

THE CASKET

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Communications

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1913.

HISTORY OF HATRED.

(Continued from page 1)

Mitchell, who knew O'Connell personally, says that O'Connell frequently declared that, rather than remain in the "Union," he would gladly take back the Irish Protestant Parliament, consent to the repeal of Catholic Emancipation, and take his chance with his Irish fellow-countrymen.

In the session of 1828, a considerable number of petitions from Protestants were presented, in favor of the Catholic claims; on the other hand, 800,000 Catholics signed a petition asking that Protestant Dissenters be relieved from the Test Act and the Corporation Act.

Multitudes of petitions, and from the most influential people in England, Ireland and Scotland were presented against all concessions to Catholics.

Catholic Emancipation was passed, at last; but it was accompanied by an act disfranchising the "forty shilling freeholders" in Ireland.

When the franchise was restored to the Irish Catholics by the Parliament of Ireland, it was extended to the "forty-shilling free-holders," (the term used popularly to describe the annual value of holdings sufficient to entitle a man to a vote).

But, when O'Connell upset all previous calculations by running an election in Clare; and when the forty-shilling freeholders showed, in that, and in a few other elections, that they were resolved to vote for themselves and their country rather than for the landlords; when they disturbed the self-satisfied complacency of the English Commons by sending there a big, fearless, Catholic named O'Connell, then the forty-shilling freeholders were doomed.

Their disfranchisement led, of course, to the refusal of the landlords in Ireland to give any more such tenancies. This threw Ireland, after a time, into the horrors of a general system of ejectment and of tenancies at will.

What reasons were given for the act? Here they are: That there was too great a disposition on the part of Irish landlords to divide their land into minute portions; that the franchise was a mere instrument with which the landed aristocracy exercised power and control over the elections; and that this control had lately passed into the hands of the priests, (which was worse); and there was cited as an example what had lately taken place in Louth and Monaghan and Waterford.

The argument of some of the noble little band who voted against the act was, "that the only offence of the persons against whom the bill was directed had been that they exercised their privilege honestly and independently, according to their conscience."

O'Connell's victory was a great moral victory. Had the franchise not been tampered with, the voice of

Ireland would at once have been heard in the British House of Commons; as it was not heard until 1882; and that would have been a great political and constitutional victory; but, as the thing was done, his victory was a moral one and little more.

The Irish Catholics were now told that they were emancipated. What were the actual conditions? The mass of the Catholic voters were tenants. They were disfranchised unless they could produce a qualification five times as great as that of English voters.

Thus did England take back with the left-hand two-thirds or more of what she had given with the right. Another lasting and prolonged abomination of government of Ireland, from London, is this,—that the price of public office for Catholics in Ireland was the surrender of all active sympathy with the constitutional aspirations of their fellow-countrymen, and complete cessation from worrying English governments about Irish grievances.

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Our London Letter.

LONDON, April 11th, 1913.

OBSEQUIES OF VISCOUNT LLANDAFF.

Solemn Requiem Mass was sung on Monday last at the Church of the Jesuits, Farm Street, for the repose of the soul of Viscount Llandaff, who died in London on Thursday last after a very brief illness.

THE TRUTH AT LAST.

It will be remembered that some time ago the Catholic Federation passed resolutions calling on the Government to take action in regard to the atrocities being perpetrated on innocent men and women by the Portuguese Republic, and a Committee was formed to further publicity by every possible means.

Society formed for the purpose of seeing justice done to the poor Portuguese prisoners. The Duchess, after recounting the benefactions of that noble lady Dona Constanca de Gama, tells of a beautiful and pathetic incident in another of the prisons.

NOT WANTED.

The Wycliffe Preachers with Mr. Kensit at their head have received a setback this week. As a rule these gentlemen apparently find the hunting of Romish practices and doctrines a paying game, for Mr. Kensit has blossomed out from an obscure corner of Paternoster Row into palatial premises opposite St. Paul's Cathedral.

CARDINAL BOURNE AND THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

A large attendance of some seven hundred Teachers employed in the Metropolitan area took place on Saturday at Cardinal Bourne's reception of the profession. In a short address, after all were assembled in the throne room, Cardinal Bourne spoke of the change which had come over the conditions governing the work of Catholic teachers.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY AND THE LAMBS OF THE FLOCK.

Westminster Cathedral presented a very charming sight on Sunday afternoon when Cardinal Bourne, enthroned in the sanctuary, received the offerings of the school children of the Archdiocese towards the Crusade of Rescue.

THE PLYMOUTH CONGRESS.

At the important meeting of the Catholic Truth Society held on Friday last an outline was given of the principal points which will be discussed at the forthcoming National Catholic Congress in Plymouth to be held in July.

CHARLES I. AND ROME.

London took less interest in the Historical Congress which has now come to a close than the event warranted. Perhaps the most interesting study is that of history, and when it embraces not only national, but that of great professions and institutions such as the Army, the Navy, Art, Literature, and Religion.

expecting unnecessary concessions from her to him. Nevertheless, though Professor Meyer considers that in this sympathy with the Church the King was a stranger to his people, that people who had so recently cast off the robe of faith, there may be some truth in his supposition that it was the partial suspension of the penal laws against Catholics by Charles which was one of the main reasons for the breach with the Parliament.

A Call for Action.

MR. EDITOR.—Recently statistics from the report of the department of Public Health of the Province of Nova Scotia and particular comment upon them have appeared in the public press. Among the causes of deaths it is remarkable that tuberculosis ranks highest. This is particularly true of Antigonish County, in which the percentage of deaths from the white plague is almost double that of any other county except Richmond.

The Fenian Raid Bounty Again.

SIR—In your issue of the 17th inst. is heard the jealous wail of one who, not himself, entitled to the bounty under the Fenian Raid Volunteer Bounty Act, would prevent every body else from receiving it.

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MILLINERY DEPARTMENT. Miss Murray has just returned from New York and Boston where she had the opportunity of visiting the large millinery displays of these cities and is in a better position than ever to cater to the tastes of her many Customers.

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