

CATHOLIC GROWTH IN AMERICA.

FATHER SPALDING, a Roman Catholic priest of Louisville, delivered a parting lecture to his congregation, in which he indulged in the most sanguine anticipations of the final supremacy of the Catholic religion in this country. He admits that formerly many foreigners were lost to the Church on coming to this country because there were not a sufficient number of priests to look after them. But now there are sixty-four dioceses in this country, and go where you will there is a priest, and the lecturer believes that now the great mass of Catholic emigrants are saved to the Church. The number of priests has doubled in the last ten years, now reaching to 5000. One-fifth of the natives—to wit, 8,000,000—are Roman Catholics, and they are making remarkable conversions. In Baltimore thirteen per cent. of the confirmations are of converts from other sects. New England, too, Father Spalding claims, is becoming Catholic faster than any other section. One-third of the population of Massachusetts is Irish, and that third have more children than the other two-thirds. "In the progress of time," exclaimed the enraptured priest, "we will have a New Ireland in New England; if we simply hold our own for a few years we will be a most powerful Church. Protestantism is more a name than a fact at present. New England was once the great stronghold of Protestantism, but now it has changed greatly. Protestantism is an undemocratic religion. A poor man is as out of place in some of the large churches of New York as he would be in the palace of a king. A poor man's only business in some of these large Protestant Churches of New York, built by millionaires, is to fix the gaspipes, or something like that."—*Cleveland Herald.*

GENERAL NEWS.

(Compiled from our exchanges.)

ENGLAND.

It is in contemplation to form a Celtic Society in Leeds.

The 'Pall Mall Gazette' calls Father Burke "the American Dominican."

Sir J. Pakington, speaking at Hereford, said his fears, if he had any, for the Church of England, did not point to hostile attacks from without, but to schisms from within.

In Great Britain and Ireland there are 468 convents, the sanctuaries in which 6600 devout women live, sanctifying themselves and others.

We extract from the 'Melbourne Telegraph' the following interesting scrap:—Mr Thomas Carlyle has received the Prussian order of merit. He must be held to have deserved it. His curious whitewashing of King Frederick William entitled him to some such recognition. The anecdotes of the capricious tyranny of this monarch are endless, and they excite but one emotion—disgust. The darker crimes laid to his door one may be willing to believe, are without foundation, though few other people, besides Mr Carlyle, can see their way to an acquittal. Our common humanity shudders when a name is given to them.

One reason for the unpopularity of confession to Anglican clergymen is supplied by an Anglican lady, in a letter to the 'Church Review.' She says:—"Mr A. would hear my confessions, where I occasionally stay, but his wife is jealous of his being alone with ladies in the vestry, even though the door be ajar. Mr B. would do the same, but he is afraid of the squire getting to know that such a practice goes on. Mr C. would attend me, but I know he would despise me for my confession and I should shrink from meeting him afterwards. The last time I went to an Anglican he told me that he would hear my confession, but he was afraid it was very much against the blessed reformation—whatever that might be. I fear that there is much spurious Anglicanism afloat, as your last issue denotes."

The Home Rule London Election Committee has agreed upon an address to the Irish electors of the London Metropolitan constituencies. It states:—"There are ten constituencies in this metropolis, and they send twenty-two members to parliament. In each of these constituencies the Irish vote now on the register offers us a most encouraging basis for future operations. The total number of the electoral votes of the metropolis was 268,806, and of these the approximate estimate of the number of Irish electors was 44,000. This shows how great a power the Irish electors are in the metropolis of England. Therefore it was stated that a definite policy should be laid out for them, so that at the day of reckoning they might know whom to support and whom to reject."

Chivalry in the Isle of Dogs:—J. S. writes to a London paper:—Millwall was visited by two Catholic nuns, who solicited alms from house to house for the support of the institution to which they belong, and although they met with considerable kindness from many of the residents, they were on one part of the Isle of Dogs surrounded by a gang of scoundrels, who pelted them with mud and every sort of street filth that they could pick up; indeed, one was so badly struck with a stone that she staggered, sick and faint, into the nearest house for protection. I do not and will not believe that party feeling or religious animosity had anything to do with this cowardly and unprovoked outrage; I even doubt if any one of the wretches who took part in it could repeat the Lord's Prayer correctly; but granting this, it is difficult to understand what could induce such an unwarrantable display of brutality, except on the hypothesis of wanton ignorance, encouraged by non-resistance. Be this as it may, it is sad to think that such an occurrence could take place in open day in a populous neighborhood. These women (many of whom are the daughters of noblemen) have devoted their lives to the broadest and most practical Christianity. They feed and maintain more than three hundred helpless people, without regard to their theological views—Catholic, Protestant, Jew or Infidel find them as impartial as the grave, the only condition of admission being that they are helpless and destitute.

A very simple occurrence in Ireland is sufficient for an English journal to manufacture into a terrible agrarian crime. But the horrible discovery which has just been made in the Thames exceeds in brutality and savageness anything which ever disgraced this country. The remains of a woman, cut and hacked to pieces, have

been picked up in several parts of the river. This is a disagreeable subject, and I will not dwell upon it.

English Journals on Home Rule.—The 'Dublin Freeman' says:—"We pointed some time since to the altered tone in which English journalism has begun to discuss the Home Rule movement as an indication of the increasing importance of that question. It is now twelve months since the declarations and demonstrations which occurred in this country in favor of Domestic Legislation furnished matter for mere splenetic jocularity to the organs of opinion at the other side of the Channel. But then the agitation has assumed dimensions which can no longer be laughed at."

The Irish Vote in England.—The Irish vote in England is unquestionably one of the great political powers of the future, and it was only right and natural that Mr Butt and the other speakers at the Home Rule meeting at Newcastle-on-Tyne should urge upon the Irish across the Channel that they ought to use their political power for the benefit of their countrymen in the old land. There are, perhaps, in England at the present moment a couple of millions of Irishmen—that is to say, of persons born in Ireland or descended from parents of Irish birth.

One week the Home Rule movement was, according to the 'Daily Telegraph,' confined to professional agitators and Fenians out of work. The following week the same authority declares that it would be mere affectation to overlook the political importance of the movement, and that no English statesman can afford to despise it. This is indeed a rapid conversion. It is highly probable, if the Home Rulers remain true to themselves and the cause they have up to the present served so well, that there will be many more notable conversions before long.

A success of the most unequivocal kind was achieved at the Birmingham Musical Festival, when Mr Arthur Sullivan's Oratorio, "The Light of the World," was produced for the first time. The critics are in ecstasies over the work, than which, they assert, nothing finer has been produced since the memorable day on which the "Elijah" took the world by storm. Mr Sullivan who has thus added to his already abundant laurels, is a young Irishman who stands abreast with all modern composers, and threatens to dispute the supremacy of the giants who "controlled the Universe of Sound," in the days when Handel was reaping fame in Dublin, and Beethoven was brooding over his immortal symphonies.

The 'Tablet' says in reviewing a work entitled: "Jesuits in Conflict."—"The history of England, since the so-called Reformation, has still to be written," says the author in his preface to this book. And why? Because during the long reign of terror which the Penal Laws produced, no Catholic literature was possible. The oppression of Catholics was studiously hid, and the publication of their miseries forbidden. They might suffer; but prejudice and hatred, ignorance and bigotry, rendered sympathy with their sufferings a crime. Even we can remember when to sympathise with Papists was considered disloyal and un-Christian. It is not forty years since the whisper of sympathy with the victims of centuries of cruelty was first permitted in English society; nor twenty years since intellectual equality was conceded to Catholics by Protestants. Things are now changing. Some Protestants have grown just, even generous; and such a work as that we now notice has a chance of being received with respect.

On the text of the supposed desire for a religious war, the 'Times' writes as follows:—"Finding Italy and the old temporal power irrecoverable, and the kingdom so far departed, the Court of Rome is concentrating its powers on renewal of its old warfare against civil society. Since all that is settled is inimical, or, at least, independent, Rome aims to break it up, to demolish it, to crush the blocks to fragments, and the fragments to powder." The monstrosity of the attempt to represent the Church which founded civil society as its irreconcilable foe is only equalled by the *naïveté* of the supposition that now for the first time does Catholicism initiate "a crusade" against antagonist forms of belief or opinion.

Archbishop Manning preaching lately at Belmont Park Cathedral, Hereford, expressed a fervent hope "that the wave of unbelief which was said to be rolling from Germany towards England, might be stemmed in time to avert its ill effects upon the English people; unbelief had long possessed the minds of certain classes in Germany."

The Holy Father blesses pilgrimages, and the unbelieving world either ridicules or stops them by force. The 'Tablet' announces that "His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster has sanctioned and given his approbation to a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land which will take place in Lent 1874. Monsignor Capel and a committee composed of the Marquis of Bute and other gentlemen, will make the arrangements. The pilgrims will first go to Rome and seek the blessing of the Holy Father, then make the pilgrimage of the Seven Churches, and then start via Brindisi, for the Holy Land."

The Irish in England are being organised to influence the elections in England favourably for Home Rule. The effect has lately been witnessed at the Greenwich and Dundee elections. At the last election in 1863 there was no talk at all of "the Irish vote" in either of these places; now it is "the Irish vote" which was specially courted by the various candidates, and which decided the contest in Dundee, and defeated the ministerial Liberal in Greenwich. In Dundee, three candidates took the field: Mr Yeaman (ex-Provost), Mr Jenkins (author of "Gin's Baby"), and Mr FitzJames Stephen, Q.C., of the Anti-Irish 'Pall Mall Gazette.' Mr Yeaman in addition to Home Rule, declared for the liberation of the political prisoners and for denominational education, and did not chance to have lampooned in an English magazine the Irish priesthood, the Catholic religion and nationality, as Mr Jenkins had done in St. Paul's Magazine. The 'Nation' and 'Weekly News' pointed this out. The Irish electors of Dundee thereupon declared for Mr Yeaman, and on the day of the polling that gentleman was found to have a majority over Mr Jenkins almost exactly equal to the strength of the Irish party of Dundee. The Home Rulers of Great Britain have been busy with the Parliamentary register; and it is quite evident that if they do as well in every borough as they did in Greenwich and Dundee, they would hold in their hands the balance of power.