

responsible for the assertion, and we were absolutely powerless before it unless God had given some distinct sign of denial of it, which He had not done. Did the Law itself contradict it? The Law said there was but one God, but it also said that the Desired of Nations should come, that He should be of the tribe of Judah and the family of David, that He should be born at Bethlehem, that He should be humble and meek, and He accorded with all these prophecies perfectly. But he would appeal to Christ Himself. He had said, "The blind shall see, the deaf hear, and to the poor shall the Gospel be preached." He commanded Nature with the calmness and serenity of a master, and from the whole universe, from towns and deserts, from continents and islands, from past and present there arose the cry, "I believe in Jesus Christ the only Son of God." The temples of idols were shattered, the temple of Solomon itself had crumbled into dust; the Kingdom of Christ alone stood firm, and from all Nature there went up the grand canticle "I believe in Jesus Christ the only Son of God," and finally from the opened heavens above there had come down the solemn impressive words that placed the matter beyond all contradiction, "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."

In conclusion the Bishop congratulated the Catholics of Nelson and their venerable pastor upon the completion of the new building. It must have been a hard day for the latter when he saw the old church so full of blessed recollections and sympathies, burned to the ground, but it must be to him a gratifying sight to see this larger and more suitable building spring, as it were, from its ashes, he congratulated and thanked the Catholics on the West Coast for their liberal assistance, and the priest who had gone there to ask for aid on the success of his mission; he congratulated all the Catholics in the city who had contributed, and the non-Catholics upon the assistance they had rendered, as being a proof that they were not imbued with the absurd materialistic ideas that were floating so thickly in the air; he congratulated the architect on the design, and the builder who had so well, so faithfully, and so perfectly completed his contract; he congratulated the musicians upon the result of their efforts, and finally he congratulated all who were present on so interesting an occasion.

In the evening the Bishop preached from the text "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." He pointed out that faith in Christ alone would not save any man unless he also kept the Commandments. Many believed in Christ as the Son of God but did not follow Him in their actions. We should be judged by our faith and works, and the good works God required from us was to obey His Commandments.

The collections in the morning and evening amounted to £75, and the sale of tickets will add between £50 and £60 more to the building fund.

THE EARLY IRISH SETTLERS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THE founding of Pennsylvania by William Penn, the virtuous Quaker, 200 years ago, was celebrated in many cities of that State on the 22nd of October. Philadelphia, on Monday last, began a week's festivities to commemorate the event, and her streets will witness daily processions of societies of all kinds and nationalities, military, civil, social, and literary, while her nights will be aflame with rockets and illuminations.

It is worth recalling at this time the fact that the Irish element is one of the strongest in the very foundation of the State of Pennsylvania. The Rev. T. A. Spencer, in his "History of the United States" says: "In the years 1771-72 the number of emigrants to America from Ireland alone amounts to 17,350. . . . Within the first fortnight of August, 1773, there arrived at Philadelphia 3,500 emigrants from Ireland; and from the same document which has recorded this circumstance, it appears that vessels were arriving every month, freighted with emigrants from Holland, Germany, and especially from Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland."

Although the Irish were among the earliest settlers in Maryland and Massachusetts, Pennsylvania was the most distinctively Irish of all the colonies. Twenty-three years after the Mayflower passengers landed at Plymouth Rock an Irish emigration took place to Massachusetts, which exceeded in numbers the small Puritan colony which preceded them. But these Irish people were men sold into exile and slavery by the English Government. Prundergast, in his "Cromwellian Settlement," says:—"As one instance out of many: Captain John Vernon was employed by the Commissioners of Ireland into England, and contracted in their behalf with Mr. Daniel Sellick and Mr. Leader, under his hand bearing date Sept. 14th, 1653, to supply them with two hundred and fifty women of the Irish nation above twelve years and under the age of forty-five, also three hundred men above twelve years and under fifty, to be found in the country within twenty miles of Cork, Youghal, Kinsale, Waterford, and Wexford, to transport them into New England."

Here were 550 men and women in the prime of life, purely Celtic in blood, infused into the life of the primal Yankee stock; and these were only a drop in the tide of Irish emigration at that time.

But the emigrants from Ireland to Pennsylvania were voluntary settlers. "In 1727," says the *Philadelphia Gazette*, in Newcastle Government, there arrived last year 4,600 persons, chiefly from Ireland; and at Philadelphia, in one year, 1,155 Irish, none of whom were servants."

In 1728 the number of Irish emigrants landed at Philadelphia was 5,600, "while in the next ten years," says Mr. Bageal, in "The American Irish," "the Irish furnished to the Carolinas and Georgias the majority of their immigrants."

In 1722 the towns of Donegal and Paxton, Pa., were settled by Irish emigrants; and in 1736 the Irish settled the York Barrens.

From December, 1728, to December, 1729, the proportion of emigrants who landed in Pennsylvania was as follows:—England and Welsh, 267; Scotch, 43; Palatines, 243; Irish, 5,655.—"The Irish," says Bageal, "being thus nearly ten to one of all other emigrants taken together, and that proportion was doubtless sustained down to the Revolution."

In 1729, a prominent member of the Provincial Government said:—"It looks as if Ireland is to send all her inhabitants hither. For last week not less than six ships arrived, and every day two or three arrive also."

Mr. Sherman Day, in his "Historical Collection of Pennsylvania," says of the early Irish settlers:—"They were a pertinacious and pugnacious race, pushing their settlements upon unpurchased lands, and producing fresh exasperation among the Indians." Mr. Winthrop Sargent, in his "Tribute to Principles and Usefulness of the Irish and Scotch Early Settlers of Pa.," says:—"They were a hardy, brave, hot-headed race; excitable in temper, unrestrainable in passion, invincible in prejudice. Their hand opened as impetuously to a friend as it clinched against a foe. . . . If they had faults a lack of patriotism or of courage was not amongst the number."

In 1785, Major-General Robertson was examined before a committee of the English House of Commons on the American war, in which he had served. "How," he was asked by Edmund Burke, a member of the Committee, "are the American corps composed?" "Some are mostly natives," was the answer; "the greatest number such as can be got. . . . General Lee informed me that half the rebel Continental army were from Ireland."

But the highest, under Washington, as well the rank and file, were Irish, and the Pennsylvania Irish supplied an unusual share. Major-General Anthony Wayne, General Walter Stewart, General William Thompson, General William Irvine, General Edward Hand, Brigadier-General Stephen Moylan, these were all of Pennsylvania Irish stock.

Nine men of Irish birth or descent signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. Their names were Charles Carroll, Thomas Lynch, George Reed, George Taylor, Edward Rutledge, Mathew Thornton, Thomas McKean, James Smith, and John Nixon.

So we rejoice with Pennsylvania in her 200th celebration, and we rejoice to see the magnificent development of the healthy blood of its early settlers from Ireland.—*Pilot*.

ANOTHER LEGISLATIVE FAILURE.

THE Arrears Act is the latest instance of the utter inability of the British Parliament to legislate properly for Ireland. Here was a measure of beneficent design—conceived, it can scarcely be doubted, with the intention of relieving a host of ruined tenant-farmers from an overwhelming load of debt put upon their shoulders by rackrents and bad seasons, and of giving them a fresh start in life under hopeful conditions. Yet so blunderingly has the statute been framed, and so unsuited are some of its provisions to the circumstances of this country, that at the present moment it bids fair to be even a more glibly legislative failure than Acts of Parliament for Ireland usually are. Its authors coolly assumed that the harvest for 1882 would be a bountiful one, and jumped to the wholly unwarranted conclusion that the harvest for 1881 was sufficient to again set up men who had been struggling with three successive adverse years. Therefore, as a condition precedent for availing of the proffered advantages of the Act, it was provided that a year's rent should first be paid and set to the account of 1881, though, as is well known, thousands upon thousands of the Irish tenant-farmers could no more find the money for the purpose than discover Aladdin's lamp; unless, indeed, they should fall into either of the straits from which the Act itself expressly and in terms professes to guard them—namely, "loss of their holdings, or deprivation of the means necessary for the cultivation thereof." As if this were not balk enough, the "hanging-gale" provision was inserted, which, from the confusion as to its real meaning it has caused, multiplies indefinitely the difficulties about the payment of the year's rent. Then, in a spirit of maladroitness rarely equalled, the 30th of November was arbitrarily fixed as the very last day on which such absolutely necessary payment can be made and the 31st of December the last on which applications under the statute can be received. Thus it comes to pass that an Act which became law towards the end of last August virtually expires for numbers of tenants in arrears about the time they have begun to hear of its existence! In addition, what the needs of the case demanded should have been a statute as simple as a lesson in a child's reading-book is a complicated and mystifying piece of legal draughtsmanship. No wonder, then, that now, at the close of November, applications concerning no more than about £100,000 of arrears have been made although the Prime Minister himself estimated the total of the arrears as between two and three millions! Was ever measure proved to have missed its aim more widely than this? The situation in regard to it is simply preposterous, and cannot be allowed to stand, unless the Gladstone Government and the British Parliament have made up their minds to bear such ridicule as attaches to that King of France who with forty thousand men marched up the hill and then marched down again.—*Nation*.

A correspondent from Paris writes: "Passing along the Rue de Courcelles at an early hour one Sunday morning recently, I met a lady, veiled and in the deepest mourning, with a *paroisien* in her hand. She had evidently just come from early service at the adjoining Church of St. Philippe du Roule. I caught but a glance of her veiled face as she passed; but, though much changed, it was not to be mistaken. It was that of the Empress Eugénie. She has been staying with the Duc du Mouchy at his country seat, and was returning, I presume, after early Mass, to his town residence not far on, in the Parc de Montceau, to which she had come up previous to her departure for England. It was a striking illustration of the vicissitudes of human fortunes to see: one whose slightest appearance used, in former days to create so great a sensation, and who was wont to play so conspicuous a part here, walking solitary, unnoticed, and all but unknown, through the streets of her former capital."