

Dublin Notes.

(From contemporaries.)

ST PATRICK'S Day was celebrated in Rome with great pomp and enthusiasm. Both on Saturday and Sunday several most interesting religious ceremonies took place in connection with the national festival. On Sunday the Rev Patrick Raleigh, O.S.A., in the absence of the Very Rev Prior Glynn, who is at present in Ireland, presented the shamrocks taken from the grave of St Patrick, Downpatrick, to his Holiness the Pope, who most graciously received them, and said that he would wear them over his heart in love for St Patrick and Ireland on our national festival.

Mr Sexton, M.P. presiding at the annual meeting of the *Freeman's Journal* Company, said last year there was an overdraft at their bankers of between £10,000 and £11,000. Not only had that sum been paid, but there was a substantial sum to their credit. The profit was substantial, yet not great enough to enable them to pay a dividend, but the directors, intended not later than the time of the next annual meeting, and possibly before it, to submit a proposal for the payment of a dividend, and to invite the discussion of the shareholders upon it.

On Tuesday, March 19, Most Rev Dr Hoare was consecrated Bishop of the historic dioceses of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. The ceremony was performed by his Eminence Cardinal Logue assisted by prelates representative of all the Irish provinces. A warm welcome has been given to the new pastor by his flock. They know him and they love him. Those who read his Lordship's replies to the various addresses presented to him will have no difficulty in understanding why. They breathe the spirit of charity, zeal, toleration, and patriotism; and there need be no fear that under his Lordship's rule Church and people will find themselves out of sympathy or in conflict in Ardagh. We wish his Lordship many years of fruitful labour for the sacred causes that he holds so dear.

The appointment of Sir Anthony MacDonnell to the Lieutenant-Governorship of the North-west Provinces of India has been learned by his acquaintances in Ireland with much pleasure. He has won the high position which he now occupies by sheer merit. The new Lieutenant-Governor is the eldest son of the late Mark G. MacDonnell, and brother of Dr Mark MacDonnell, M.P. for one of the divisions of Queen's County. He was educated at the Queen's College, Galway, and entered the Indian Civil Service at an early age. He was successively secretary to the Governor of Bengal and of the Bengal Legislative Council, and secretary to the Governor of India in the Home Department, Chief Commissioner in Burmah in 1889, and afterwards Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

The Ulster Unionists are raising another fund to carry on the war against Home Rule. A joint appeal has been issued by the Ulster Convention League, the Ulster Loyalist Union, and the Ulster Liberal-Unionist Association. £10,000 is asked from the Northern province. This is only half the amount that is to be used for purely propagandist work in view of the coming election. The Irish Unionist Alliance is, the appeal states, prepared to co-operate on equal terms. The scope of the operations carried on is described in one paragraph of the appeal. "The work which has been done by our respective associations" runs the appeal, "is well known to you. We have paid close and effective attention to the electoral registers, we have supplied active workers and effective speakers before and during bye-elections, and we have diffused throughout the United Kingdom, in the shape of books, pamphlets, and newspapers, important information in compendious form bearing upon the Unionist cause." This is the nature of attack which the Irish Party has to meet if the interests of the national cause are to be safeguarded. Their foes are well equipped with money, men, and political literature. They carry on the battle for ascendancy everywhere and in every way. They are a solidly united phalanx. They have no renegades or cranks in their camp whispering to the rank and file to cripple their leaders until their own pet fads are carried out. If the Irish people mean to win they will take a leaf out of the enemy's book. Their opponents have wealth on their side, but the people have justice, numbers, and conviction. Let them also secure the strength of union and they will be invincible.

Mr Morley's Bill for the relief of Irish distress is a very brief measure. It simply enables boards of guardians to give out-door relief to persons not hitherto entitled to it, and allows those who accept such relief to do so without risk of disfranchisement. There will be some question of the sufficiency of such a measure. Where there is most distress there precisely will the poor law guardians be most reluctant to increase rates. The poorest counties of Ireland are those where the proportion of paupers is smallest. Donegal is a striking example to the point. The Chief Secretary would have done well both for the relief of distress and the improvement of our leading industry had he accepted the excellent suggestion of Mr Sexton, and provided loans on easy terms for improving tenants. The Labour Commission has thrown light on the distress that exists among the rural labourers in

ordinary seasons, and the deterioration that is proceeding in Irish farming owing to the lack of capital for the making and maintenance of improvements in recent years. If the capital were made easily available to tenants, as it was formerly to landlords, one source of distress and idleness would be removed.

The Archbishop of Dublin has put an end to the political contests between Catholics which were threatened in connection with the election of Poor-Law Guardians for the North Dublin Union. A very serious danger has thus been averted, as division under the circumstances would be ruinous to the interests of the Catholic poor. By his wise and timely action in the matter he has also given greater impetus to the policy of conciliation which is undoubtedly making headway among the people of Dublin. In his letter to Mr Carolan, chairman of the North Dublin Union, deprecating the threatened contests, Dr Walsh says: I am, of course, aware how emphatically it is urged by some ardent political partisans that the difference which at present so unhappily and so ruinously divides our people in the political sphere is not a political difference merely, but that it also has its moral and, therefore, political aspect. Now, there are always Catholics who wish to be more Catholic than the Church. As regards Dublin, so far as my knowledge of public affairs extends, the conflict, in the various forms in which it has made itself in any way seriously felt amongst us since the tragic day of Mr Parnell's death in October, 1891, has turned upon issues that are either exclusively political or exclusively personal. Upon such issues, as upon any others in the whole field of merely political or personal controversy it surely is open to Catholics, in so far as regards their religious duty, to range themselves at one side or the other, according as one side or the other commends itself the more to their political judgment. The one vital moral issue, the importance of which as a matter of Catholic principle outweighed that of all other issues in the case, has through the course of events long since disappeared from its old place of prominence in the dispute. If the present disastrous political division is to be kept up, I for one, feel bound to see that no opportunity is given to keep it up here under cover of an appeal to religion.

THE SITUATION IN MANITOBA.

(From the *Irish World*, March 30.)

It looks as if the Canadian wing of the A. P. A. is bent upon stirring up a religious war in Manitoba. It is the old story of anti-Catholic intolerance, which, in this country, dates back as far as the colonial days. It is more than two hundred years since Maryland, which was the first of the colonies to proclaim religious liberty, fell under the control of a Protestant majority, who signalled their advent into power by proscribing Catholics, whose liberality had offered a place of refuge to the persecuted Puritans of Virginia and to other Protestant sects.

After the lapse of two centuries we see in Manitoba a repetition of what occurred in Maryland when Protestantism gained the ascendancy. It is now twenty-five years since Manitoba entered the Confederation of Canadian Provinces. At that time the population was almost exclusively Catholics of French descent, who demanded and received guarantees that neither their schools nor their language should be interfered with. With this understanding the province became a part of the Dominion.

Some years afterward, in consequence of a large immigration from England and from the other Canadian provinces, Protestants outnumbered the Catholics. It was the experience of Maryland over again. No sooner were the Catholics in the minority than the pledges given to them were trampled under foot. A measure was introduced in the Legislature abolishing parochial schools and substituting for them so-called national schools, which, to all intents and purposes, are Protestant schools.

This flagrant violation of good faith aroused the Catholics to action. They felt they had been tricked and determined to seek redress in the courts. When the matter was brought before the Supreme Court of Canada, that tribunal decided that the Catholics of Manitoba had a constitutional right to their schools. The Manitoba Government, which, at the time, was in the hands of Protestants, appealed from the decision of the Supreme Court to the Privy Council of England, which is the highest tribunal in the realm. The Privy Council, reversing the decision of the Supreme Court, decided that Catholics, as such, had no constitutional rights. Thereupon the Catholics of Manitoba appealed for redress to the Dominion Government, which tried to dodge by asserting that it had no power to interfere.

It was the Catholics' turn to appeal to the Privy Council. That tribunal lately declared that the Catholics of Manitoba have a real grievance, and that it is within the powers of the Dominion Government to grant them remedial legislation. When this decision was rendered, the Catholics made a second application to the Dominion Government. After a bitter fight in the Cabinet, the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Dominion Ministers, issued, a few days ago, an order calling upon the Government of Manitoba to restore the Catholic parochial schools.

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