

sent nothing but a series of suggestions, put together in a cycle of conversations which have taken place between Lord Milner and Zaglul pascia, which must be submitted in order to be put in force to the examination and approval both of the British Cabinet and of the Egyptian Government." "The remembrance," he remarks further on, "of the recent Egyptian uprisings has not died out on the Thames, and Albion is become particularly sensible to all the menaces of secession which rise up along the borders of her vast empire."

"But," the letter proceeds, "it is not only the unknown quantity of the Egyptian arrangements which keeps London political spheres in a state of alarm. The Irish difficulty, that age-long, gangrenous sore of the internal and foreign policy of Albion, has now reached in these last few weeks an exceptional gravity. To the anxiety caused by the powerful and all-embracing organisation of Sinn Fein to the scandal raised by the attitude of the Government when confronted with the hunger-strike of the Lord Mayor of Cork; finally to the impression created by the verdict of the Society of Nations, which has declared the question of Ireland to be of an international character; there is added just now the astonishment caused even among the conservative classes themselves, the backers of strong policies in the island of St. Patrick, by the cruel and destructive abandonment of discipline which has spread among the ranks of the British police, dislocated to do service in Ireland. An old law, an anachronistic piece of ruins from the time of the penal laws, authorises this police to perpetrate the most savage reprisals, in the villages where there have been political *coups* whose authors they have failed to capture. Fallen into disuse practically, this law has been suddenly exhumed by the Irish police. They in virtue of it have abandoned themselves in various parts of Ireland to showy destroyings of fixed and movable property, to avenge, so they say, the victims of Sinn Fein."

The *Corriere d'Italia*, too, has recently devoted much attention to the sufferings of Ireland, especially to the pronouncement of the Irish bishops, and to the heroic deaths of the Lord Mayor of Cork and of the young lad of eighteen, Kevin Barry.

The municipal elections in Rome took place on October 31. As is usually the case when such events occur in Rome, the walls of the city were decorated with many-colored manifestoes, enshrining a literature ranging from essays on the state of Russia to verses in Romanesque dialect and sallies of Trastevere wit. The parties, whose graceful compliments to one another were thus set aside, were four in number:—A union of *bourgeois* parties containing a very large proportion of Freemasons; the Official Socialists; the Popular Party, and the Republicans. The result of the elections is a victory for the Union, the Socialists obtaining the minority, the Popular Party coming third, and the Republicans last. On the whole the result seems to have been somewhat unexpected. Previously some had hoped that the Popular Party would win by a small majority, while most casual observers expected perhaps the victory of the Official Socialists. The result thus leaves the Popular Party in a weaker position in Rome than that which it occupied previous to the elections. The leaders of the party, however, seem in no way moved to abandon their "intransigent" position, or to adopt in Rome the policy advocated some time ago by the *Osservatore Romano* to its few readers of a *blocco* of the Catholic forces with various "liberal" parties now huddled together before the advance of socialism. They claim that the lesson of the elections is the necessity of fighting for the proportional system in future elections, and that a defeat such as they have suffered is better than the doubtful company which would be theirs in a coalition with the *soi-disant* "parties of order."

With the elections in the large centres the municipal and other local government elections throughout Italy come to a close. Their result is little different from that of the parliamentary elections last year. It shows a preponderance of socialists in many provinces

of Northern and Central Italy, a preponderance of the Popular Party in other provinces of the same regions, and a complete preponderance of liberals in the South. The results at Rome and in some other places may be regarded as showing somewhat of a re-awakening in the liberal or *bourgeois* parties, though its importance need not be exaggerated. A noteworthy symptom, however, is the lessening of the number of well-to-do people who abstain from voting because unwilling to suffer the irksomeness and inconvenience attendant on it—a factor which contributed to the success on the present occasion of the union of liberals.

The Socialists have, of the various parties, had the most striking success. The results of their success will not be entirely clear until it can be seen how far their opposition to the central Government, and their proposal to disregard its laws, will be carried in their administration of the communes.

The victories of the liberals are mainly in the South and in the islands, where the results frequently depend far less on political ideals than on local influence and personal following. At Turin, Brescia, Venice, and a few other cities, the victory has been won by a coalition of Liberals with the Popular Party. The most striking victories of the Popular Party have been in the provinces of Brescia, Bergamo, Treviso, Vicenza, Verona, Udine (all in Northern Italy), and, in a lesser measure, in Milan, Genoa, Alessandria, Venice, Cremona, Ancona, Parma, Piacenza, Lucca, and others (in Northern and Central Italy).

OBITUARY

MR. JOHN NOLAN, MORVEN.

Mr. John Nolan (late of Lincoln, North Canterbury) passed away peacefully at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. M. E. Hanley, Morven, on Tuesday, December 21. The late Mr. Nolan came to New Zealand over 40 years ago with his wife and family from Co. Donegal, Ireland. He settled at Lincoln, in which place he followed the occupation of farming up till a few years ago, and was a staunch Hibernian for about 40 years. Large numbers attended the obsequies at Waimate on Thursday, December 23. Requiem Mass was celebrated at 9.30 by Rev. Father Herring, S.M. (chaplain of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society), after which the funeral left for the Waimate Cemetery, headed by a large number of members of the Hibernian Society in regalia. Four members of the society—Messrs. James Cummeen and John Doyle (New Headford branch, Lincoln), M. Lyons and T. Toomey (St. Patrick's branch, Waimate)—acted as pall-bearers. Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., officiated at the graveside. The deceased, who was 79 years of age, leaves a wife and two daughters—Mrs. Michael Cooney and Mrs. Michael Hanley, Morven—to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

MRS. ANNIE HILL, DUNEDIN.

The sudden death of Mrs. Annie Hill, wife of Mr. J. Hill, of Dunedin, which occurred on Sunday evening, is recorded with very sincere regret. The deceased, who was about 50 years of age, was a native of Mount Blackwood, near Ballarat, Victoria, and was a member of the well-known and highly-respected Catholic family named Cocciardi, still residing there, and, with her husband, came to New Zealand about 28 years ago, settling in Dunedin, Mr. Hill's birthplace. Always a fervent Catholic, she received from the Rev. Father Ardagh the last sacred rites of Holy Church during a brief period of consciousness following an acute attack of illness from which she immediately afterwards succumbed. Requiem Mass was offered at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday by Rev. Father Shore (who was recently ordained), an esteemed friend of the family. He also officiated in the afternoon at the interment in the Southern Cemetery. The deceased leaves her husband, two sons—Mr. Charles Hill, of the N.Z. Railways department, and Mr. Edward Hill, a returned soldier, permanently incapacitated—and two daughters—Misses Mary and Johanna Hill, Dunedin—to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.