

GUILD OF ST. ALOYSIUS.

Christchurch, June 25, 1892.

On Thursday, June 23, the Guild of St Aloysius held their first anniversary in their hall, Tuam street. The hall was very prettily decorated with evergreens, flowers, flags, and magic lanterns. Four large tables were laid out in the hall with an abundance of good things which were provided by Mr Edwards. At 8 o'clock the hall was packed with people, when his Lordship Bishop Grimes arrived accompanied by the Rev Father Le Menant de Chesnais, Marnane (of St Mary's), Purton, Bell, and John, also the Rev Brothers Joseph, Charles, and Daniel. After three cheers were given for his Lordship, the programme (which was an exceedingly good one), was opened by Mrs Scrimgeour with an overture on the piano, which was very much appreciated. "The last muster," by Mr J. Hennessy was well received. Miss Cunningham received an encore for "Strangers' Yet." Mr W. Bagley sang "Happy moments" very nicely. Mr C. Oakes received an encore for his comic song "Maloney's wedding day," and responded with "John Maloney." Miss Bryant was highly applauded for her singing of "Daddy." A recitation, "Michael Dwyer," by Mr J. J. O'Shea was very well rendered. Mr W. Cunningham played a violin solo, "Ave Maria," which was very well executed. The first part of the programme was concluded by a stage horoptipe by Mr W. Delaney, who had to reappear. In the interval tea and coffee was served out, and ample justice was done to the good things on the tables. His Lordship then ascended the stage, when an address was read from the members of the Guild by Mr J. J. O'Shea (hon sec), wishing his Lordship many happy returns of his feast.

His Lordship, in reply, thanked the Guild for its address, which was a surprise to him. He was very pleased at the progress the Guild had made for its first year. He gave great praise to the Rev Father Aubrey, its founder, also Father Bell, president, for the great interest they had taken in the Guild's welfare. He referred to the Guild as a training school for members who would later on join the Literary Society, for which Society he had a particular affection. He also announced that his Holiness the Pope had conferred a very great title (Knight of St Gregory) on one of the former presidents of that Society, who now represented New Zealand as Agent-General in London. His Lordship concluded by wishing them every success, and thanking those present for their patronage that evening.

The second part of the programme opened with Mr Beamish singing the solo of "Maggie," the Guild joining in the chorus. Mr A. J. Dobbs received an encore for "The lessons I learnt on Mother's knee." Miss Scott sang "Won't you tell me why, Robin" very nicely, and had to respond, when she gave "Comin' thro' the Rye," which was also well given. Mr A Bagley gave "Some day I'll wander back again" very well. Mr Mulvihill gave a recitation which was exceedingly well given. Mr C. Oakes fairly brought down the house with his comical singing of "Mulligan's home made Pie," and had to reappear, when he gave "Arry." Miss Bryant sang another song and narrowly missed an encore. An Irish jig by W. Delaney, which had to be repeated concluded a very excellent programme. The president, Father Bell, then thanked the people on behalf of the Guild for their patronage that evening. Mr R. P. Clarkson thanked the ladies and gentlemen who had contributed to the programme after which the proceedings concluded.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

(From the Liverpool Catholic Times)

On April 30th Mgr Stonor presented to the Pope three young English gentlemen, converted to the Catholic faith by the sermons of Rev Luke Rivington at San Silvestro.

Mr Frederick Harrison has just been talking on Catholic morals, and comparing the mediæval saints of Christendom with the heroes of modern history, much to the advantage of the former.

At a great Paulist mission in St Patrick's parish, Montreal, Canada, which concluded at Easter time, there were 10,300 Communions, and 4,734 total abstinence pledges.

Margherita, the Queen of Italy, is reported to have said, speaking of the marriage of her son, that "if a Protestant Princess entered the Quirinal Palace as his wife, she would go out of it." The Liberal party here opposed to the Church talk of the Queen as being "far too clerical."

The Bishop of Mende, who was condemned lately to have his salary suspended, has received 50,000 francs by private subscriptions from his flock. This sum he is going to offer to the Holy Father.

The corner stone of the Philosophy Hall of the Catholic University, Washington, D.C., was laid on the 27th April. This building, made possible by the magnificent gift of the Rev James McMahon, late of New York, now resident at the University, will be completed and opened for students in 1894.

According to the "Annual of the Missions," published by the Propaganda Press the number of Catholics in the United States is

8,913,610; in Canada, 2,075,366; in the Chinese Empire, 569,551; in Australia, 610,080; in the whole of Oceania, 780,630.

Mr Septimus F. Wood, an ex-Anglican clergyman, who was received into the Church in 1884, died at Florence on May 8th. He was sixty-five years of age. He had been for some time a resident in Florence, and died an edifying death after a long illness.

Last year the leper settlement of Gotemba, in Japan, lost by death its devoted chaplain, Father Testevuide. Another priest of the Congregation of Foreign Missions, Father Vignoux, has taken his place, giving himself to the service of these afflicted people, and affording one more proof that the heroism of Father Damien was no isolated manifestation of Catholic Charity.

The eminent Swiss National Councillor, M. Decurtins, was received in special audience by the Holy Father a few days ago, and presented to his Holiness a work on the social question, which he has just published. It was M. Decurtins who first really suggested the holding of the Berlin Labour Congress, and it will be remembered that an important letter on the social problem was addressed to him by Cardinal Manning.

Just now Exeter Hall is a sort of Protestant Mecca, only the pilgrims do not go so much to pray as to make speeches or listen to them. Mrs Jellaby and her Borioboolagha missions are not the rage at present, nor is it contemplated by any existing association to send flannel waistcoats to the inhabitants of tropical Africa; but a society to Christianise Christian Rome is scarcely more far fetched in its object when one comes to examine it. Judging from the reports of the British and Foreign Bible Society every year, say for the last ten years, there ought to be at the present moment several tons of Protestant Bibles and tracts in the Eternal City. The whole of Italy, in fact, has been deluged with Bibles and is being saturated with tracts; but for all that the Italians are not becoming Protestants, and the population of the peninsula is still mainly, indeed almost entirely, composed of Catholics on the one hand and agnostics or anti-Christians on the other.

In the city of Cagliari, in Sardinia, a curious ceremony, which has been repeated annually since 1657, took place the other day in honour of their patron, St Elifizio. The rural police, in quaint costumes, led the way on horseback with banners; then came the local militia in red corsets and old-fashioned uniforms, and armed still with flint muskets; then the confraternity, guardians of the Saint, as guard of honour, all in modern evening dress suits and hats! The car on which the statue is placed is drawn by bullocks garlanded with flowers, and their horns and hoofs gilt; three priests, also on horseback, and representatives of the municipality follow. A vast gathering of the populace from the surrounding districts assemble to witness the procession. The saint is taken out to a suburb called Pula, and the statue is restored to its niche with the same pomp. In the chief piazza the native Sardinian dances were performed in the evening by torchlight to the music of the very primitive bagpipe there in use and called *Conedda*. In the outlying parts of Italy the old religious processions still take place, though in the capital itself they are forbidden.

In four days a single newspaper received 20,000 francs for the Bishop of Nancy, whose stipend has been stopped by the Government. The Archbishop of Avignon, and the Bishops of Montpellier, Valence, Nîmes, and Viviers have experienced similar treatment at the hands of the State authorities. The Archbishop of Aix is to be proceeded against before the Council of State for his Pastoral of April 20.

The Archbishop of Aix, in a pastoral letter just read from the different pulpits of his diocese, alludes to the beatification approaching of Mme de Piezon de Sel, foundress of the Congregation of the religions of St. Thomas de Villeneuve. The convent of this Order in Paris possesses the famous statue of the Blessed Virgin, Notre Dame de Bonne Délivrance, before which St Francis de Sales, when a student, in anguish of heart and almost in despair, prayed and obtained peace.

Canon Moyes, writing to the *Manchester Guardian* on the American Education question which that journal has been discussing, says the Roman decision in Archbishop Ireland's case does not, when the circumstances are taken into account, imply nearly so much of a concession to the State as one might be tempted at first to anticipate. It would, he observes, be premature, not to say rash, to conclude that the American case presents an analogy that is ever likely to make itself felt at home on this side of the Atlantic.

Mr F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price—Oats 1s 7d to 1s 9d (bags extra), demand good. Wheat (easier) milling, 3s 6d to 4s 0d; fowls, 2s 0d to 2s 9d, sacks included. Chaff: Market, bare supply.—£1 10s 0d to £2 12s 6d; hay, oaten, £3 0s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 10s. Pollard, £4 0s. Potatoes, kidneys, seed, £2; derwents, £1 10s to £2 0s 0d. Flour: roller, £10 10s to £11 5s; stone, value nominal, £9 0s to £9 15s. Fresh butter, 10d to 1s 2d; salt, prime, 11d. Eggs, 1s. Oatmeal, £9 10s in 25lbs; bulk, £8.

Messrs Irvine and Stephenson, George street, offer to the public a very choice and excellent assortment of canned local fruits. Every can is guaranteed and the prices are unprecedentedly low.

Messrs J. H. Kirk and Co. offer the highest market prices for rabbitskins, sheepskins, wool hides, and all such articles. Sellers will find the firm particularly advantageous to deal with.