

Mr. Balfour's character as a philanthropic statesman is now revealed to the world in its true colours. His own hand it is which has turned on the lime-light; and if he stands before mankind as one of the most brutal and callous-hearted cynics that ever breathed, he has none but himself to thank. His reputation, previous to his Astar on Donegal, was not much; but the circumstances of his visit and the fact that immediately it came to an end the evicting forces which he had caused to halt in their march on Falcarragh were let loose on the famishing peasantry, exhibit him before the whole world as a hypocrite of the most sickening and detestable type. With professions of sympathy on his lying lips he enters into schemes of amelioration with clergymen and others, and then post-haste he speeds back to Dublin Castle to order the doom of the same unhappy people. The hideous transaction assumes almost the character of blasphemy, when the whole accompanying facts are taken into consideration. On Tuesday the devil's work commenced, the theatre of it being the familiar ground over which the curse of Olphert, that other detestable hypocrite, hangs. The elements seemed to link themselves with the forces of barbarism. A hurricane swept over the bleak mountains, and floods of freezing rain drenched the wretched wayfarers who toil among the hills and bogs of the Donegal wilderness all the preceding day and night. The weather was, however, no deterrent to the evicting forces. They went to work with a will, and before the afternoon sixteen families, numbering about a hundred souls, had been rendered roofless. Amongst those flung out was a poor woman with a baby only a month old—she suffering all the pangs of recent illness. She was certified by the doctor as fit for removal, although lying ill in bed; and out she went. Another victim was a poor widow who had paid her rent, but had her receipt given to a wrong person by the agent. The sights witnessed all through were heartrending. They were watched by a large number of spectators, English as well as Irish. Sir John Swinburne, one of the former, declared that if he had attempted to perpetrate, on his own estate in England, one-tenth of the atrocities which he had seen that day, he believes he would have been strung up to the nearest tree by the indignant people, and the verdict would be, "served him right."

The humane and patriotic Bishop of Raphoe followed his noble letter on the Olphert clearances by coming across the wild country and going over the scene of the day's foul work, along with Rev. Father Sheridan, comforting, as best he could, the poor victims of landlord cruelty. He found them cowering and crouching beside walls and ditches, vainly seeking a shelter from the elements; and his presence seemed to yield them much consolation, notwithstanding all their physical sufferings. The poor people will, doubtless, be sheltered by the National League, as so many of their co-sufferers have been; but what they are to do in the meantime in this bitter, marrow-chilling weather, is a question which appals one to think over. Fortunately for the cause of humanity, these fresh outrages in Falcarragh are witnessed by those who will publish them through the length and breadth of England. A large number of ladies and gentlemen journeyed over from London and other places specially to look on and report. Sir John Swinburne, M.P., has written a powerful letter to the *Daily News* in connection with the subject. He has spent a week going over the Olphert estate, and he unfolds to the English public a history of systematised and legalised robbery on that piece of property more abominable than anything that Armenian, Cretan, or Bulgarian had to complain of under the rule of the Turkish pashas.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

In the Canadian cabinet six out of the fourteen ministers are Catholics.

Rev. H. T. D. Ryder has been chosen as the new superior of the Oratory, Edgbaston, in succession to Cardinal Newman.

Ex-Gov. J. Madison Welle, of Louisiana, and wife, have become converts to the Catholic faith.

On the Feast of Blessed Margaret Mary, eighteen thousand six hundred children, assembled in the parish church of Notre Dame in Montreal, were consecrated to the Sacred Heart.

The bishops of the Province of Venezuela, have petitioned the Vatican to take the preliminary steps for the canonisation of Pio Nono.

The Pope has approved the foundation of the Society of the Servants of St. Peter. The founder is Monsignor Fava, Bishop of Grenoble.

Archbishop Riordan is to build an ecclesiastical seminary for his diocese of San Francisco. The buildings are to cost 300,000 dollars, and will be the first seminary of the kind on the Pacific Coast.

During 1889 the various Catholic societies in Great Britain contributed nearly £10,000 in aid of Catholic foreign missions.

There are 1,500 Catholic Indians in the diocese of Bishop Brondel, Helena, Mont. All the Flatheads are Catholics. The missions in Bishop Marty's diocese are also flourishing. The Bishop himself speaks several Indian languages.

There has been a massacre of Catholic converts in China during a recent Buddhist feast. The massacre was the work of a mob, for the authorities of the Empire not only tolerate but protect the missionaries.

The agitation for the recall of the Jesuits continues in Germany. Meetings are being held daily in various parts of the Empire to promote petitions on the subject, and there is good hope that the movement will be successful.

Father Lawrence Guffret, O.M.I., who years ago was assistant to the Venerable Curé d'Arz, has laboured among the Sioux of the West, was imprisoned for seven months while on duty on the Mission in China, and suffered shipwreck on the Mediterranean last March, has returned to Montana from Rome, where he gave testimony in the beatification process of the Venerable Curé d'Arz.

The Nacional Basilica of the Sacred Heart erected by the Republic of Ecuador on Mount Pichincha, 15,000 feet above the sea, is rapidly approaching completion. The President of the neighboring Republic of Venezuela has lately subscribed a very large sum for the erection of another church of the Sacred Heart in his capital city.

Signora Aldimira Meis, an Italian Lady, died recently, leaving according to the testimony of persons who witnessed her will 5,000,000 lire to the Pope. The will is missing and the entire estate reverts to the state. It is charged that the document has been stolen by persons acting for the crown in order to deprive the Pope of his legacy.

Father Scheil, O.P., the young Dominican Assyriologist, who has already made his name as an Orientalist is being sent by the French Government on a scientific mission, of unlimited duration, to Egypt. He will have, in addition to free travelling, a subsidy of 700 francs a year.

Dom Couturier, Abbot of Solesmes, Superior-General of the Benedictines of France, has passed away at the age of seventy-three. He ruled over the Abbey of Solesmes for fifteen years—since the death of Dom Guéranger.

It is rumoured that the Holy Father is occupied in preparing an Encyclical on the necessity of promoting Biblical studies in view especially of current controversies in which the authenticity and the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures are called in question.

Archbishop Kenrick, of St. Louis, is one of the oldest Bishops in the world, and all American Catholics would rejoice if the rumour that he is to receive the red hat for his Episcopal Jubilee, which will be celebrated on November 30th, 1891, should prove true. He has been Archbishop of St. Louis since 1847. Both he and his brother, the late Archbishop of Baltimore, were born in Dublin, and in spite of his old age he is still vigorous and has no coadjutor. He is still ninety years of age.

General Du Temple died on Tuesday, November 18, in a Paris monastery at the age of 67. He was brought up a sailor, took part in the Crimean, Italian, and Mexican expeditions, and in 1870, when captain of a frigate, was suddenly appointed brigadier-general, Gambetta confusing him with his brother, who was also a navy captain.

Father Hugonard, O.M.I., gives a very favourable account of the industrial school for Indian boys, which is under his supervision, in the town of Qu'Appelle (province of Assiniboia, and diocese of St. Boniface). There are 145 children in the school. Twelve of these were baptised lately, one of them being the son of the most influential chief in the district, who is himself still a pagan.

Leo XIII. will shortly address to the whole Catholic Episcopate a letter summing up the report of a commission of Cardinals on the anti-slavery crusade. His Holiness will prescribe a universal collection of arms in Catholic churches, to take place annually, on the Feast of the Epiphany. The commission was composed of Cardinals Rampolla, Lavergne, Simeoni, Ledochowski, and Vannutelli.

The Rev. C. H. Dehamur, a French missionary who has passed twenty-five years on the mission in Scandinavian countries, has obtained permission from Bishop Loughlin to establish in Brooklyn a church for Scandinavian Catholics. He arrived a few weeks ago from Norway. He has visited many of the Scandinavians of Brooklyn and New York city, and when he opens his church he will have quite a large congregation. In New York and Brooklyn there are about 25,000 Scandinavians, but the number of Catholics among them is not proportionately very large. Minneapolis is said to be the only other place in the United States where a Catholic church for Scandinavians has been established.

Padre Vines, a celebrated Jesuit priest in Havana, has for the past quarter of a century been making weather predictions at Havana. He is regarded by navigators and meteorologists all over the world as one of the most correct and reliable weather scientists of the age. For the past quarter of a century Padre Vines has made this work purely a labour of love. He is a highly-cultured gentleman, unassuming, and a profound scholar. Fully appreciating the valuable service rendered by the Padre some time since, the United States Government offered him a handsome salary in recognition of his past services. This offer he promptly declined, because the rules of the Jesuit Order prohibited it.

Rev. Father Cronin, of Buffalo, pays a loving tribute to the intellectual breadth and charming personal qualities of Cardinal Gibbons in these words:—"The Primate of the American Hierarchy, his Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, is a prelate who in every action justifies the infinite wisdom of the authorities who selected him to be the standard bearer of the Church in the United States. Broad and liberal in ideas, gentle and winning in his personal manners, sound and statesmanlike in his public measures, open and sincere in his character, he is the best ideal of a great captain in the armies of Christ. No movement for the elevation of mankind, for the purification of society or the amelioration of the condition of the poor ever lacks the hearty endorsement or active assistance of this tireless doer of good works. Well may the American church be proud of the beloved prelate who is at once her representative, her pride and her glory."

From Naples I learn that the Archbishop of that See has had letters from all parts of the country approving of his warm protest against the violation of the rights of the nuns in the convents of St. Ursula and of the Thirty Three. Catholic congresses and committees have added their addresses to those already presented to his Grace by his chapter and the parish priests. The Duke della Regina on Sunday last read an address to Cardinal Sanfelice on behalf of the leading Catholics of Naples, and a similar testimony of adhesion and respect was offered on the same day by the Neapolitan Union assembled in general meeting. So intense has been the indignation excited amongst all classes by the action of the Prefect Basile that he is now said to regret having been an instrument in the perpetration of such gross outrages.

The total receipts for the Passion Play performances amounted to six hundred thousand marks, or thirty thousand pounds sterling. The representations were crowded, and all the lodges in the village forestalled to the close. In 1880 the receipts did not quite reach half so