

GENERAL

American Sympathy

The American mission is still booming (says the 'Freeman's Journal'). At the great Convention of Philadelphia, which was attended by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., the delegates pledged themselves to subscribe to the Irish National funds in one year a sum of 50,000 dollars. When the collection was called for it was found that in twenty minutes 78,000 dollars had been subscribed, the dollars coming in at the rate of £700 a minute. The Convention, rising to the occasion, pledged itself to collect 100,000 dollars. This was no vain, boastful pledge, as our cablegram from New York on Monday shows. The New York delegates at the Convention promised from the Empire City a contribution of 25,000 dollars. At the great meeting in Carnegie Hall, the first that the young Irish envoys, Mr. T. M. Kettle, M.P., and Mr. Hazelton, M.P., attended, New York doubled that amount, amidst a scene of tremendous enthusiasm. No doubt there will be the customary sneers at the sending out to our kith and kin the ancient hat, but old though that hat may be, it is clear that it is always welcomed by the people of the States, and it will soon be coming home again with a very rich lining.

Policeman and Antiquarian

The Irish antiquarian and archaeologist who has attracted so much attention in scientific circles in England as well as Ireland, proves to be a village policeman. For some time photographs and articles have been appearing in the antiquarian journals on the dunes, forts, souterrains, and ogham stones in the County Mayo. They attracted so much attention that a party of antiquarians from London visited the village of Ballyhaunis and discovered the author to be a policeman on the beat. The officer will retire shortly from the force, and will then devote all his time to research. He has kept his secret well.

A Dying Cause

In the course of an appreciation of the late Colonel Sanderson, Mr. Harold Spender, in the 'Manchester Guardian,' has the following striking references to the cause of Unionism: "It was a bad cause, and it is now a dying cause. It is perhaps well that Colonel Sanderson should have gone before he tasted the full bitterness of seeing it dead. For he was the chief surviving champion of that combination of militant anti-social landlordism and race supremacy which has so long played the governing part in Irish affairs. He was the leader of that peculiar faction the anti-Irish Irishmen. Finally, as he played the game, he could never quite conceal the fact that he was a soldier of fortune fighting against his own race in the English ranks."

Safeguarding Religious Interests

Mr. Redmond (says the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal') declared, in his speech at the Coalisland meeting on October 14—a meeting which, in its magnitude and enthusiasm, has recalled, in the opinion of those who were present, the memories of the monster meeting of O'Connell, in 1843, and of Parnell, in 1880—that there were no safeguards to which he would object in a Home Rule Bill to-morrow to satisfy the fears which a section of the Protestant population of Ireland entertains with reference to their religious interests under a Home Rule system. Mr. Redmond's declaration is an echo of the sentiment embodied in a resolution drafted by Mr. Isaac Butt, and passed unanimously at the great Home Rule Conference in the Rotunda, Dublin, in 1873, which laid the foundation of the present Irish National movement, stating that "while we believe that in an Irish Parliament the rights and liberties of all classes of our countrymen would find their best and surest protection, we are willing that there should be incorporated in the Irish Federal Constitution articles supplying the amplest guarantees that no legislation shall be adopted to establish any religious ascendancy in Ireland, or that subjects any person to disabilities on account of his religious opinions."

MYERS & CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George Street. They guarantee the highest class of work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth.

People We Hear About

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has started a fund for old Scotsmen "down on their luck." He has moved an old schoolmate from a London workhouse, providing him with 15s a week on his returning to his native place. In all cases the beneficiaries must return to their native places.

Mr. Stefano Gatti, the principal shareholder in Gatti's Restaurant, died at his residence in Bedford Square, London, on October 12. Early in the sixties Mr. Gatti and his brother laid the foundation of the very successful restaurant business associated with their names at the Adelaide Gallery in the Strand. The Gattis are a Catholic family, and have been amongst the most generous benefactors of Catholic charities.

As an actress Madame Ristori, whose death took place recently (says the 'Catholic Times'), was, without question, the greatest tragedienne of the nineteenth century; and as a woman she was an honor to her sex. Her death was most edifying. We learn from a private source that so soon as she knew there was no hope of her recovery, she sent for the parish priest of Sant' Eustachio, Rome, and received, with edifying piety, the last Sacraments of the Church. The Queen-Dowager sent a wreath and was represented, and the number of flowers was quite extraordinary. The Municipality and all the official world of the Eternal City were present, as well as the members of several charitable institutions in which the illustrious actress was interested.

The Count de Ramirez de Arellano, on whom Pope Pius X. has conferred the Grand Commandership of St. Gregory the Great, has, though a young man, proved on several occasions his devotion to the Holy See. The superb stained glass window erected in St. James', Spanish Place (the Spanish national Church in London) to the memory of the Princess of the Asturias was given by the Count. Though a Spaniard, he is intimately connected with England and Scotland, his only sister being married to the Honorable Ruaidhri Ersline (son of Lord Ersline) who takes such an interest in the Catholic Gaels of Scotland, and has just compiled a Gaelic prayer book, besides being engaged on another Catholic book. The Count's eldest brother is married to a daughter of the late Lord and Lady Henry Cholmondeley, and is a first cousin of the great Marquis of Cholmondeley, Great Lord Chamberlain of England.

Viscount Feilding, the eldest son of the Earl of Denbigh, has just come of age, and there were great rejoicings on the family estates in North Wales and Warwickshire. He is the eldest of a family of ten, the youngest of whom, a daughter, was born only five years ago, and has the King for her godfather. Lord Feilding was educated at the famous Oratory School at Edgbaston, and at Christ Church, Oxford. The family recently sustained a great bereavement by the death of Lord Denbigh's youngest brother, Monsignor Basil Feilding, who was drowned through the upsetting of his canoe on the Rhine. The Feildings claim descent from the Counts of Hapsburg, and it was an odd coincidence that Monsignor Feilding was drowned at Rheinfelden. The late Lord Denbigh, grandfather of the present Lord Feilding, was a very fervent convert. It was he who brought the Capuchins to Pantasaph.

An event of quite considerable interest in the literary world of London this autumn will be the new novel from the pen of Lucas Malet. 'Lucas Malet' is, of course, the pen-name under which Mrs. Mary St. Leger Harrison has elected to write. Like Mrs. Craigie and Miss Adeline Sergeant, Mrs. Harrison is a convert to Catholicism. Her conversion had, one imagines, more of the romantic about it than those of the two writers mentioned, for she is the daughter of the late Charles Kingsley, than whom in the middle of the last century the Church had no bitterer or more vituperative antagonist. Kingsley himself was, and is, reckoned a novelist of no mean ability, though by reason of his intense hate and misrepresentation of everything Catholic his works do not greatly commend themselves to Catholics. Yet to Kingsley we owe a debt of gratitude, for were it not for him Newman's great 'Apologia' would probably never have been written. That his daughter, therefore, should turn to the faith her father so hated naturally caused some sensation, and at the time the minds of many Protestants were much exercised at the conversion of Lucas Malet. As she has not given the world a novel since 1901, when the 'History of Sir Richard Calmady' appeared, readers of the higher form of fiction are awaiting with an added interest the forthcoming book.