

CARDINAL MANNING'S SUCCESSOR.

(Liverpool Catholic Times.)

The daily Press teems with conjectures as to the appointment of the new Archbishop of Westminster. The interest which the question excites is natural. The appointment is not only of the highest importance to the Catholics of this country, but also closely concerns the general population—for the late Cardinal proved during his tenure of the See how admirably the position may lend itself to the promotion of the public weal. But the position will not make the man. Rather will it be the duty of the man to enlarge and extend the influence which the position affords. It is thus the wise ecclesiastical ruler who has been taken from us won increased dignity and power for his office and set an example which his successor, no matter how highly gifted he may be, can scarcely hope to equal. There was nothing of the *fainéant* about Cardinal Manning. Every opportunity at his disposal he utilised to the best possible advantage, and with such exquisite tact that in the long course of his episcopate not a single serious mistake can be credited to him. He was a great figure, and his greatness arose from a marvellous combination of qualities. Whether he appeared in the pulpit, on the platform, in the drawing room, amongst the legislators of the country, or amidst the ranks of the poor, his many-sided ability and his attractive force of character were ever conspicuous. The Church was always the gainer by the admiration which his bold, but at the same time prudent, policy excited. Difficult, indeed, will it be for his successor to act fully up to the standards which he has laid down, and to preserve in all its phases the almost magically potent influence which he acquired.

Looking back on the life of the prelate which we have just lost, and searching for the secret of his power, we think it is mainly to be found in the breadth and depth of his sympathies. Here is a quality which his successor must display in an eminent degree. Sympathy with the people of all classes and creeds, and especially with the poor and suffering was the key-note of Manning's character. If we turn to the beautiful and singularly unanimous eulogies paid to him by the Press, we see that the tenderest chords were touched by his abounding charity for the struggling masses. It was for this that non-Catholics revered him, and, considering this, they eagerly wished that their own spiritual guides were like unto him. "He allied himself with the masses," says the *Christian World*, "from the general impulse of his heart. He loved the people and they knew it. He was the people's Cardinal. Our working-men, who care nothing for the Vatican controversies, as they pressed reverently forward to see the ascetic face, set in the calm dignity of death, saw there not the ecclesiastic or the theologian, but the man who toiled for the suffering poor, who strove for education, who sought by his example and ceaseless advocacy to save their homes from the drink fiend, who on labour's great crisis at the East End fought the docker's battle and secured for them the victory. Amid a multitude of reflexions two stand out from the rest. The first is the example that Rome has been privileged to give to other communions in England during these later years in the character and conduct of her leaders. Anglicanism has devoted men amongst its clergy, but the difference between it and its rival has been that while the dignitaries of the English Church, have, by the wealth and luxury with which they have surrounded themselves, by their devotion to the aristocracy and their stiff aloofness from the poor and from popular movements, widened the gulf between religion and democracy. Rome has in her two great Cardinals given us the impressive spectacle of spiritual chiefs who, dowered with the highest intellectual gifts and of princely rank in the Church, lived the life of ascetics, and of their wealth kept nothing for themselves, giving their possessions and their enthusiasm to the cause of the poor. The other lesson is England's possibilities with regard to Ireland. When we show his feeling towards our Irish brethren the victory will be ours." We have quoted the *Christian World* at some length, because in this passage the writer not merely gives happy expression to the esteem in which the Cardinal was held by non-Catholics, but also emphasises a point which the Cardinal's successor must lay to heart. The old order has changed, and a new order has arisen. The people are now-a-days the judges and arbiters of the destinies of Churches as well as of political parties, and if a bishop who occupies a commanding position is to crown his career with success, he must be an energetic social force. The wants and troubles of the toilers and the poor, the problems of daily life, the cry of the heart-sore and suffering, must excite his compassion and active interest. He must be a father not only to the members of his own flock, but to all of every creed who seek his advice and assistance. And he must not fear to take his part in the vanguard of any well-directed movement for reform. The late Cardinal never hesitated to speak out resolutely at the opportune moment on public schemes, and his clear, decisive views showed how closely he was in touch with popular aspirations.

As to the selection of the Cardinal's successor the speculation in private conversation as well as in the Press is, of course, endless. There can be no doubt that if the decision lay wholly with the

clergy of Westminster it would be well nigh unanimously in favour of Mgr. Gilbert. The choice of the people, almost without exception, would be the Bishop of Salford were it not for what the majority of the Catholic body in these islands consider a grievous political mistake. The *Tablet*, which has voiced the sentiments not of the masses but of a small section of the population, has alienated from him the Episcopate and people of Ireland and many of their friends and allies. More than once did the damaging character of the work which the *Tablet* has endeavoured to perform wring from the broad-minded, charitable prelate now in his grave the remark, "The *Tablet* is a wicked paper." Had it not been for the feeling the paper has generated amongst the Irish clergy and people, both the one and the other would unquestionably deem Bishop Vaughan far and away the best fitted to fill the See of Westminster, for he is unselfish and apostolic in his zeal, has the singular wisdom to utilise all the forces that are around him, and instead of putting his hand on the drag, gives men of sterling merit scope for the exercise of their energies. A writer in one of the daily journals has asserted that his Lordship is hard upon his priests and unpopular with them. It would be well if a little more editorial vigilance were exercised in our newspapers, and if it were not so easy for gossip-mongers to make them the mediums of spreading abroad very false reports. The Bishop of Salford is an ecclesiastic of such sterling qualities, and has so high a sense of his sacred vocation that we feel certain personal proclivities or preconceived ideas in politics would give way to a sense of enlarged responsibilities; and we are very much mistaken if he would not rise to the demands of any position in which God may place him.

WAITAHUNA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

March 22nd 1892

On St Patrick's Day sports were as usual held in Lawrence, and the weather being favourable, were very successful. The number of people, owing to the pressure of harvest work, was not as great as was anticipated, the farmers about this time being up to their eyes in business. The concert to be held in the evening was looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation. The performers coming from town promised a treat rarely enjoyed by up country folks, and appreciated to the full, as was shown by the Volunteer Hall being crowded to the very doors. Needless to say the concert surpassed even the high expectations formed of it and was enjoyed to the full by every one present.

Mass was celebrated in Waitahuna on Sunday. The Bishop's Lenten Pastoral was read from the altar, a collection taken up for the Seminary fund, and sample pages of the TABLET distributed. The Stations of the Cross were put up at the conclusion of the mission (given here recently) by the Rev Father Hegarty assisted by the Very Rev Father O'Leary, and it has since been decided to expend the balance of the money subscribed for the pictures in procuring a statue of the Blessed Virgin for the church. Father O'Leary urged on the parents the necessity of inciting by every means in their power the devotion of their children to the Mother of God, and also impressed upon the people the necessity of following the Bishop's advice with reference to matters political. I notice that Mr Thompson, M.H.R., has sent in his resignation, so that the opportunity will soon offer when the Catholics of the Bruce electorate will be enabled through the grace of God to stand shoulder to shoulder, to put aside the ignoble thought of their own petty advantages and strike out nobly for the welfare of their children.

I am glad to say that Mr Gardiner and his wife, whose cause you so ably advocated in your columns have been allowed 5s per week by the Charitable Aid Board, a trying pittance, truly, for two old people to exist upon; but one must be thankful for small mercies, and half a loaf, though woefully inadequate at times, is better than no bread. The weather is extremely wet and cold, putting a stop to work.

AUCKLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

March 21, 1892.

No day is looked forward to with so much interest by the Catholic children of Auckland as the feast of St Patrick; and one can imagine, therefore, the disappointment which the poor little ones felt on Thursday morning last, when they awoke to find rain falling and the morning very gloomy. As the weather was very unfavourable, it was decided to postpone the annual *fete* until Saturday. The children of St Benedict's and Surrey Hills, and those of Parnell had monster house parties, celebrating St Patrick's Day under roof, and persuading themselves that they were enjoying it. I looked in at the hall where the Newton children were, near St Benedict's Church, and saw 300 gathered there, some of them singing with the greatest good-will, others playing, and all walking about on a very muddy floor in a