

O'Connor on Sunday evening, March 20, at the Exchange Hotel, Liverpool. The individual subscriptions ranged from £50 to 2s 6d. When the list of subscriptions is completed it is expected that the total from Liverpool will be little short of £1000.

Cardinal Moran Sends Greetings

The following cable from his Eminence Cardinal Moran has been received by Mr. John Redmond at the House of Commons:—The assembled Gaels of Sydney on the Empire Day of the Irish race send greetings to the United Irish Parliamentary Party, with congratulations on the grand victories in the recent election contests, and best wishes for future triumphs.

The National Festival

St. Patrick's Day was observed in the Old Land this year in a manner that reflected infinite credit on every class of the people. The religious observance of the festival was carried out on a grand scale, the solemn ceremonies concluding in many churches with High Mass. From an early hour crowds of pious worshippers, a large number of whom partook of Holy Communion, occupied the sacred edifices in the cities and large centres of population. Sermons in the Irish language formed a feature of the religious celebrations in many places, and the interest with which they were followed by the congregations showed the progress of the language movement. Owing to the fact that the day has been made a Bank Holiday, by Act of Parliament, the toiling masses were set free from work. They availed of the occasion to enjoy themselves in a rational and patriotic way, which was in strong contrast to that of years gone by. Although the public-houses were mostly open, the workers, imbued with the spirit of self-reliance and self-respect, instilled into their minds by the various temperance organisations and by the Gaelic League, shunned them. There was absolutely no drunkenness, in Dublin at any rate, and reports from the provinces tell the same satisfactory tale.

Then and Now

The National Festival (says the *Freeman's Journal*) has come and gone, and never has it found the Irish race in finer fettle for the fray. Hope and enthusiasm marked the celebrations at home and abroad wherever the exiles of our unconquerable race assembled. The speeches of our leaders delivered in England on the 17th one and all struck a high note, a note of triumph, for the day found the Irish cause in a position of prominence and importance and strength such as it has not filled for years and years. 'Only a few years ago,' said Mr. John Redmond in London, 'Mr. Chamberlain declared that the question of Home Rule was as dead as Queen Anne. Will any one to-day in this country declare that the question of Home Rule is dead at this moment? The question of Ireland to-day at the moment dominates the whole Imperial policy of this country, and if we of the Irish race only do our manifest duty by putting down with a strong hand dissension in our ranks, and by standing to our guns here in England, never again will the Irish cause recede from the position of power in which it stands at this moment.' Mr. John Dillon, in Birmingham, spoke in a similar strain. 'We were told,' said Mr. Dillon in an inspiring passage, 'by the press of England that Home Rule for Ireland was dead; and would trouble England no more. Had not Lord Salisbury said: "Give me only twenty years of resolute government in Ireland and you will hear no more of Home Rule." Well, he and his Government have passed away, and many things have happened in England since, but Home Rule is not dead. And now, after twelve years, when I come back to the Town Hall of Birmingham, I come to speak for a real united Irish Party. No man will deny that that party is more powerful in England than ever before.'

Finding Funds

A sum of over two thousand pounds has already been subscribed in response to the National Trustees' appeal for the Irish Parliamentary Fund. The fact should give pause to those Unionists who have entertained the idea of making the Irish Party bankrupt in funds by contesting every National constituency at the forthcoming General Election. Nationalists at home and abroad are fully alive to the exigencies of the situation and will checkmate the manoeuvres of their country's enemies. Dealing with this plan to disrupt the national movement, Right Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe, in the course of a letter enclosing his annual subscription to the Party Fund, says because Nationalist Ireland happens to be poor, advantage, it seems, is to be taken of its poverty to break up her National Parliamentary Party and place her again under the power of the class of men who sold away her freedom at the time of the Union. His Lordship is confident that the masses of the Irish people, whatever be the sacrifice, will not permit such an outrage on Ireland's interests and honor. Dr. Fogarty's confidence in his countrymen is not misplaced, judging by the way in which they have already replied to the threats of their enemies.

Mr. F. J. W. Fear, engineer and importer, Willis street, Wellington, calls attention to the excellence of the Standard Rotary Sewing Machine, which will be guaranteed for a period of ten years. Full particulars will be forwarded on application....

People We Hear About

Presiding at a Home Rule debate held in the Institution of the Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, on March 17, Sir John Gorst said Home Rule was rapidly coming into the region of practical politics again. Without any disparagement of Mr. Asquith, he held that Mr. Redmond was undoubtedly the ablest leader in the House to-day, and had he been associated with one of the great English political parties, he would most probably have been Premier.

Dublin will in future be the repository of Holbein's famous painting of Blessed Thomas More and his family. Sir Hugh Percy Lane, who recently purchased it at Christie's for 950 guineas, has been prominent in promoting the revival in Irish art, and besides being a regular exhibitor of Irish pictures in London, has presented a modern collection to the city of Dublin. He is a director of the Dublin Municipal Art Gallery and a member of the Irish National University Council.

Twenty of the Presidents of the United States, including Roosevelt, have been lawyers. Two, Washington and Harrison, were farmers, but their elevation was mainly due to their achievements in war. Only two professional soldiers, however, have ever filled the presidential chair—Taylor and Grant. Johnson was a tailor before he became a statesman. Sixteen of the Presidents were college graduates. Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, Johnson, Cleveland, and McKinley did not have the advantages of college training, but some of these graduated at the law.

Hitherto the Record Office in London, says the *Morning Post*, has possessed no autograph of any English Sovereign earlier than Richard II. Now, however, a member of its staff, working in the Vatican archives, has found a letter of Edward III. to Pope John XXII., dated about 1330, in which the King has written, as he says, with his own hand the two words 'Pater Sancte.' His object in doing so, as he informs the Holy Father, is that the latter may know in future that the King is really anxious to have granted any requests and recommendations made in a letter in which these two words in his own handwriting may occur. The discovery is, therefore, an interesting example alike of the King's penmanship and of his diplomatic skill.

Somebody has said of Mr. Hilaire Belloc, M.P., that he is 'one of the three cleverest young men in London.' It is probably true. He is certainly one of the most interesting, and his writings are a delight. At the general election in 1906 he was returned for South Salford, being again returned in the Liberal interest at the general election just over. He carried his originality into Parliament with him, as has been shown in his speeches. He is a master of humor and irony, and is a fearless Catholic. He is 39 years of age, and the only son of Louis Swanitor Belloc, a French barrister. From the Oratory, Edgbaston, he passed to Balliol College, Oxford. As a French citizen—he only naturalised as an Englishman about eight years ago—he was called away from a scholastic career of exceptional brilliance to serve in his country's army; he served in the 8th Regiment of French Artillery at Toul, Meurthe-et-Moselle. He subsequently began journalism in London, and was quickly known as one of the most brilliant accessions to *London Letters*, contributing particularly to the *Speaker* and the *Daily News*.

Notre Dame University in selecting Dr. Maurice Francis Egan as the Laetare medallist for this year has recognised a Catholic writer, educator, and diplomat whose whole career has been an honor to the Church (says the *Catholic News*). The Laetare medal is given in mid-Lent every year to some Catholic American for distinguished service in art, literature, science, and philanthropy. Dr. Egan from his very earliest days has been a valiant defender of his faith and exponent of Catholic truth. His pen has been ever ready to aid in providing a Catholic literature so sadly needed here, and that, too, despite the fact that his financial rewards would be immeasurably greater were he to cater to the general reading public instead of to a Catholic clientele. As a diplomatist he has also won renown. With the royal family and the people of Protestant Denmark the Catholic American Minister is immensely popular. Dr. Egan as a man in public life is a credit to the Church, and we are glad to note that the Church has honored him. Dr. Egan (says another American paper) is a native of Philadelphia, and was born on May 24, 1852. His father, Maurice Florent Egan, was the grandson of Niall Gerald Maurice Egan, Chevalier de Florent, who was a descendant of the Chevalier McEghan—bravest of the brave Irishmen who fought with Lally in India during the reign of Louis XV. He inherits from his father the Celtic humor and French suavity which made him the most attractive guest in the national capital. To his mother, Margaret MacMullen, is due that deep sense of propriety and fidelity to duty which has characterized his whole life.

Messrs. McParland Bros., bakers and grocers, Taranaki street, Wellington, contractors to H.M. Navy, supply families and shipping, and are specialists in wedding and birthday cakes, which they make to order on the shortest notice....