Here truly flowed the milk and honey of human happiness." But it is not merely as missionaries that the Jesuits have laid the civilized world under obligations. From their colleges and schools have gone forth men deeply versed in the most profound sciences, whilst they themselves have shed light on every path of human knowledge. In this country to-day, both in the school and the mission-field, they are giving proof of a devotion worthy of the brightest period in their annals. They may indeed well be stimulated by the example given to them by heroic Jesuit

Fathers who knew how "to die and suffer bravely" here, in the penal times. The blood of Jesuits flowed freely at Tyburn, and nearly every part of England has been consecrated by the trials and sufferings of Jesuits. Fortunately, since those days a happy change has come to pass in this country. Active hostility to Catholicism and to the Jesuits has entirely disappeared, and the Society is able to celebrate the Feast of its founder with the knowledge that it has full freedom to carry out its observances.

CEDAR CREEK REEFS.

(From our own correspondent.)

Ross, October 27.

"WILLIAM TELL."—The value of this property is proved beyond a doubt. At the request of Mr. R. J. Seddon, M.H.R., the manager sent about a half hundred weight of quartz to Wellington, which was crushed and analysed under the supervision of the Mines Department. It was taken promiscuously from a shot in the winze at a depth of 25ft., as the directors wished that a fair average sample only should be sent—not picked specimens,—and by that means the public would be better able to form an estimate of the general body of the lode. The following is a condensed copy of the report of Dr. Hector on the analysis:—"The quartz is white and tends to be crystalline in places. It is marked with patches of iron oxides especially in the casing, and as it is in these rusty portions that the visible gold occurs, a double analysis was made. 1st. Rusty quartz forming about one-tenth of the bulk of the sample, yielded at the rate of 18oz. 4dwts. Ogrs to the ton. 2nd. The result of the crushing of 4½lbs being the bulk of the sample from which the above specimens were taken, was at the rate of 4oz. 13dwt. 15grs to the ton. Quality of gold, 24 carats." Inspector Gordon, of the Mines Department, also reported, as the crushing took place under his direction at Messrs. Mills' foundry, and gave the same yield. The payable quality of the stone may be considered as fairly established, and the hope may be reasonably entertained that the district is destined in the near future to become a most important one, and a safe field for the investment of capital. Even at the present time, considering the ridiculously low prices of shares, an investor would be certain to realise from 200 to 300 per cent before many months. From the many scandalous transactions that have taken place within the last few years on certain reefing fields, it is not surprising that capitalists are cautious in investing in reefs. But the people of Ross, who are all more or less directly interested in their success are determined to put their shoulders to the wheel and to do their best with their limited means to develop the wealth that lies at their doors. Mr. P. Moran has been the successful tenderer, at £2 15s per foot, for sinking the winze another fifty feet, and is down already about ten feet, the reef widening and showing gold freely as he goes down. Shares, 3s 6d.

"Swiss Republic."—A meeting will take place next week, after which tenders will be called for taking out thirty or forty tons of stone, for a trial crushing. Shares, 3s.

"All Nations."—Have finished contract for tunnel and crossed the William Tell and Swiss Republic reefs. They propose inviting tenders for sinking on the Swiss Republic reef, which they crossed in the tunnel. Shares, 1s 6d.

The "Just in Time" and "Welcome" tunnel party are pushing on vigorously with this contract. Charles Parkison, the contractor, is at present an inmate of the Tutara Hospital, suffering from injuries to his collar bone by the falling of a tree.

"Shebnar."—A contract has been let for a tunnel and the party have already set in to work.

"Band of Hope."—An excited individual ran through the town one day last week and withdrew all shares from the market. From inquiries made since, the cause of the excitement arose from the discovery of a reef in the claim by the man prospecting, I have not yet any reliable information as to size or quality. Mr. Murray, the surveyor, has been busy for the last three weeks surveying leases, a plan of which I will forward you as soon as published.

ALLUVIAL COMPANIES.

"Ross United."—The repairs to the turbine are completed, and the whole machinery, pumping apparatus, elevator and turbine, are in perfect working order.

"Prince of Wales."—This claim sued a shareholder in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Hokitika, last Monday, before Messrs. Fowler and Reid, and the Manager, Mr. Joshua Gibson, who is a J.P., and considered one of the smartest managers in Westland, stated in his evidence that he considered a shareholder or director who had a draft sent to him through the Bank for a call had paid it!!! And in answer to the defendant, he could not tell the amount of the liabilities of the Company, nor could he give a rough approximation of them.

"Mout D'or."—A fine young man, a native of Lombardy, Italy, was killed on this claim by the face falling on him last Sunday week, while working.

A very eloquent sermon was preached at High Mass yesterday by the Rev. Father Ahearn on the desecration of the Sabbath, which, unfortunately, is only too prevalent in this neighbourhood, especially among the large alluvial claims, the "boscos" of which are, generally speaking, either indifferent in matters of religion or zealous atheists.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—Rev. H. M. Collison, who killed his wife yesterday, is still alive. If he recovers he will be totally blind. Mrs. Collison was about to go driving with a lady friend when Collison called her back, closed the door and committed the crime. He recently resigned the pastorate of Fullerton Avenue church, the attendance having greatly fallen off on account of his extreme Calvinism. It is believed he brooded over the Church troubles, and seeing a poor prospect for the future, determined, in a fit of momentary insanity, to end the troubles of himself and wife. They leave four small children unprovided for.