

tion of our politics? If such a fact has never existed during our entire history, is it not a little silly 'to fear where there is no fear'? Is there anything more supremely ridiculous than the bugaboo that the Pope or the Church is reaching out to control 'every rational or intentional act, including the casting of a ballot?' A simple fact may explode the most pretentious theory. Many true-blue "pat-tree-ols" would not understand an explanation of the office of the Pope; you might supply them with argument but not with intelligence. The advantage of the paragraph which we quote is that so little intelligence is required to understand it.—*Ave Maria.*

The Irish pilgrims, conducted by Father Glynn, Superior of the Irish Augustinians who serve the Church of St. Patrick in Rome, went on Thursday, October 7, to the Vatican to attend the Papal Mass in the Sixtine Chapel. Some 500 other persons were likewise admitted to the service. The Pope was borne into the chapel on a carrying-chair at half-past eight, accompanied by several prelates, including Mgrs. Stonor and Scott. During the Mass and the solemn thanksgiving, at which the Pope's chaplain officiated, the choir of the Sixtine Chapel performed some exquisite motets. Afterwards the Pope returned to the altar, from which he delivered, in a firm voice, the Apostolic Benediction. About 20 of the leading pilgrims were then presented to his Holiness by Father Glynn and Monsignor Stonor and Scott. They defiled before his Holiness, who was seated on the throne, and who, as he received their offerings, gave them his hand to kiss, and addressed to each a few gracious words. The reception being over, the Pope was borne on a sedia gestatoria through the ranks of the faithful, and was loudly acclaimed, especially by the Irishmen. Among the pilgrims was Dean Staunton, of Achonry. Apart from a large sum of money contributed to the Petor's Pence Fund, the leaders of the pilgrimage presented to the Pope a commemorative address beautifully engrossed and illuminated in gold, with a frame of silver gilt. All the Irish pilgrims who could not be admitted to kiss the Pope's hand in the morning went to the Vatican during the afternoon, when his Holiness received them in the Clementine Hall. In the evening the pilgrims attended a reception given in their honour at the St. Peter's Club. Cardinal Jacobini and Mgrs. Sambucetti and Stonor were invited. It has been decided that successive parties of Irish pilgrims shall go to Rome in February, 1898, instead of at the present time.

Referring to the reported illness of the Pope, the *New York Journal* takes occasion to say: "Often as his Holiness has rallied and surprised those near him by his extraordinary recuperative power, his great age and fragile physique justify the apprehension that his race is nearly run. Still the world will hope that despite his 86 years, Leo may long be spared. Assuredly in his weakness and peril he will have the prayers of Christendom, inside and outside his church. His wisdom, his gentleness, his charity have won him a unique place in the affectionate esteem of mankind. He is a force for good that could ill be spared. Aside altogether from his lovable personality, Leo, as a statesman, has rendered high service. In a time when the masses everywhere have been stirred to discontent by the persistence of poverty side by side with the country's splendid material progress, Leo has spoken words of peace that have been heard by labourer and capitalist alike. With all the immense authority of his office he has shown friendship for the two great republics, America and France, and placed the Church in sympathetic relations with orderly aspirations for human liberty. To him the oppressed everywhere have learned to look with confidence. The most recent proof of the readiness of his heart to respond to the appeal of the weak is his plea to Spain's Queen in behalf of the imprisoned and persecuted Evangelina Cisneros. Leo XIII. ranks in his own time as a great man, and history, viewing the delicacy of his position and his statesmanship in dealing with the problems involving the Papacy, will confirm that estimate. When in the course of nature Leo passes away, his Church will indeed be fortunate if his successor shall be cast in the same noble and generous mould."

The London correspondent of the *Dublin Freeman's Journal* has this to say about the publication of certain of Queen Victoria's letters in the *Life of Tennyson*:—"Lest there should be any doubt as to whether Lord Tennyson acted without the approval of the Queen in publishing letters containing political allusions, many of them offensive to Irishmen, Her Majesty has now written to Lord Tennyson, complimenting him on the manner in which he acquitted himself of his biographical task. The political correspondence between the Queen and the late poet laureate was revised by Her Majesty herself before it was published." Almost everything bearing on Ireland or the Irish in the biography in question shows (says the *Boston Pilot*) a lamentable narrowness of mind on the part of the poet, who was in most other things so high and generous-hearted. Yet he had sometimes a dim suspicion that England was not always in the right in her treatment of the unhappy sister-island. To quote his own lines from "Merlin and Vivien," composed in one of the Ballybunion caves—

So dark a fore-thought roll'd about his brain
As on a dull day in an ocean cave,
The blind wave feeling round his long seawall
In silence.

In 1868, somebody sent him "The Lays of a Convict," dealing with the treatment of Irish political prisoners, whereupon he wrote to Mr. Gladstone: "MY DEAR MR. GLADSTONE—The enclosed has been sent to me, possibly to you also; if not, read it now; it seems to me a terrible cry. I don't much believe in the accuracy of the Irishman generally; but I wish you, who enlightened us formerly on the Neapolitan prisons, to consider whether here, too, there be not a grievous wrong to be righted.—Yours ever, A. TENNYSON." Evidently his subsequent intercourse with Gladstone did not, however, awaken him to a realisation of Ireland's wrongs and their only efficient remedy, for his verdict on the great statesman's Home Rule Bill was "I love Gladstone, but I hate his Irish policy."

Archdiocese of Wellington.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 4, 1897.

AN examination in music under the auspices of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of music was held here on Thursday last. This is the first examination held in Wellington under the Associated Boards and is not intended to be in any sense a rival to that of Trinity College, London, which was the first in the field. The result of the examination was that the pupils from St. Mary's Convent were again prominently to the fore. In the higher division for singing Miss Lottie McDonald secured honours with 91 marks. The other candidates from the convent who passed in singing were:—(Higher division) May Sullivan, 77; Annie Camino, 74; Florence Stafford, 73; Mary Maxwell, 67; Mary Tracy, 66. In the course of conversation after the examination, the examiner expressed his pleasure at the high standard that music had attained in this Colony, and spoke in very complimentary terms of the singing of Miss Lottie McDonald, which was artistic in the highest degree.

The Rev. Dr. Kennedy, of Meance arrived in Wellington on Friday and is at present the guest of the Very Rev. Father Devoy at the presbytery, Boulcott street. Father Kennedy, I am pleased to say, is much improved in health since he was last in Wellington. Some time ago he took to cycling, with the result that the hip trouble which he suffered from for a considerable time, is fast disappearing, and he is now able to walk with little difficulty, and can travel on the bicycle any distance. I understand that he attributes his progress to the use of the machine, the exertion having evidently a very beneficial effect on the hip. He will leave for the South on Monday, to visit his relatives in Canterbury.

I hear that the shorthand classes at St. Patrick's College, under the direction of Mr. Whyte, have been very successful, and that the progress made by some of the students in the study of the "winged art" has been something phenomenal.

Sunday and Tuesday last were *fete* days at Meance, when the ordination of three priests took place, the ceremony being performed by his Grace Archbishop Redwood. On Tuesday morning at the ten o'clock Mass the Revs. John O'Connell and P. Fay, both of Canterbury, and old students of St. Patrick's College were ordained deacons, and the Revs. Eugene Kimbell, Nicholas Moloney, and G. Mahoney, received the tonsure and minor orders. There was a very large congregation present, among whom were many relatives of the ordinands who had come from different parts of the Colony for the impressive ceremony. On Tuesday the Rev. John O'Connell, Rev. P. Fay, and Rev. Hugh McDonnell (Greymouth) were raised to the dignity of the priesthood, and the Revs. Eugene Kimbell, N. Moloney, and G. Mahoney were ordained sub-deacons. The Church was crowded on this occasion also, among those present being a number of clergy from different parts of the archdiocese, including the Rev. Fathers Grogan and Bell (Napier), Rev. Father Smythe (Hastings), Rev. Father Power (Waipawa), Rev. Father Amworth (Wellington), the Rev. Fathers Berisped, Yardin, and Le Prêtre and the clergy of the seminary. The ceremony was a deeply impressive one, especially at the imposing of the hands, and many were moved almost to tears—tears of joy—when they went inside the sanctuary rails to receive the newly-ordained priests' blessing. On the following morning the Rev. Fathers Fay, O'Connell, and McDonnell celebrated their first Mass, when the relatives of the young priests and many others had the happiness of receiving Holy Communion from their hands. The Rev. Father O'Connell passed through Wellington on Friday on his way to his home in Christchurch. The Rev. Father Fay stayed in the Empire City, being the guest of the Very Rev. Father Devoy, but proceeds to his home in Leeston next week. It is worthy of note that all those ordained had been educated at St. Patrick's College, and are members of the Society of Mary.

A valuable oil painting of the Florentine school has been presented by the Countess Jouffray d'Abans, wife of the French consul, to the Rev. Father O'Sullivan, of St. Patrick's College. The painting is over 200 years old, and is regarded as a very fine specimen of the work of this school of Italian artists. It is now hung in the Father's dining-room, where it is an object of considerable interest. The subject is entitled the "Marriage of St. Catherine."

I regret to have to record the death of Mr. Patrick T. Cosgrove, which took place at his father's residence, Murphy street, on Friday evening. The deceased was a son of Mr. Michael Cosgrove, for many years chief messenger at the House of Representatives. Mr. Cosgrove had been connected with the local telegraph staff for upwards of twenty years, and his geniality and unflinching courtesy