

MISSIONARIES IN BUENOS AYRES.

(From the Southern Cross.)

On the Sunday before the Very Rev. Superior of the Passionists took his temporary leave of Buenos Ayres, he, at the request of Rev. Father Gray, C.M., of Lujan recommended to the prayers of his congregation, at Holy Cross Church, that it might please God to increase the number of Irish chaplains in the camp. It was not without good reason that this pious request was made, for it is a notable fact, and one worthy of serious attention, that the number of our Irish missionary priests in this country is gradually diminishing, and if some provision is not speedily made to replace them it is to be feared that our people will be left once more without the spiritual aid of the clergymen of their own country. The little band of valiant soldiers of the cross that Father Fahy brought here for the spiritual direction of our people are fast disappearing. Some of them have died in the ranks while they were yet young, and others are broken in health and exposure to hardships and the inclemency of the weather in the sacred fulfillment of their duty. A few recruits have joined their ranks in these latter years, among whom we may mention the names of Father Grennan, Father Parcell, Father Foran, Father McNerney, and Father Gray, of Lujan; and the Passionist Fathers have been supplementing the action of the Irish chaplains, but, in spite of this, the want of more clergy is urgently felt, and many districts are left for weeks, yea, even months without the succour and consolation of an Irish clergyman who would speak to the people in their own language, and feel for them that deep and undying sympathy which only he can feel who has a thorough knowledge of their character, customs and ways, who has grown up among them and shared in their griefs and their rejoicings. It does not detract from the merits of other clergymen to say that none knows how to touch the chords of an Irishman's heart, and to appeal to his better reason for all purposes of good, like his own Soggarth Aroon.

It is only the Irish priest that can understand thoroughly the Irishman's character, and so temper and restrain his natural qualities, often fiery and impulsive, as to make what might be in less intelligent hands an instrument of evil, the source of great benefit to himself and his fellow man. What have the Irish chaplains done for the Irish people of Buenos Ayres during the past fifteen or twenty years? Rather let us ask what have they not done that was in their power to do? Travel anywhere from Buenos Ayres to Nueve de Julio, and from Santa Fe to Bahia Blanca; enter the richest or poorest abode wherever the Irish or the English language is spoken. You will find everywhere traces of the Irish missionary priest. You will be pointed out the dangerous passes where he was thrown from his horse or carriage in the darkness of the night while in the act of bearing the Blessed Sacrament to the dying Christian, and where he was forced to remain perhaps up to his knees in mud until morning dawned on him. You will be told how he left his home amid storm and rain, and travelled ten, twenty, or thirty leagues on one day, that he might comfort and cheer the wayfarer whom his Creator had summoned to a better world. There is scarcely a family in the camp that has not some such touching reminiscences of the Irish chaplain, and it is not alone for their own people that they have thus sacrificed themselves. They are ready at the call of the children of God of whatever nationality, and many a time have they been roused out of bed of a winter's night in order to succour the native, the Spaniard, the Italian, or the Frenchman, and well and faithfully did they answer to the call without the hope of any earthly reward, or even a simple acknowledgment of their services. We need not refer to the good done by the Irish clergy in building churches and schools, and in promoting education and a friendly understanding and brotherly love among their people.

The influence of their action is felt, but the true value of their services will not be known, nor will their valour and abnegation be fully recognised until the Great Accounting Day. It is to them and to their heroic exertions it is owing that the twofold gift with which God has blessed us—the love of religion and the love of country—has not been entirely erased from our hearts. They have kept alive the sacred fire of faith, but they have also kept alive the smouldering embers of Irish nationality among us. Why? Because, in the first place, they are Irishmen, and they could not be true to their God if they were false to their country. In the next place, they know that the religion of the Irish and their nationality are inseparable. We are Irish because we are Catholics, and we are Catholics because we are Irish, and the moment we cease to be one or the other we cease to be both. We want the men who will preserve the link of our ancient and venerable traditions. We want the sacred minister to keep the fire burning in our hearts as the priest tended the lamp and replenished it in the Jewish temple of God. It is our duty, therefore, to see that such ministers shall not be wanting, and to make due provision for their comfort and maintenance. A few weeks ago, Father Foran wrote to us, stating that he had been invited by his former Bishop in England to return to that country, and that he was strongly inclined to accept the offer, because aged priests in England were fairly provided for, whereas in this country, no such provision is made, and the servant of God sees himself exposed to want and distress when his physical strength is exhausted. Whatever may occur among men of other nationalities, such neglect is entirely foreign to the nature of our people, and we have no doubt that it will be quite enough to suggest the matter for them to take it up practically. A fund should be permanently at hand to enable young Irish missionaries to come to this country, and to supply those who come among us with a respectable means of living. Without some such fund we may expect that in course of time we will be left without Irish chaplains, and then we shall learn, when too late, the real value of those who were always our friends and guides in spiritual and temporal affairs.

To produce real genuine sleep and childlike repose all night, take a little American Co.'s Hop Bitters on retiring. Look for.

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

MR. WARD, an expert in the use of torpedoes, who was selected for New Zealand by the Agent-general, has arrived in the Colony, and reported himself to the Defence Minister. Mr. Ward, who is a pensioner of the Imperial Army, is said to be a specialist in the use of the White-head and fish torpedoes, and it is the intention of the Government to obtain a number of such torpedoes. Mr. Ward's duties will be particularly devoted to torpedo instruction.

The elections for England and Wales are now finished. The Liberals secured 331 seats, the Conservatives 250, and Parnellites 82. For South-east Durham the Liberal candidate (Sir H. Havelock Allan) defeated Sir George Elliott. Two labour candidates have been elected—viz., Mr. Joseph Arch, for North-west Norfolk, and Mr. Charles Fenwick for the Wansbeck division of Northumberland. The new Parliament meets on the 12th January next.

Sir Charles Dilke, addressing a meeting of his constituents at Chelsea last night, denied that the Radical party were anxious to eject the present Government from office and stated his belief that the Liberal party would assist any Government which was desirous of carrying liberal measures.

Advices from Adelaide state that the South Australian crop accounts are very unfavourable, and the quality generally much worse than last season. The Victorian crops are generally reported to be most favourable, though in some districts the accounts are unfavourable, owing to the shortness of the rain-fall.

The demand on the part of the Powers of an armistice does not appear to have been conclusive; and in spite of the dead-lock which has occurred, both Serbia and Bulgaria remain on the defensive.

SATURDAY.

The elections are now concluded, and the final returns are: England returns 244 Liberals, 220 Conservatives; and Wales 27 Liberals and 3 Conservatives. Scotland, 62 Liberals and 10 Conservatives. Ireland, 18 Conservatives and 86 Parnellites. The totals are 333 Liberals, 251 Conservatives, 86 Parnellites. There seems to be no prospect of an alliance between the Moderate Liberals and the Government. It is unlikely that the Liberals will attempt an early expulsion of the Ministry. It is believed in high quarters that the Conservatives have refused to accede to the demands of Mr. Parnell.

It is expected that war between Bulgaria and Serbia will be resumed.

Forty-seven Servians have been shot for having resorted to self-mutilation in order to prevent their taking part in engagements.

King Thebaw, with the Queen and members of his suite, are being conveyed as prisoners to Madras.

An outbreak of what appears to be Asiatic cholera has occurred on board the British India Steam Navigation Company's R.M.S. Dorunda, which arrived at Townsville in Queensland yesterday from London. Up to the present four deaths have occurred, one being an adult and three children. Sixteen persons are now seriously ill, four of whom are apparently dying. One man, who was quite well on Wednesday morning, died before the night. The serious outbreak has occurred since the vessel left Cooktown. It is believed the disease was carried abroad at Batavia.

MONDAY.

Some fine specimens of gold from the Merrivale diggings have been brought to Invercargill. The *Southland News* states that it comprised several good-looking nuggets, one weighing no less than 1oz 3dwt. In Reefton there has also been shown a few ounces of rough shotty-looking gold.

Another fatal accident has occurred in the Mackenzie country. Mr. G. Thomson brother of Mr. A. B. Thomson, of Glentanar station, Lake Pukaki, was drowned on Monday, 7th inst. He had gone across the Lake to Newlands for the mail in a patent canvas boat. His body has not been found, and as there was no wind to upset the boat it is supposed he jumped out when near the shore and sank in a quicksand. His hat and the boat were found floating near the shore. He was about 26 years of age and only recently from Home.

Mr. Fox, Government gold prospector, has received instructions from the Mines Department to join a party of prospectors at Big Bay, on the West Coast. Big Bay is the first bay of consequence north of Milford Sound. Mr. Fox leaves Wellington by the *Stella* on Wednesday.

The *Daily News* has an article on the Irish difficulty, in which a suggestion is made that a conference of the Liberal and Conservative parties, together with representatives of Mr. Parnell's following, shall assemble to consider the subject of political autonomy for Ireland.

News from Townsville states that two more deaths from cholera have occurred on board the Dorunda. There are four additional cases, which are expected to assume serious developments, and the other patients seem now worse than they were on Saturday. The *Victorian Gazette* contains a notice to the effect that in view of the outbreak of cholera all vessels from Queensland ports will be subject to quarantine on arrival at Port Phillip.

Owing to recent civilian attacks, a large party of the King's Royal Rifles broke out of Limerick Barracks on the night of November 10, and made an indiscriminate attack upon the people residing in the vicinity. Several were badly stabbed. The disturbance was with difficulty quelled, and the soldiers conveyed back to their barracks by the police.

A large crowd of factory girls mobbed Charles Edward Lewis, a Conservative member of Parliament, at Londonderry on the 12th. They treated him in a most shameful manner.

A London cablegram of November 8, says that a movement of great importance is being quietly organised among various societies