

BETTER THAN GOLD.

Better than grandeur, better than gold,
 Than rank and titles a thousand fold,
 Is a healthy body, a mind at ease,
 And simple pleasures that always please.
 A heart that can feel for another's woe,
 When the true heart's crushed by a deadly blow,
 With sympathies large enough to enfold
 All men as brothers, is better than gold.

Better than gold is a conscience clear,
 Though toiling for bread in an humble sphere.
 Doubly blest with content and health
 Untried by the lust and cares of wealth.
 Lowly living and lofty thought
 Adorn and ennoble a poor man's cot;
 For mind and morals in nature's plan
 Are the genuine test of a gentleman.

Better than gold is the sweet repose
 Of the sons of toil when their labours close;
 Better than gold is the poor man's sleep,
 And the balm that drops on his slumbers deep.
 Bring sleeping draughts to the downy bed,
 Where luxury pillows its aching head;
 The toiler simple opiate deems
 A shorter route to the land of dreams.

Better than gold is a peaceful home,
 Where all the fireside characters come.
 The shrine of love, the heaven of life,
 Hallowed by mother or sister or wife.
 However humble the home may be.
 Or tried with sorrow by Heaven's decree.
 The blessings that never were bought or sold,
 And centre there, are better than gold.

—By Father A. J. RYAN.

SAINT PATRICK'S VISION.

There is a legend of olden times which tells of a vision seen by the Apostle of Ireland a short while before his death. In that vision he is shown the future of the island for whose good he had dared and done so much. The sight, full of sorrow, of trial, of suffering, of anguish, wrung the Apostle's heart, and he cried aloud in the darkness: "Will God thus cast off His people forever?" and then a voice bade him look into the distant future: for beyond the gloom there was light, and beyond the sorrow there was hope.

Yes; there was light far away in the west—out in the great ocean—far down below the sunset's farthest verge—from westernmost hilltop the New World lay waiting for the light. It came—borne by the hands of Ireland's starving children. The old man tottered with the precious burden from the fever-stricken ship; the young child carried the light in feeble hands to the shore; the strong man bore it to the western prairies and into the vales of the snowy Sierras the maiden brought it into the homestead to be the dower to her husband and a legacy to her children; and lo! ere famine's night had passed from Ireland, the Church of Patrick arose o'er all the vast New World of America, from where the Saint Lawrence pours its crystal tide into the daybreak of the Atlantic, to where California flings wide her Golden Gate to the sunset of the Pacific.

Nearly one thousand four hundred years have passed away. new faiths have arisen, new languages have sprung up, new worlds have been born to man: but those fourteen centuries have only fed the fire of that faith which he taught the men of Erin and have spread into a wider horizon the light to be kindled. And if there be in the great life beyond the grave a morning trumpet-note to sound the reveille of the army of the dead glorious indeed must be the muster answering from the tombs of fourteen centuries the summons of the Apostle of the Gaels.

Nor scarce less glorious can be his triumph when the edge of sunrise rolling around the living earth, reveals on all the ocean isles and distant continents the myriad scattered children of the apostle whose voices, answering that sunrise roll-call, re-echo in endless accents along the vaults of Heaven.—*Irish Catholic.*

Narrow Escape.—"After all," said the man at the end of the discussion, "no man really knows what his neighbours think of him." "I come mighty near knowing once," said the citizen with a reminiscent look in his eye. "but the jury disagreed."—*Indianapolis Journal.*

It does one good (says a contemporary) to see a French newspaper entirely devoted to the cause of Ireland, and we wish a hearty success to *L'Irlande Libre* ("Ireland Free"), the second number of which has just reached us. The only wonder is that the idea of publishing an Irish paper in Paris never struck anyone before now. There is quite a numerous Irish colony in the French capital, there is plenty of good Irish blood flowing in the veins of many a distinguished French family, and even better still, there is a large-hearted sympathy throughout chivalrous France for persecuted Ireland and a grateful memory of brilliant service rendered to France by Irish soldiers. The first article in the present number, which is by the well-known writer, Marcell Prevost, bears the caption "Durez!" ("Hold on.") "Ireland's whole duty at this moment is to keep her eyes fixed passionately on the future, and to 'hold on'—hold on as a nation in spite of the British invasion."

THE results of the Sydney University Examinations (says the Brisbane correspondent of the Sydney *Freeman*), leave our Christian Brothers' Schools unsurpassed. The Catholic people of Queensland may well be proud of the schools conducted by the Brothers. The Brisbane Catholic schools passed 37—29 from the Brothers and 8 from the Convent of All Hallows. The State has been spending upwards of £12,000 per year on 54 junior passes, whilst we can boast of upwards of 37 without a shilling of State aid. The results are a magnificent testimony to the great power of self-sacrifice, as well as the great resources which the Church commands. The heroic exertions of our Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy are worthy of all praise. If our statesmen do not feel ashamed, they ought to; and we are in hopes that ere long our children will not be robbed of their inalienable right to a portion of the money expended in secular education. Does it not appeal to all our people to be on the electoral roll, and when the time comes to strike a blow for freedom in our schools?

The Rev. Father Connolly, who for ten years was associated with the Church of the Sacred Heart, Broken Hill, lately as administrator, and who was recently transferred to Bourke, was on Friday, August 6, at the Town Hall presented by the Mayor, Alderman Holdsworth, on behalf of the citizens, with a handsome illuminated address and a purse containing 100 sovereigns. A large number of subscribers to the testimonial were present, and many felicitous speeches were made. During the morning the Rev. Father Connolly was the recipient of a number of presents from the children attending the various convent schools. He leaves Broken Hill on Sunday night, and will carry with him the esteem of every section of the community.

GENERAL NEWS.

THERE is gratifying news from Norway. After an agitation which began in 1792, and has been vigorously carried on by the little Catholic newspaper, *Olaf*, and by the Vicar Apostolic, Mgr. Fallize, the Storting, by a majority of 77 to 34, has abrogated the law which for so long has excluded the religious Orders and Congregations from the kingdom, the four Lutheran ministers who have seats in the House voting, we are pleased to note, in the majority. Only the Jesuits are still excluded, by special vote which was carried by 63 to 48. The step is, however, a decided advance and completes, with the exception just mentioned, the emancipation of the Norwegian Catholics. Practically, indeed, a large number of nuns were already tolerated in the country, and are doing excellent work. The Orders of men will now be allowed to establish themselves once more in the country of St. Olaf.

In a recent issue we gave the text of the address to her Majesty the Queen, which was signed by the Cardinal-Archbishop and all the archbishops and bishops of Australia. The address was sent through his Excellency the Governor of New South Wales. The principal passage in the address of the hierarchy reads:—"Of the many measures of State policy that have left the impress of their wisdom on your reign, we note with special interest the practical adoption of the great principles of religious equality, by which the free exercise of their religion has been secured to all your Catholic subjects; and we would fain recognise in the manifold blessings which a benign Providence has vouchsafed to bestow upon you and your Empire, the merited reward of such just and enlightened legislation." The reply came through Lord Hampden, and was by him placed in the hands of the Cardinal. It is as follows:—"Government House, Sydney, 6th August, 1897. My Lord,—I have to inform your Lordship that I have received a despatch from the Secretary of State for the colonies conveying an intimation to the effect that the address from the Cardinal-Archbishop and bishops of the Roman Catholic Church throughout Australia, offering congratulations to her Majesty on the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign, was duly laid before the Queen. Her Majesty, who was much gratified by this evidence of the loyalty and esteem entertained towards her by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, commanded that an expression of her grateful thanks should be conveyed to the signatories. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Eminence's most obedient servant, HAMPDEN. His Eminence Cardinal Moran, etc., etc."

His Holiness the Pope has been pleased to confer the knighthood of St. Gregory the Great on Colonel Edward Victor Law, the late British resident of Jeypore, Rajpootana, in recognition of the services he rendered to the Catholic religion whilst in India, by his liberal donations and personal exertions in promoting the erection of churches, and in supporting the Catholic institutions of the places where he happened to reside in the discharge of his duties as a Government servant. "The chapels at Ulwar and Jeypore," writes Father Pius, O.S.F.C., "owe their existence mainly to him, and during his last two years as British resident of Jeypore, besides giving at different times liberal donations to relieve the most pressing want of the newly-established convent school at Ajmere, and spending divers sums of money to beautify our Jeypore chapel, he was pleased to place at my disposal the sum of 2,500 rupees for the erection and decoration of the chapel of our holy founder St. Francis of Assisi, one of the four chapels that are being erected in connection with the cathedral church under construction at Ajmere. I may add that our Most Rev. Father General, on being informed of Colonel and Mrs. Law's piety and zeal for the spreading of our holy religion in Rajpootana and elsewhere, and of their great liberality towards our institutions, in order to give a special token of his good will towards them, granted them previous to their leaving India for England, a diploma of affiliation to the Capuchin Order, which they were made partakers of and sharers in all spiritual good performed by its members of both sexes." Colonel Law is a brother of the saintly Father Law, S.J., who died some years ago in the African mission of the Zambesi.