

bring discredit upon socialistic principles—a mere handful, perhaps, but largely composed of fanatics and madmen, people half hysterical from failure, poverty, vice, and an indigestion of so-called "free-thought." These would not be slow in taking advantage of the Pope's liberty, and the Italian authorities, even if they were willing, would not be able to protect the Pope's life. I say, "even if willing." Perhaps, times are changing, but when the body of a dead Pope (Pius IX.) was being transferred from its temporary resting-place in St. Peter's to the Church of St. Lawrence, the then Italian authorities took no steps to prevent a band of ruffians throwing the remains into the Tiber. If that contemptible plot was unsuccessful, no thanks is due to the Italian Government.

IRELAND AND FRANCE

In their address to M. Poincaré, President of the French Republic, the deputation representing the Irish Parliamentary Party, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and other Irish bodies, fittingly reminded him of the historic ties that have bound the Irish, one of the branches of the Celtic race, with France, always regarded by them as the greatest of the Celtic countries (says a writer in the *Catholic Times*). Appropriately, too, was an address presented on the occasion to Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris, for in the past relations between France and Ireland, the friendliness that prevailed was due as much to the action of the Church as of the State. In days when Irishmen had to fight not only for their nationality but also for their faith, France was hospitable and helpful to them. Kindness and generosity were displayed towards Irish exiles. The Lombard College, Paris, at the instance of two Irish ecclesiastics holding positions of influence and well known at the French Court—the Rev. Dr. Maginn and the Rev. Dr. Kelly—was handed over to Irish students, and to-day the good work then inaugurated is carried on at the Irish College in the Rue des Irlandais. In 1870 the college was honored by a visit from

A Distinguished Descendant

of an Irish soldier of fortune, Marshal McMahon, Governor of Algiers, who subsequently became a predecessor of M. Poincaré in the office of President of the Republic. During the German invasion in that year the college was used as a hospital for wounded French soldiers, and the late Father McNamara, the President, organised a relief fund on their behalf and himself conveyed seven thousand francs for that purpose to the Abbe Lacroix, the official administrator. Colleges for Irish students were also established at Bordeaux, Toulouse, Nantes, Poitiers, Douai, and Lille, and in their hour of need the Irishmen received from the French not only material assistance, but, what was not less valuable, warm sympathy. As the address to M. Poincaré says: "France gave them a welcome worthy of her greatness, her spirit and her goodness of heart." And Ireland can proudly feel that she was not ungrateful. Her gratitude was poured forth in the streams of blood shed by her children to uphold the flag of France. It would be a long record were all that Irish soldiers did for France fully recounted. If the name of France is associated with the most glorious victories achieved on the battlefields of Europe, it is certain that the French armies never contained a finer element for brilliant warfare than

The Wild Geese

that a hard fate at home sent to their ranks. 'From calculations and researches that have been made at the War Office,' writes the Abbe McGeoghegan in his *History of Ireland*, it has been ascertained that from the arrival of the Irish troops in France in 1691 to 1745, the year of the battle of Fontenoy—that is in fifty-four years—more than four hundred and fifty thousand Irishmen died in the service of France.' The Dillons, Burkes, O'Neills, O'Donnells, Maguires, McMahons,

Maginnes; and O'Reillys displayed not only personal valor but uncommon strategic skill.

Sarsfield held high command when he was mortally wounded at Landen, and in many of the chief battles of the period France felt confident of the bravery of the Irish troops supporting her cause. One of the most remarkable pages in military annals is that which tells of the defence of Cremona against the Austrians by Mahony in command of six hundred Irish, the regiments of Dillon and Burke. Villeroy, who held the town with a garrison of seven thousand men, was taken prisoner by Prince Eugene, and all hope was abandoned by the defenders, but the six hundred Irish held their ground and forced Prince Eugene to retire with the loss of two thousand men.

Catholic Ireland, so many of whose sons died for France in the past, has never ceased to take a keen interest in the affairs of the French people. In recent times she has been grieved to see that the French Government has not shown a true appreciation of religious liberty or that respect and veneration towards the Holy Father which the French authorities formerly paid him so willingly. But she notes with deep satisfaction that since the war began the French nation has been undergoing a change and resuming the old attitude towards religious belief and traditions.

MERCY GUILD, AUCKLAND

(From a correspondent.)

One Sunday during May, while conversing on that familiar topic, 'The war,' it was remarked to one of the Sisters of Mercy that the Catholic ladies could and ought to do something 'worth while' for the hospital ship. Ever ready with their help and advice, the Sisters at once agreed to do everything in their power to forward the work, and the initial meeting was held at St. Mary's Convent on the afternoon of Saturday, May 29, when about seventy ladies, representing every parish in Auckland, met to discuss and push forward the good work. The sum of £22 was collected in the hall, and within five days, the subscriptions had amounted to £47 for the purchase of materials. The ladies quickly busied themselves, and the Sisters very kindly gave up the entire use of one of their largest rooms and of their sewing machines to a bevy of ladies who, for almost a week, worked incessantly at the convent. At the same time the Sisters of Mercy in charge of the Sacred Heart School, Ponsonby, enlisted the help of the children, with the result that a substantial parcel was added to that of the Mercy Guild. The parcels sent to the Town Hall included 500 pairs of bed-socks, 36 pairs of hand-made slippers, eye-bandages, towels (bath and glass towels), mufflers, knitted socks, and handkerchiefs.

It is to be hoped that the enthusiasm shown and the work accomplished somewhat repaid the Sisters for the inconvenience to which they were put and for the trouble taken by them. The Sisters and the ladies of the guild are to be heartily congratulated on the work done. When the equipment of the ship was completed the Mercy Guild decided to continue their efforts, and have met once each week since to supply necessities and comforts for our wounded. At the meeting on Friday, June 18, parcels of two dozen Balaclavas and one dozen Nightingales were received from the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Remuera, to whom the Sisters of Mercy and the ladies of the guild extend their sincerest thanks.

The business of the Mercy Guild is being conducted by a committee of ladies consisting of Mrs. J. J. O'Brien (president), Misses Lynch, E. Mahon, R. Yates, M. Maguire, A. Bryant (treasurer), and M. Nolan (secretary).

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