

THE IRISH PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

TWENTY years ago, in 1855, there were 181,304 Irish-born people in Massachusetts; ten years ago, in 1865, there were 183,177—a growth of only 1,873 in ten years, which is very remarkable, and is, indeed, doubtful, when we find that in the next ten years, in 1875, the Irish born people number 234,556—a growth of 51,379. In other words, from 1855 to 1865, the Irish increase was 1.63 per cent.; while from 1865 to 1875, the increase was 28.05 per cent. The entire foreign-born population of Massachusetts in 1875 was 418,804, of which 234,556 or 56 per cent. were born in Ireland.

It is worth remarking that the next largest foreign element were from Canada—86,022; of whom one-fourth, at least, were Irish or of Irish extraction, as were numbers of those who came from England and Scotland.

The Irish-born people in Massachusetts in 1875 were distributed as follows:—

IRISH-BORN PEOPLE IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 1875

Counties.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
THE STATE.....	103,419	131,137	234,556
Barnstable.....	236	343	579
Berkshire.....	3,867	4,422	8,289
Bristol.....	7,597	9,368	16,965
Dukes.....	9	6	15
Essex.....	11,666	15,140	28,806
Franklin.....	935	844	1,779
Hampden.....	6,254	8,218	14,472
Hampshire.....	2,054	2,694	4,748
Middlesex.....	19,771	25,277	45,048
Nantucket.....	27	42	69
Norfolk.....	5,354	6,317	11,671
Plymouth.....	2,336	2,627	4,963
Suffolk.....	30,746	41,394	72,140
Worcester.....	12,567	14,445	27,012

The "Nativities of Mothers" is a most valuable part of the report; and were it supplemented with "The Nativities of Fathers," we could have a settlement of the question concerning the strength of any particular element. At it is, this report goes far to show the comparison between the growth of the native population as compared with the foreign-born.

The total number of women in Massachusetts who are or have been married is 398,759. Of these the large number of 89,239 never had children; the nativities of these are not given—but it is safe to assume that they are mostly native. The total number of women who have become mothers is 309,520, of whom 190,311 are native, and 119,269 are foreign-born mothers; that is, while the population stands 74 per cent. native and 25 per cent. foreign, the mothers are 61 per cent. native and 38 per cent. foreign.

As regards births, the following statement gives the averages:

Average number of births to native mothers.....	3.52
Average number of births to foreign-born mothers	4.91
Average number of births to all mothers.....	4.05
Average number of births to Massachusetts mothers..	3.55
Average number of births to Irish mothers.....	5.03
Average number of births to Canadian mothers....	4.78
Average number of births to German mothers.....	2.23

The census does not give the number of Irish-born mothers in the State, which is to be regretted. We only find that, of the 234,556 Irish-born people in the State 103,419 are males and 131,137 are females. Comparing the births in 1874 with the mothers in 1875 (no other reports being available) we find the whole number of births to native-born mothers during the year was 20,666, or one birth to every 9 mothers; while the whole number of births to foreign-born mothers was 24,965, or one birth to every 4½ mothers. In other words, 190,311 native mothers had 20,666 children, while 119,311 foreign-born mothers had 24,965.—Boston Pilot.

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, RIVERTON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THIS beautiful new church was dedicated on Sunday last by the Bishop of Dunedin, the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, assisted by the Revs. T. Higgins, P. O'Leary, and P. Sullivan, and in presence of a very large congregation. After the ceremony of dedication, Mass was sung by the Rev. P. O'Leary, at which the Bishop assisted in Pontificals. The music of the Mass was beautifully rendered by the members of the Catholic choir of St. Mary's, Invercargill, who came over to Riverton that morning; and a most eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached by Father Kelly, S.J., Melbourne. Father Higgins, preparatory to the collection, which we understand amounted to £100, made some introductory and tel in remarks. The Bishop after giving an Indulgence, congratulated the people of Riverton on the erection of this church, dedicated to God under the invocation and name of St. Columbkil, so much needed and so long earnestly desired. His Lordship also stated that the site of the church was the gift of Mr. Donald Cameron, of Nokomai, who had also contributed handsomely to its erection. The Bishop, clergymen, choir, and the numerous visitors from Invercargill, returned to that town in the afternoon, and on their arriving at St. Mary's, there were respers, sermon by the Bishop, and benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament. It may be added that, although the morning was threatening, the day turned out fine, and the evening was magnificent. This, no doubt, helped to the success of a day that will be long memorable in Riverton.

THERE is now on sale at the establishment of Mr. J. Vezey, Princes-street, a quantity of the famous prize mutton culled from the merino flocks for which the runs of Messrs. Parker, Waimate, Canterbury, are so widely celebrated. Economical house-keepers will do well to give the article in question a trial.

HOWORTH'S HIBERNICA.

It is particularly interesting to compare the views of Irish scenery, which are here brought so vividly before the spectator, with the face of nature presented by New Zealand, so that we may be able to perceive how powerful are the memories and associations that belong to any given locality, and how they serve to impress upon it a distinctive character, and to give it a value and dignity which it could not otherwise own. So far as natural beauty is concerned, there, probably, can be found nothing in the world to surpass the scenery of these islands in which we dwell; but mountain and valley, lake and river, harbor and sound, when unable to influence the mind by historical remembrances, fall in a matter of vast importance, and lose immeasurably in interest. On the other hand, how much grander do the more rugged features, and how much more beautiful do the soft vales of Erin become, when we view them in connection with the men and deeds of the past, or regard them as associated with some strain of the poet, or legend that lingers in the imaginations of the peasantry? The bold heights of the reek, for instance, that tower above the treacherous waters of Clew Bay assume an additional dignity, if we recollect that tradition assigns them as the spot whereon the Apostle of Ireland stood when he banished all venomous creatures from the island he had newly won to the kingdom of Christ; for, baseless though the legend may be, still the mountain top that suggests it likewise reminds us that the holy bishop, even had he never needed to pass sentence of exile on toad or snake, had yet been empowered from on high to overcome a far worse brood than these in the Pagan superstitions, which at his preaching were replaced by the light of Gospel truth. Again, lovely though the Meeting of the Waters must have been from times primeval, who shall say that it did not take a fresh charm from the immortal verse of Moore, or that its crystal waves were not enriched when, by the magic art of the bard, they were made potent to speak to all who should thereafter look upon them of the aspirations and feelings of the human heart. Or what mind is so dull as not to perceive how much enhanced the beauties of each river-bank or mountain-side become by the venerable ruins that we find upon them, every one of which proclaims a plaintive story of the past—a story, too, which, though it always is suggestive of sorrowful recollections, is likewise not devoid of glory. For what Irishman, when he looks upon the tower-crowned summit of the Rock of Cashel, for example, and deplores the havoc wrought by tyranny and heresy conjoined, does not also rejoice that, despite of all, the faith still shines as brightly in his island as it did, when in its honor those noble buildings were erected there; or what son of Erin, contemplating the dismantled and crumbling walls of Holy Cross Abbey, does not recall with exultation the fact that the sacred tree, from which that ancient pile was named, is to the full as much revered at this day by the great body of his fellow-countrymen as when its remnant was enshrined within those aisles now fallen to decay, and there richly lodged, protected by gold and gems.

The Hibernica we treat of affords to our subscribers a ready means of renewing their patriotic recollections. The views presented there are, as we have already said, admirably executed and remarkable for their fidelity to the features of the scenes from which they were copied, and an hour or so spent in their contemplation cannot fail to be attended with satisfaction. In addition to which the lovers of frolic will find their tastes provided for by the dances and merriment of the performing company, which continue to afford amusement, and nightly to attract large audiences, who are unanimous in their expressions of approbation at all they witness.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI.

SIR GEORGE BOWYER has written in the 'Pall Mall Gazette' the following biographical notice of the late Cardinal:—

Cardinal Antonelli was not of noble blood. He belonged to a family of what we should call very substantial and wealthy yeomen. They held valuable olive plantations near Terracina, at the time when olives were most valuable. This circumstance gave a pretence for M. About, in his well-known and, in this country, popular libel on the Papal Court, written to suit a phase of Imperial policy, to say that he was related to Fra Diavolo, the brigand. The statement is as fair as if a man, because he had family property on Hounslow Heath, were alleged to be a descendant of Dick Turpin. The father of Antonelli died prematurely, leaving him under the guardianship of two uncles, in whom the family property was vested. They were men of frugal habits, intent on accumulating wealth, and though their nephew was their heir, they made him work hard. He distinguished himself at the university, went to the bar, and speedily rose to a judicial office, and then to the prelature, but still as a layman. After this, his great abilities secured his promotion. In due time he inherited the great part of the wealth of his uncles. This accounts for his leaving a considerable fortune, which he could not have made out of his office, for the salary of Cardinal Secretary of State was only £500 a year; and, indeed, the whole Papal Court costs only £1,500 a year. And I may mention that an English Liberal Protestant statesman once told me on his return from Rome that he wished people in this country would learn the wonderful cheapness of the Papal Government. Cardinal Antonelli was highly accomplished and a perfect judge of art. In private life he was remarkably agreeable, genial, and amiable, and highly appreciated in society and by the most distinguished ladies, especially our own countrywomen. I must not omit a trait of his character. Even when most overwhelmed with business and the cares of state, he never omitted for one single day to visit his mother, for whom he entertained the most filial affection.

WE observe that Mr. Thomas Paterson has commenced business at the Temple Chambers, Dunedin, as Shipping and General Commission agent.