

own, he gave them to a not too appreciative public." It is only too true (remarks the *Boston Pilot*) that Dr. Joyce's national ballads failed to receive their due appreciation either here or at home. His epic poems, "Deirdre" and "Blandid," were welcomed by the best minds of America as valuable contributions to literature; but unfortunately this is not an age in which epic poetry has any place. We doubt that if Milton, were he alive and writing to-day, could market "Paradise Lost" to any better pecuniary result than was obtained for the original work. As for the astonishing price paid to Moore for "Lalla Rookh," there is not a publisher on either side of the Atlantic who would pay one-tenth of the sum (15,000 dols.) advanced, be it remembered, to him ere he had penned a single line of the great poem. If Ireland wants a new national poem the demand comes in a bad time for poetry production. But what need is there of a better poem than "God save Ireland," a swinging, ringing, splendid song, written by Mr. Sullivan himself, to an air with which every American is acquainted, "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching"? The fact that the song was written to commemorate a particular event does not militate against its general applicability. America's national anthem, "The star-spangled banner," was written during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, but its sentiment belongs to the whole nation and for all time.

An Address to the Cardinal Archbishop and Bishops of the Catholic Church in England has just been received from the Tenth Eucharistic International Congress now sitting at Paray-le-Monial. It is signed in the name of all the members of the Congress by his Eminence Cardinal Perraud, the Archbishop of Besançon, the Bishops of Liège, Nevers, and Annecy. The Address expresses the warmest sympathy with the Bishops and the Catholic Church in England, and in spirit associates all the members of the Congress with the efforts that are being made to bring the English people into union with the Apostolic See. During the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that took place during the night of Thursday and Friday, special prayers were offered up to the Sacred Heart to implore a special blessing on the Archconfraternity recently instituted by the Holy Father for the conversion of England, and confided to the direction of the venerable Society of St. Sulpice. The Congress appeals along with the English Bishops, clergy, and faithful, to the Heart that has so loved men to pour out such graces upon England that the Catholic life and the Catholic institutions of England's glorious past may revive and flourish once more. The Congress has besought Blessed Margaret Marie and the Venerable P. de la Colombière to become intercessors with Our Lord in behalf of a cause which the Holy Father and the whole Catholic body have so much at heart.

Several of the French Bishops (says the *Catholic Review*) have issued letters to their clergy ordering the "Te Deum" to be sung in thanksgiving for the happy accomplishment of an alliance between France and Russia. In treating of such a topic there is naturally a good deal of sameness amongst their utterances, but still a few expressions may be quoted to show how unanimous is the feeling in France on the matter of the alliance. Mgr. de Cabrières, Bishop of Montpellier, points out that the long years of labour of the army and navy during the last 27 years of peace has not been in vain. If the army had not shown itself so strong at Chalons, and the navy had not excited such admiration at Cronstadt and Toulon, and if the country had not shown so much confidence, in its chiefs and soldiers, the great Russian Empire with its many millions would never have even desired to enter into a treaty of alliance with France. This alliance, however, would serve other and greater interests than those which were merely political, for Providence goes further than men in the works which it aids and crowns with success. In the Pastoral Letter addressed to his clergy by Mgr. Béguinot, Bishop of Nîmes, his lordship says: "Our French souls have thrilled with patriotic and joyful emotion on learning of the great diplomatic events which have transformed the friendly sympathy between Russia and France into a compact of alliance so close between the two allied peoples, that it is full of effective guarantees for the future of peace. Therefore, the realization of noble designs, the success of which asserts itself amidst the events of recent days, glorious for the country and the assurance that this alliance puts an end to a dangerous isolation, and gives back to France the place she is entitled to in the Council of Nations, cannot leave our hearts indifferent. What more touching than that solemn attestation of the will of two great peoples, proclaiming themselves friends and allies in the face of the world by an unanimous outburst of popular enthusiasm, the sincerity of which is unquestionable."

Harold Frederic, the novelist, who is London correspondent to several of the great American dailies, gave the following account of the recent commemoration at Ebbfleet. The narrative has the striking head-line, "More than Half-Way to Rome":—"Were any sign needed of the great increase of late years in the power and prestige of the Roman Catholic Church in England it would be afforded by the striking scenes enacted this week on the Kentish

coast. In the early days of Victoria and even at a much later date there would have been a violent 'No Popery' cry at the mere idea of an open air procession headed by two Cardinals and seventeen bishops in full canonicals. Yet such a parade took place, not only unmolested, but greeted with all the signs of reverence and respect last Tuesday, at Ebbfleet, near Minster, on the spot, now about half a mile inland, where St. Augustine and his monks landed some thirteen centuries back. Hard by is a cross marking the place where Augustine held a conference with Ethelbert. Cardinal Vaughan delivered an address which was a striking proof of the diplomatic ability of this churchman. The fact that the Anglican bishops, a short time back, had made a pilgrimage to the same place, with a similar object, created a delicate situation in which a less able man might have stumbled. But it would be difficult for the most rabid Anglican to trace any disrespect in his uttered words or in the manner of the speaker, who yet surrendered none of his claims as a Prince of the Church. While claiming many added thousands to his flock of late years, Cardinal Vaughan summed up the present situation tersely by saying that multitudes had so far swung around that they were more than half way to Rome. Anyone watching the drift of religious practice in England knows this to be the case. The cry of 'No Popery!' is heard no more in the land, indeed, the very word is dead. It was by special desire of the Pope that the eminent French *littérateur* and member of the Academy, Cardinal Perraud, Bishop of Autun, was present at the Augustinian celebrations there. The reason for the presence of the most eloquent of French churchmen was that it was to Autun that Augustine retired after his first visit to England. It was a curious sight last Wednesday to see two Cardinals piloted around Canterbury Cathedral by the Anglican Dean, Canon Farrar. Times have changed indeed since the days of Cardinal Wiseman, and it is not without reason that the English Catholic leaders claim that the larger 'Oxford Movement' has in very truth set in."

It is natural for whales, big and little, to spout, and we were not, therefore, surprised (says the *Catholic Times*) to learn that threats couched in language alarming—for its bombast—were made against the Catholic pilgrims to Canterbury in letters addressed by Lieutenant-Colonel Whale to Lord Salisbury and the Mayor of Canterbury. The following is the thrilling language which was used by this fire-eater: "I mean to be there with a large number of earnest Protestants, I hope, and raise the cry of 'No Popery,' and have copies in my hand of Sections 29 and 26 of Act 10, George IV., Cap. 7, forbidding the *presence* in England of Jesuits, and forbidding processions of Roman Catholics who 'wear the habits of their Order save within the usual places of worship of the Roman Catholic religion, etc.' respectively. All Governments since the Reformation who have tried to advance Popery in our beloved land have fallen, and that speedily." We suppose the dreadful Lieutenant-Colonel was "there," with his band of earnest Protestants, but his second thoughts appear to have been more peaceable than his first, for his threats proved vain and empty. Was it that like the immortal Bob Acres his courage oozed out through the palms of his hands?

Diocese of Dunedin.

BISHOP VERDON AT GORE.

(From the *Southern Standard*)

THE Right Rev. Bishop Verdon arrived in Gore on Friday last for the purpose of visiting the parish of Gore and administering the sacrament of Confirmation. On Sunday his Lordship at 11 o'clock Mass (celebrated by Father O'Donnell), preached an admirable discourse on the spiritual life, congratulating the pastor and people on the improvements made in the church, and encouraging them to work with even more zeal for the future to the honour and glory of God.

In the afternoon, at half-past 2 o'clock, those who were to be confirmed, including many from Mataura and Pukerua, assembled in the church to be examined in religious doctrine and receive the sacrament at the hands of the Bishop. Over 80 persons were recipients of confirmation. After the ceremony, his Lordship addressed the children at considerable length, dwelling on the great graces they had received like the Apostles at Pentecost, and urging them to persevere and be manly soldiers of Jesus Christ, and warning them against three great evils—dangerous companions, bad books, and strong drink.

His Lordship also preached a very impressive sermon on "Death" at the evening devotions. He received seven young ladies into the society of the Children of Mary. The musical portion of the ceremony was rendered by the choir, assisted by the Misses Matheson and Hoffman and Mr. Fendall. Miss Matheson sang as a solo, "There is a green hill far away," and Miss Hoffman played the outgoing voluntary. Mrs. Poppelwell presided at the organ.

There is talk at Rome of the Prince of Wales going shortly to pay an official visit to the Quirinal Court. The general opinion is that diplomatic considerations have a good deal to do with the visit, and it is alleged that the English Government desires to arrange, through the Prince, an Anglo-Italian campaign in the Sudan.

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