

lected to study for the medical profession, but the complete loss of his property in 1848 compelled him to seek the more precarious rewards of the literary life. His poetic temperament did not fit him to meet the harder shocks of life, and he underwent some trials of affection which were sore to bear. The effort to lessen the difficulties of life for him by obtaining him a small pension was not a success. He has left work, however, which few of the pensioners have equalled, and which will secure him a place in Irish literary annals, and in the memory of those who cherish the expression of the genius that is "kindly Irish of the Irish, Neither Saxon or Italian."

CARDINAL MORAN ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

(Sydney Freeman's Journal, April 2.)

THE Cardinal-Archbishop gave us something very interesting in the way of an impromptu speech at St Joseph's, West Balmain, on Sunday afternoon.

His Eminence said he felt it his duty to congratulate the Catholic people of Balmain West, not only on the practical work commenced that day, but on all they had done within the past 14 or 15 years. This new boys' school would complete the group of buildings they had erected—the handsome church, the convent, the girls' school, and a new presbytery. One feature which to him was a matter of special gratification was the great generosity shown by a devoted congregation composed almost entirely of working men and women. The working classes, as they were called, were the bone and sinew of the community, and chief source of the Church's strength and vitality (applause), and he congratulated the pastor on the privilege of having as his flock a body of people of whom he had so much reason to be proud (applause). It was their chief glory that their Church was the Church of the workingmen and the poor and while they erected, when circumstances favoured such outward manifestations of their faith and their love of God's house, noble cathedrals with towering turrets and graceful pinnacles they recognised that there was something more precious than all the wealth of architectural splendour and all the ornaments of silver and of gold—the faithful congregation around the altar offered up the incense of fervent prayer (applause). It was no idle boast that the Church in all the ages had preserved the honour and protected the interests of the working classes (applause). All were equal before the altar—the slave and the master in the old times, and the employer and the employed in their own day, and now, as of old, wherever the Church held sway the oppressed were shielded, the tyrants were rebuked, the poor were succoured, and the bonds of slavery were removed (applause). At the present day the Church had taken her stand by the workers (hear, hear), and whatever might be the loss of power and influence the sacrifice would be made to preserve the union and the bond of sympathy which existed between the Church and the toiling masses of the world (applause). Whatever might happen the Church would never forfeit her right to the affection and confidence of those who were the special objects of her pride and solicitude (applause). The Christian family was the solid foundation upon which society rested, and while the Church and the workers remained united in bonds of sympathy, the best interests of society would be guarded and the social well-being of the world preserved (applause).

To touch briefly on a question which had been warmly agitated of late: A number of their legislators, as they were aware, had in their wisdom deemed it right to pass a Bill having for its object the extension of what was called the law of divorce. So far as it was a matter of politics he had nothing to say (hear, hear). Viewing it from the standpoint of religion he had only to say that no public or Parliamentary enactments had any influence of their religious principles (applause). The Parliament might pass a measure declaring that the Ten Commandments had ceased to exist (laughter). It would not, and could not, affect them so long as they remained true to the principles of their faith and teachings of their Church (applause). In the same way, no matter what Parliament or the State devised or decreed on the question of divorce, the Divine law would remain the same—"Whom Almighty God has united man cannot dissolve" (applause). No Parliamentary enactments could change the sanctity and solidity of the marriage rite and the marriage tie (applause).

A few instances of the operation of the political measures encouraging divorce might be interesting at the present time. He would take countries which were, practically speaking, Catholic. In France, after a period of 10 years, it was found that in Paris, which had become a centre of infidelity, 60 out of every 1000 marriages were dissolved, while among the Catholic Bretons—the bravest and most patriotic of the children of France—only one marriage out of every 1000 was broken by taking advantage of the secular law (applause). Ireland's record for 20 years with its 5,000,000 of people was 11 divorces (applause). In Canada the average was six divorces a year; while in the United States, where the religious and moral obligations of marriage had been cast aside by so many, the number of divorces, according to the official statistics, was 328,000. The

gentlemen who were seeking to extend divorce in this colony might take a lesson from Afghanistan. The Ameer, they were told, was approached by a lady who sought to be released from the marriage tie on the ground that her husband had become bald (laughter). How did the Ameer receive the application for divorce? He ordered the lady to be set upon a donkey, with her face to the animal's tail (laughter) and in that fashion led through all the streets of her native place (laughter). It would not be a good thing for some of their legislators and others if the Afghanistan method of dealing with divorce advocates were introduced into Australia (laughter).

With respect to the burning question of education, the tendency was to banish religion. He would commend to those who were striving to bring about the separation of religion and education the words of the great French leader, M. Guizot, who declared that a statesman who proposed such a thing should be sent to a lunatic asylum (laughter and applause). This leader of public opinion in France assigned as his reason that if you train the mental faculties without moral restraints, a clever, cultivated criminal is the invariable result (applause). Those in whose education religion had no place might not turn out pickpockets, but the probabilities were that they would glide into what were called the higher criminal courses of fraud and forgery. Unfortunately, they had had of late many instances in Sydney of educated men who, throwing aside all moral restraint, had entered into criminal courses which finally led to disgrace and punishment.

The increase of larrikinism and crime amongst their juveniles was a thing that all good citizens deeply deplored (applause). Various remedies were suggested, but, in his opinion, the only real remedy was general religious education (applause) and, he might add, the establishment of well-conducted industrial schools (applause). It had been his privilege to have a hand in the introduction of the industrial school system in Ireland, and he was happy to say the results had been most gratifying. The official reports of the inspectors showed that, notwithstanding the disturbed state of the country, no fewer than 20 gaols had been closed (hear, hear) and that juvenile crime had almost totally disappeared from Ireland (applause). It was good news that the building they had commenced that day would be used as a hall for the young men of the district (applause). He congratulated Father Monagh on this most thoughtful and excellent provision. Amidst all the temptations of betting and gambling in every form to which their young men were exposed, nothing could be better than this hall, in which they would find amusement and instruction, and which would in all probability be the means of saving some of them from careers of dishonesty, dissipation, and disgrace (cheers).

HIS SINGLE THOUGHT.

"SPEAKING of the ruling passion, strong in death," said one of New York's swell physicians yesterday, "I encountered an odd example of it a short time ago. In a family wherein I have a couple of regular patients, there is a small boy who has lived four brief but exciting years. I have no hesitation in saying that he is absolutely the worst child that I have ever met. His ingenuity in all sorts of infantile misbehaviour is marvellous, and, left to himself, he can devise an endless number of unique ways for getting into hot water. About two months ago he began an open warfare on the grand piano which stands in his parents' parlour. He filled the legs of this unfortunate instrument full of dents, and then began to rip the ivory covering from its keys whenever occasion offered. His delight in this was deep-rooted and all-absorbing.

"A sudden change in the weather, however, laid this incorrigible infant low with a first-class attack of pneumonia, and the piano was given a rest and a chance to recuperate. One evening I came to the conclusion that there was no hope of the child's life, and as tenderly as possible conveyed the fact to his parents, who for five days had never left his bedside. In a spasm of grief the mother lifted the boy from the bedside and hysterically clasped him to her bosom. That action saved his life. The shock set the blood, which clogged his lungs, in circulation again, and another possibility of saving him materialised. As I was hastily giving my orders for some medicines that would be needed at once, the boy's eyes opened languidly and he looked around the room with an expression of unutterable weariness.

"Give him anything," I cried, "anything that he wants!"

A gleam of interest shot into those tired eyes, and the weakest of voices piped:

"Please, mamma, can I keep on bustin' the piano?"—American paper.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth gives general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those feeding the extraction of a tooth. Read—[ADVT.