

what is embodied in the legislation for the Church's daily action such as you have it in the decrees of the two last national councils of Australia. As far as circumstances allow, that legislation is being faithfully carried out by bishops, priests, and people. Impatient zealots will chafe at the slowness of our movements; they forget that great masses though slow in action have an irresistible momentum. The Church is wiser than her monitors. Her achievements are enduring. Her programme for one and all of her children here as elsewhere embraces many activities. I could not here attempt to enumerate them, and least of all dwell upon them singly. Some will form the subject of treatment at other hands; but one and all they are familiar to us, and what we really have to remind ourselves often is to put our whole heart, our whole mind and our whole strength into our several parts in that vast and complex action whereby the Church stands ever before the world the apostle, the prophet of God announcing the good tidings of peace and salvation.

NOTHING could demonstrate in a more striking manner the greed and selfishness of the ruling class in Ireland than the treatment meted out to the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, who has lost the South Dublin seat in consequence of the opposition of his own party. Numerically and politically the Conservatives have always been in a hopeless minority in Ireland, nevertheless they have had, during the nineteenth century, a monopoly of Government patronage. They cannot tolerate the idea of one of the mere 'people' receiving any Government appointment whatever, as such a thing is contrary to all the traditions of Castle rule. Such an innovation, unless nipped in the bud, might lead to unheard of changes. It is a firm article of faith among them that all important posts are their special perquisites, and that the introduction of new blood into the sacred circle of officialdom would be nothing short of desecration of their caste. Mr. Plunkett, although a Conservative, has progressive ideas. For some years he has taken a very keen interest in the spreading of the co-operative system among the dairy farmers, and with a considerable measure of success. When he was appointed president of the new Agricultural Department he determined to run it on modern lines. The main object of the department is to introduce new methods of agriculture and dairying, and to bring technical instruction within the reach of the people. He knew full well from past experience that if he were to administer his department according to the traditions and hide-bound methods of Dublin Castle it would be doomed to failure. He looked around for a suitable man for the secretaryship and found him in the person of Mr. Gill, a Nationalist and a Catholic. Mr. Gill, while in Parliament, displayed a practical acquaintance with modern agricultural systems and furthermore he knew what the people—the farmers of Ireland—most needed. Since Mr. Gill took office he has in every way justified the high opinions entertained by his chief of his capabilities. But Mr. Plunkett's political friends did not care one iota about the new secretary's capabilities, he was a Nationalist and a Catholic, and these two disqualifications in their eyes unfitted him for the position. They told Mr. Plunkett quite plainly that unless he got rid of his protégé he would lose his seat. Mr. Plunkett declined to accede to their selfish demands, with the result that he is no longer the member for South Dublin.

A meeting was held in Dublin during the last week in August for the purpose of considering what action should be taken to punish the President of the Board of Agriculture for his contumacy. The following report of the proceedings will give an idea of the feelings of what is called the 'loyal minority':—'Under the presidency of Lord Ardilaun a meeting of Unionist electors of South Dublin who are opposed to the retention of the representation of that constituency by the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, M.P., was held in the Molesworth Hall. The principal charge made against Mr. Plunkett is that he has shown too much toleration towards his political opponents, especially in appointing Mr. T. P. Gill, Nationalist ex-M.P., to the secretaryship of the new Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The chairman explained that he had hesitated in summoning that meeting—not because he did not approve of the views of those who desired it should be held, but because he wished to assure himself as far as possible that their views and resolutions were definite, and not merely caused by a passing flash of anger, which would soon die away and end in nothing but ridicule. The results of that meeting would, he hoped, show their determination and decide their course of action. If they once put their hands to the plough they would not turn back. Mr. Plunkett had said that he would rather lose a dozen seats than acknowledge disapproval of Mr. Gill's appointment. He had also said that Mr. Balfour had advised him to contest the seat, and that he considered the retention of the seat for the Unionists a matter of minor importance. Was it possible that their leader should advise such a course of action, and thus turn his back on many of his own supporters? On the motion of Mr. J. G. Nutting,

D.L., seconded by Professor Dowden, it was resolved that the Unionists of the constituency could no longer support Mr. Plunkett, as they were of opinion that his return by Unionist votes had ceased to be practicable. It was also decided to prepare a requisition, signed by Unionist electors, to Mr. Plunkett, asking him in the interests of the party to withdraw his candidature. A committee, with Lord Ardilaun as chairman, was appointed to carry this into effect.

Writing on the opposition shown to Mr. Plunkett the *Leeds Mercury* says—'That Mr. Gill has a unique knowledge of the sort of work the new Department has been formed to encourage, or that he has for years devoted himself to the development of technical education and of home industries in the rural districts of Ireland, apparently matters making in the opinion of the average Irish Unionist. The mere fact that Mr. Gill is a Nationalist and a Roman Catholic is a sufficient reason in the opinion of "the men of Ulster" for debarring him from every office under the Government, for it appears to be one of the fundamental principles of most Irish Unionists that Government appointments should be the monopoly of Orangemen. It is astonishing to find an accomplished man of letters like Professor Dowden seconding the resolution of excommunication. It is incredible that in the last year of the nineteenth century any University Professor endowed with ordinary intelligence should thus lend his support to the monstrous doctrine that no man who is not a Protestant or a Tory is fit to hold public office in Ireland.' It will be interesting to see how Mr. Balfour will regard the action of his Unionist friends. They are the 'loyal minority,' and the price of their loyalty is office. Patriotism and devotion to political principles do not count for much with them. Their support is a marketable commodity, and as the Government are strong enough to do without them their political wares are likely to be at a discount for a time.

THE CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.

THE evening session of the fourth day of the Catholic Congress was held in the Cardinal's Hall, when his Grace Archbishop Redwood presided. His Eminence Cardinal Moran addressed the very large audience on 'The Development of the Church in Great Britain and the Colonies in the Nineteenth Century.' In the course of the address his Eminence said—'It would be quite impossible to consider the development of the Church in Great Britain and her colonies in any detail in the 20 minutes which have been charitably allotted to me. I shall therefore confine myself mainly to the progress in Great Britain, and I shall ask you to await with some patience the publication of our memorial volume to learn all I would wish to say in regard to the development of the Church in all the British colonies. I am sure there is no one at all acquainted with the history of the century but will confess that the Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain has made a grand and glorious progress during its course. A century ago Catholics were perfectly outlawed under the Constitution and altogether ignored, whether in the life or the policy of the British nation. When I speak of the progress of religion it must be borne in mind that there is something far more important in its development than mere numerical growth. There has been a vast growth in the numbers of Catholics in Great Britain, but there has been manifest progress in the public influence of the Church, in its political action, in its social rank and general activity. Where there is question of the defence of the faith, or the exercise of religion, or the practice of virtue, nowadays we meet with the Church everywhere. In the life of the nation, whether in the administration of justice, in the high offices of State, in the work of government, in the army and the navy, in Parliament, in literature, in science and the arts, in every sphere and in every path of patriotism, the Church must be confessed to do her part and to do it well. Next I recall when, a few weeks ago, on the death of the Lord Chief Justice of England, the sympathy not only of the whole Empire, but of all the civilized peoples of Europe was turned towards the Catholic Church in England, lamenting the loss of one of her worthy sons, who at the same time was an ornament to the Church. During the past six months the British Army has achieved glorious triumphs in the battlefield, and the honor thereof has been shared by Catholic officers bearing the highest titles in the peerage of England and in her Majesty's army. Some of them have sacrificed their lives on the battlefield.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Going back 100 years, it is difficult to conceive a condition of things more humiliating than the condition of Catholics at the close of the last century. This, of course, was the result of the penal laws, and those penal laws were most exacting throughout the whole of the eighteenth century, and crushed out the Catholic life of the English nation. Within a few years of King William's accession laws were passed which aimed at the complete extirpation of the Catholic religion. After April 10, 1700, no Papist could purchase land. To say Mass or keep a school subjected Papists to perpetual imprisonment. The Catholic families that remained faithful to their religion were everywhere excluded from the national life, and subjected to intolerable persecutions under a thousand disguises. A few priests remained to administer to the scattered faithful. It was only in secret recesses or in mansions of the nobility that in the country parts Mass was offered up. In the cities it was only in secret byways or in some of the abandoned