

Catholics and Protestants in Ireland. As the *Freeman's Journal* points out, by 12 Geo. I., c. 3—'an Act to prevent marriages by Popish priests'—the Catholic priest who married a Catholic and a Protestant was rendered liable to the capital punishment. All such marriages were declared null and void by 19 Geo. II., c. 13, and by an Act passed in the reign of George III., a Catholic priest who celebrated a marriage between Protestants or between a person professing to be a Protestant within twelve months before such celebration and a Catholic, unless such persons had been previously married by a Protestant clergyman, became liable to a penalty of five hundred pounds. When Queen Victoria was in the fifth year of her reign, instead of the death penalty for the celebration by a Catholic priest of a marriage between a Catholic and a Protestant, transportation for seven years was substituted, and it was not till 1870 that the Catholic priests were entirely free from the disability. And yet the agitators coolly talk of Catholic intolerance!

The Parliamentary Fund

To-day we (*Weekly Freeman* of March 18) publish the first list of subscriptions to the Irish National Fund for 1911. It presents a magnificent and prompt response to the appeal of the National Trustees. Its total reaches well over two thousand pounds, and furnishes an excellent augury for the realisation of the hope that this year's collection may be a record one. The character of the list is even more noteworthy than its total amount. Gratifying as is the staunch and steady patriotism evidenced in the large subscriptions, it is the multitude of small subscribers, from all parts of the country, that establish most conclusively the representative basis of the Irish Party. The five hundred pounds contributed by the United Irish League of Great Britain is made up, as the detailed list shows, almost entirely of small sums; and in addition to this we find, dotted over the long columns, the donations of individual Irishmen scattered from Baff to Surrey. No calumny of faction has ever shaken the fidelity of these exiles; their appearance in the opening list of 1911 is worthy of their record. The home contributions include the names of thirty out of thirty-two counties of Ireland. Here is the secret of the Irish Party's strength; here is the test, hardly second to the ballot-box test itself, of the authority with which Mr. Redmond and his colleagues speak for a united and determined Ireland. Derry City heads the list with £140, all in small sums; and East Tyrone, with £100 subscription, helps to explode the audacious Unionist claim to a solid Ulster. All the southern counties are well represented; Sligo, Down, Clare, Tipperary, Dublin, recur as one rapidly glances down the list. Specially satisfactory are the prompt and generous contributions from districts which, like Birr and New Ross, have been recently challenged by the opponents of the Irish Party. Faction has served as a tonic, bracing the nerve of Nationalism to energetic continuance in the fight. It is hoist with its own petard.

An Obstacle in the Way

The whole British Progressive Party, both Liberal and Labor, is united in favor of Sir Edward Grey's idea (says the *London Morning Leader*). But there is one party which has a special interest and a special power in this matter. The Irish Party are quite frank in their statement that it would be impossible for us to obtain this American Alliance without the grant of Home Rule to Ireland. The Irish vote in America has hitherto stood implacably in the way of an understanding between the two countries. But now that Home Rule is in sight the Irish vote is softening towards Great Britain. Some of us can still remember the pilgrimage of passion which Michael Davitt carried into the United States when last arbitration was proposed, and how that one-armed Irish peasant succeeded in thwarting the schemes of all the statesmen and diplomats by turning the whole American Senate against our arbitration proposals. Thanks to the fact that this time the policy is in the hands of a Liberal Home Rule Government, the Irish do not propose for the moment to launch a hostile campaign against Sir Edward Grey's policy. But they are absolutely firm and clear in pointing out that the policy can only be brought to victory as an accompaniment to the grant of Home Rule. There can be absolutely no doubt that they have sufficient power and influence in the United States to achieve that design. But is there not a special advantage in this fact? Will not the aim of an American alliance still further ease and soften the grant of Home Rule to the English people? Surely it is one of the brightest prospects of the coming two years that we should be able to carry out both these policies together, and achieve in the end a triple friendship between three great races divided so often by ancient strifes and misunderstandings, but now to stand together before the world on behalf of peace. That is a great dream, and if Sir Edward Grey can carry it out he will deserve to be regarded as the greatest of modern British Foreign Ministers.

Nothing grieves the careful housewife more than to see her good furniture mishandled by careless carriers. If you have to shift, be wise and get a reliable firm like the **NEW ZEALAND EXPRESS COMPANY** to remove your things. They are very careful, and charge reasonably too. Their address is Bond street....

People We Hear About

Rev. Father W. O'Leary, S.J., Mungret College, Limerick, has been granted a new patent for carburetting.

The Most Rev. Dr. Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, celebrated on March 24 his 50th birthday.

Seumas MacManus, who writes poetry and fiction about Donegal, and Catalina Violante Paez, who writes poetry and sociological essays about New York, were married recently at the Church of the Holy Name, New York. The ceremony was performed by Father O'Flanagan, the envoy of the Gaelic League. Dr. Pedro Rojas, Venezuelan Minister to the United States, was best man.

Prince Luitpold, the Regent of Bavaria, who celebrated recently his ninetieth birthday, to the rejoicing of the citizens of Munich, with whom he is deservedly popular, occupies an interesting position. He has been Regent for two insane Monarchs. The first, Ludwig II., the patron of Wagner and builder of palaces, was on June 7, 1886, officially declared insane, Luitpold being at the same time proclaimed Regent.

The Army's greatest railway engineer is a distinction that rightly belongs to Sir Percy Girouard, the Governor of the East African Protectorate, the distinguished Catholic Canadian. It was while Sir Percy was Traffic Manager at the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich that Lord Kitchener 'spotted' him as being just the man he wanted for the construction of the Sudan Railway. And, in order to crush the Khalifa, Sir Percy laid a wonderful line across 500 miles of desert for the advance to Khartoum, in spite of constant harassing from the enemy. In South Africa his greatest feat was doubling the line between Bloemfontein and Johannesburg, in some places at the rate of forty miles a day.

Archbishop Ryan would have been eighty (says an American exchange) had he lived until February 20. Bishop Hogan of Kansas City will be eighty-two, May 10. Bishop Foley of Detroit will be seventy-eight, November 5. Cardinal Gibbons will be seventy-seven, July 13. Bishop Ludden of Syracuse was seventy-five, February 4. Bishop Richter of Grand Rapids, Mich., will be seventy-three, April 9. Archbishop Ireland will be seventy-three, September 11. Bishop Gabriels of Ogdensburg will be seventy-three, October 16. Archbishop Keane will be seventy-two on September 12. Bishop Burke of Albany was seventy-one, January 10. Bishop Spalding will be seventy-one, June 2. Bishop Grace of Sacramento will be seventy, August 2. Archbishop Riordan will be seventy, August 27.

The *Belfast Irish Weekly*, writing on the eve of the departure of the Irish delegates for New Zealand, says:—Mr. Hazleton, M.P. for North Galway, has had previous experience as an Irish delegate to our kinsmen abroad, as he took part in a mission to America some years ago with Mr. T. M. Kettle. Mr. W. A. Redmond, the newly-elected member for East Tyrone, will find himself amongst a host of friends and relatives in Australia, where the memories of the great Home Rule campaign conducted by his father, Mr. John Redmond, and Mr. William Redmond, thirty years ago, are still fresh in many minds. Mr. J. T. Donovan will be in a position to act as guide in this mission, as he was Mr. Joseph Devlin's partner in the memorable expedition to Australasia about five years ago, which resulted in securing hundreds of thousands of new friends to the Irish cause down south, and £23,000 for the National exchequer.

In 1872 Mr. William Archer Redmond was a successful candidate for the representation of Wexford in the British Parliament (says the *Irish Weekly*). This date preceded by many years the birth of the gentleman of the same name who now sits for East Tyrone. The candidate for Wexford 39 years ago was the grandfather of East Tyrone's choice and father of the present Irish leader. A few sentences from the election address issued by the elder, and now long deceased, William Archer Redmond in 1872, are well worth recalling. He wrote:—'In reference to the question of Legislative independence, which now occupies the attention of the country, under the name of Home Rule, I will at once declare my conviction that Ireland possesses the indefeasible right to be governed by an Irish Parliament. That right has never been forfeited or surrendered, and I hold that the restoration of Home Rule is absolutely essential to the good government of the country, to the development of its resources, to the removal of the wasting curse of absenteeism, and to the final establishment in peace and liberty of the Irish race upon Irish soil. I am convinced that ample means exist to achieve this result within the limits of the Constitution.' John E. Redmond was a schoolboy of 16 when his father secured election for Wexford County on the principles to which legislative recognition will soon be given—and very largely through the efforts of the brilliant statesman who succeeded his father in Wexford thirty years ago.

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