

ANECDOTES ABOUT FATHER BURKE.

A LUDICROUS incident occurred at Killarney Cathedral in the presence of Lord Kenmare and all the local magnates. Father Burke was preaching for the Presentation Brothers' schools, and his sermon reached an unusual length. The brothers, anxious only for a good collection, began rattling the tin plates as a hint to the preacher to stop. The Bishop, Dr. Moriarty, frowned from his throne and the noise ceased. The portly prior advanced from his stall and took up his position in front of the pulpit, full in the view of all present except the good Father. The teacher was just then expatiating on the zeal of the Brothers. He pictured forth the pale, ascetic monk, his emaciated frame bearing evidence of his fastings and vigils. He was surprised to find the audience were smiling. He tried to be more impressive, and again reverted to the mortified and overworked monk. The audience could hardly contain their merriment. There in front of him was the rotund figure, the broad, jolly face of the prior, beaming like a full moon visible to all but the preacher, and fully enjoying the beautiful description of the ascetic monk. Greatly disconcerted, the preacher concluded as quickly as he could, and it is but right to mention that the collection did not disappoint the fraternity.

While Prior of Tallaght, Father Burke enjoyed the intimate friendship of Cardinal Cullen. "Come up here, Father Tom, and tell some of your funny stories" was the usual invitation. He would give imitations of some Italian priests who had become popular as preachers in Dublin. His first move was to cast the folds of his robe with demonstrative vigour over the left shoulder, and then in broken English proceed to lecture the faithful. With upraised finger he warned them to avoid "otiosity," to become "tinkers" (thinkers) and to remember that "without face (faith) you cannot be shaved" (saved), concluding each section of his homily, which seemed to be teaching how to avoid the doom of sin, with the words "You be da-amned," uttered in low, earnest tones. Some of their mistakes were ludicrous. One Italian spoke of Lazarus as reposing in Abraham's womb, and another constantly referred to the whale in Jonah's belly. For many years no banquet took place at the archiepiscopal residence which Burke was not asked to enliven, his pictures of Italian low life being greatly relished by the Cardinal. The quack dentist from Tuscany, who, with falsetto voice and bray of trumpet drove down the Piazza di San Agnese at Rome, the man playing the mandoline, the improvisatore, and finally the Roman barber, were standing dishes.—Exchange.

CATHOLIC CEREMONIES IN SYDNEY.

(Freeman's Journal, May 10.)

THE celebration of the feast of St. Paul of the Cross at the Passionist Fathers' Church, Marrickville, on Sunday last, lacked no feature of solemnity or impressiveness. Although the rain interfered with the attendance of visitors from the city, the church was filled at the 11 o'clock Mass. A number of members of the city and suburban branches of the Hibernian Society, with their officers, were present in regalia, and the bright green and gold gave a picturesque appearance to the fine body of men. The Rev. J. J. Byrne, Administrator of St. Mary's Cathedral, was the celebrant of the Mass, Father Marcellus, C.P., the deacon; and Father Gartland, sub-deacon. The ceremonies were conducted by the Very Rev. Alphonsus O'Neill, C.P., Rector of St. Bridget's Retreat, and the Very Rev. P. Slattery, Superior of the Franciscans, and the Very Rev. Dr. O'Brien, Rector of St. John's University College, assisted in the sanctuary. The sanctuary was elegantly decorated in honour of the saint, whose picture forms the altar piece, and the statues of the Blessed Virgin and the Sacred Heart on the side altars were gracefully decked with pretty flowers and brilliantly illuminated. The Very Rev. Dr. O'Brien preached the discourse of the day, a singularly felicitous and impressive one, in which the characteristics of the founder of the Passionist Order were, with the lessons of his life, set forth with admirable clearness and force. Special arrangements were made in regard to the music, and the choir for the occasion had the aid of an orchestra led by Herr Pechotseh. The Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Benedictus of Mozart's 12th and the Credo and Agnus Dei of Haydn No. 3, were sung, the solos being taken by Madame Pechotseh, Miss Cawley, Mr. Macauley, Mr. T. O'Sullivan, and Mr. J. M'Namarra. At the Graduale, Mr. J. Lemmon, the eminent flautist, played the beautiful prayer of Garibaldi, and at the Offertory Madame Pechotseh sang Gounod's "Ava Maria" with violin obligato by Herr Pechotseh. Zingarelli's "Laudate" was given at the end of the Mass. Mr. A. Macauley conducted, and Mr. Fred. Croft presided at the organ. In the evening Weis's "O Salutaris" was sung by Mr. M'Namarra, and Croft's "Tantum Ergo" by the choir. The evening sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, Superior of the Vincentians.

After High Mass the Passionist Fathers entertained a number of the principal parishioners and several visitors. The visitors included the Hon. D. O'Connor, Postmaster-General, the Very Rev. P. Le Rennelet, S.M., C. y Alderman Hart, Mr. P. B. Larkin, and Mr. E. O'Farrell, and the clergy who had assisted in the church.

The Marist Fathers at Villa Maria held their triduum in honour of Blessed Peter Chanel, the proto-martyr of Oceania, on last Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of May—the dates fixed for the celebrations at Lyons in France. On each of the three days there was a solemn High Mass celebrated, on Friday by one of the Marist Fathers, on Saturday by the Venerable Archpriest Sheehy, O.S.B., and on Sunday by his Grace Archbishop Navarre, of New Guinea. Most appropriate and eloquent sermons were preached during the triduum, on Friday evening by the Rev. Father Barry, O.S.B., on Saturday evening by the Very Rev. Dr. O'Brien, Rector of St. John's College, on Sunday morning by the Right Rev. Dr. Higgins, Auxiliary Bishop, and Sunday evening by the Very Rev. Father Ryan, S.J., Rector of St. Ignatius' College,

Riverview. The congregation listened with deep attention to the lessons of sanctity which the orators drew from the life of the blessed martyr. The pretty little church was, for the joyous occasion, beautifully decorated with garlands of evergreens and flowers around the pillars, and with graceful folds of red and yellow suspended in festoons on each side, from the gallery to the pillars at the entrance of the side chapels. A drapery of crimson with ferns and palms formed the background to a throne, upon which was placed in a niche of artificial flowers a very fine statue of the Blessed Chanel, and some precious relics of the Holy Martyr. The sanctuary with its red drapery, the high altar with its many glittering lights and flowers, and the niche of the Blessed Virgin Mary with its decorations for the month of May, presented at night a brilliant spectacle. The priests of Villa Maria showed to their people that their church could yet be made more beautiful. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, during the triduum the church was crowded with a devoted and prayerful congregation, and, what must have been still more gratifying to the Marist Fathers, a very large number of the faithful received Holy Communion during the three days, especially on Sunday.

LORD SALISBURY AND THE TIMES.

THE debate in the House of Lords (says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, March 27) was remarkable for the bold way in which Lord Salisbury knocked over the pretences which his supporters have set up, and stood forward—open and unshamed—as the double of the *Times*. But, indeed, he did more than that: he ignored the *Times* altogether, and frankly took upon himself and his party the responsibility for the "charges and allegations." Here are some of the passages from his speech which put the matter in the clearest light:

"We did not charge them with complicity in crime; we charged them with using crime. We said there was a communication between the two parties which enabled the Parliamentary party to allow crime to go forward or restrain it in proportion as their political interests might require. If we take an interest in their innocence or guilt, it is not on account of the individuals themselves; it is not because we wish to make a case against any political opponent, but because we wish to elucidate the conditions of a political society which is having at present the deepest effect upon the fate of this country, and which, if the aspirations of those who are struggling in unison with the Irish Parliamentary party should be crowned with success, will stamp a more notable effect upon English history than any previous incident in the long career of this country."

After this, what need have we of further witnesses? The Prime Minister admits in the fullest manner what we have always asserted, namely, that the Government were parties to the accusation, and that the underlying motive in the appointment of the Commission was simply and solely a desire to advance a party cause.

The report was adopted, and the Dublin *Nation* remarks:—That "we" is most material to the understanding of the conspiracy. It is the first confession of the Tories that it was they who were behind "Parnellism and Crime." It is the first public association of the Government with the *Times*. The "we" of the Forger and the "we" of her Majesty's First Minister are at length proclaimed to be one. That is the only thing worth remembering about the debate.

Editor Stead, of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, a non-Catholic, gives the following as the Catholic population in the countries enumerated:—France, 36,400,000; Austria-Hungary, 29,580,000; Italy, 28,000,000; Spain, 17,870,000; Germany, 16,830,000; Belgium, 5,500,000; Poland, 4,000,000; Portugal, 4,300,000; Ireland, 3,960,000; Great Britain, 1,320,000; other countries in Europe, 6,000,000; America, 51,000,000; Asia, 9,000,000; Africa, 2,600,000; Australia, 670,000. Total, 216,430,000.

The amount of water passing over Niagara Falls varies with the height of the river. Prof. W. D. Gunning estimates the average amount at 18,000,000 cubic feet per minute. Allowing sixty-two and a half pounds to the cubic foot, this would give a total of 562,500 tons per minute, or 25,312,500 tons in 45 minutes, of which somewhat more than two-thirds passes over the Horseshoe Falls.

Another symptom of impending and deliberate disruption is the virulence of the tone adopted by Lord Salisbury and his veracious nephew (says *United Ireland* of 5th April) with reference to the Irish leaders and the forged letters of the *Times*. The attitude of these two "statesmen" towards this dark scandal is without any modern parallel. It is intemperate and cowardly in the lowest possible degree. In the debates in the House of Commons over the question, the Chief Secretary, under the cloak of Parliamentary discussion, endeavoured substantially to repeat the slanders of the *Times* in "Parnellism and Crime" over again. The uncle surpassed the nephew in the House of Lords on Friday night when moving the adoption of the Judges' report. In order to raise the value of that portion of the report to which the Irish party attach no significance, his lordship had to face the task of proving that even bad Pigott's forgeries were genuine documents, they prove little or nothing against Mr. Parnell or anybody else, and were, in fact, of very little consequence. It was no part of his business to explain why, if this were so, the famous *fac-simile* letter was published by the *Times*, in manifest connivance with Lord Salisbury's Government, on the very morning of the day when the everlasting Coercion Act was introduced. It served its purpose then; it is no consequence whatever now. Lord Salisbury went on to paint the Irish leaders in all the dirtiest colours on his palette; and though he was ably answered by ex-Lord Chancellor Herschell, Lord Kimberley, and Lord Spencer, the Premier's motion was adopted by the Peers without a division. His speech, as well as that of his nephew, was plainly intended for the country. They are simply "Parnellism and Crime" over again, in a revised and more cowardly shape. They are intended to take immediate effect; for slow poison is not very serviceable in politics. Hence the constituencies will probably be soon called upon to decide between the party of justice and the Palmers of British politics.