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IRISH HOME RULE

After many years of ceaseless
struggles for Home Rule, Ireland has
at last seen the dawn of liberty and
has inaugurated the nearest approach
to that priceless boon that the green
isle has ever known. While the
change is not as radical as it might be,
still it is a big step in the right direc-
tion and will tend to prepare the way
for a broader and wider freedom for
that down-trodden country. The
grand juries, bodies nominated ex-
clusively by the landlords which for-
merly governed the counties, are en-
tirely superseded by the councils,
which have been elected directly by
the people and in most cases from the
people.

The common people are in com-
plete control in all the councils, and
the change is one of the most remark-
able ever seen in the country.

Laborers and farm hands are sitting
in the council side by side with their
employers. Servants are officially
superior to their masters, and brick-
layers are making laws for men of
title.

The people pitched in to work hard
for the election of their candidates,
even the women assisting, and the re-
sult was an overflowing victory for
the Nationalists. They elected 554
members, as against 110 elected by
the Unionists representing the old
regime.

At last we are to have a Catholic
chapel on the government reservation
at West Point, a license under which
the structure will be erected has been
issued.

Bellamy Storer, the new United
States Minister to Spain is a convert to
the faith.

Captain Coghlan, of the Raleigh,
will probably be a little more discreet
in his after dinner speeches hereafter.
His staging of "Hook der Kaiser"
did not add much to his official stand-
ing.

Dr. Rooker, secretary of the Papal
Legation at Washington says there is
absolutely no foundation for rumors
in the secular press relative to the ap-
pointment of a representative of the
United States in the College of Cardi-
nals.

Reports from the Philippines
indicate that the long MacArthur will
catch up with Aguinaldo and, crush
his power.

A test of the Marconi system of
wireless telegraphy was made in Chi-
cago the other day by professor Jerome
Green, head of the department of
physics and electrical engineering at
Columbia University.

DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

Now that the month of May is near
at hand, the time set aside by the
Church for the special honoring of the
Blessed Virgin, it will be most appro-
priate to quote from the pastoral let-
ter recently issued by the devout
Archbishop Duhamel, of Ottawa, deal-
ing with the question of devotion to
the Blessed Virgin Mary, and enun-
ciating Catholic doctrine thereon. It
is in pamphlet form and contains
twenty-eight pages and is now being
read in the churches of the archdiocese.

In the course of his letter His Grace
says: "The knowledge, love and reign
of Mary increase in proportion to the
perils and wants of the church. This
is a fact, proved through the centuries
of Christianity from the council of
Ephesus to the promulgation of the
doctrine of the Immaculate Conception,
and from this to the last constitution
of Leo XIII. on the subject."

After reciting evidences of the ma-
ternal sovereignty of the Mother of
God, the letter continues, in part:

"Devotion to Mary can augment and
give an increase of expansion to the
reign of Jesus in souls? Yes, without
doubt. For, those prayers we recite
at the foot of Mary's throne, those
hymns of praise we sing to her on cer-
tain solemnities, those consecrations to
Mary read on first communion day or
at the close of a parochial retreat are
but transitory, temporary and ephem-
eral acts, although their fruits and
permanence are of imperishable profit
to the soul of the just. Blessed de Mon-
ford says that Mary being the most
conformed of all creatures to Jesus
Christ, and devotion inclining to im-
itate the subject beloved—it follows
that of all devotions, that which most
consecrates and conforms the soul to
our Lord is devotion to His Holy
Mother, and that the more a soul is
consecrated to Jesus? But what
stronger tie can there be to unite us to
Christ than His Mother? It is by her
He came to us, it is by her He wishes
us to go to Him.

"In this hierarchy of mediation, it is
beyond doubt that God, the wisest and
most just of kings, has proportioned
the power of each agent according to
his rank, his capacity and his merits.
He teaches this himself in one of his
parables—where the Master gives to
his faithful servants power over a
number of cities equal to the number
of pounds brought by each one—if
such is the case, let us proclaim that
Mary must hold the first rank in this
hierarchy of mediation. In fact, she
holds the first rank among creatures;
she is the daughter, the spouse and the
mother of God; such is her dignity;
she is the holiest of creatures; such
is her position, her capacity; she is, as
will be said hereafter, our co-redemp-
trix; such are her services. If then,
we require a mediation to go to
Christ, to be united to Him, let us go
to her."

Continuing, the pastoral explains at
length the teaching of the church in
relation to the Blessed Virgin and its
doctrinal teaching on the question of
the mediation of Mary between Jesus
and His disciples among all nations
and at all times.

"Daily should it be a duty and a de-
sire for us, to consecrate our whole
being as a holocaust to Our Divine
Master. That our sacrifice may be ac-
ceptable to him let our altar be the
heart of Mary."

The concluding part of the pastoral
announces the formation and canon-
ical erection in the diocese of Ottawa
of the confraternity of Mary, Queen of
Hearts, the principal seat of which will
be in the Church of Our Lady of
Lourdes, Montreal, under the di-
rection of the priests of Mary. The
objects of the society are explained at
length, and the faithful are enjoined to
become connected with it.

During the years of his pontificate
which have elapsed so far, Leo XIII.
has increased the number of episcopal
sees in the Catholic Church through-
out Christendom by 113. The episcopal
sees, that is those occupied by bishops,
which he has created, outnumber all
the new sees erected by the Pope of
any other rank. Next come the vicar-
iates-apostolic, the bishops of
which hold titles of lapsed sees. Leo
XIII. has given us two new patriarchal
sees, thirteen additional archiepisco-
pal ones, and he has made seventeen
sees, that were formerly simply episco-
pal ones, archiepiscopal ones.

Archbishop Chapelle brought back
with him to New Orleans a young
Spanish-speaking priest from Cuba,
Father Fernandez, who will remain in
the United States for a year or so for
the purpose of studying English and
our Catholic ecclesiastical ways. Then
he will return to Cuba, and do what he
may towards introducing American
Catholic methods there. This is a
practical step towards putting the
Cuban church in agreement with the
conditions which will prevail in the
Island, at least as long as American
power is paramount down there.

THE INDIAN SCHOOL QUESTION.

Editor of CATHOLIC JOURNAL.

Another dark spot to brand the
record of the Fifty-fifth Congress, in
the reluctance displayed to give the
deserved and due consideration to
that able and logical petition of our
beloved Cardinal Gibbons, to re-open
the Indian school question. At the
time of the publication of the petition
throughout the press, the writer in
conjunction with his friend, Mr. Pat-
rick Ford—who gave the petition a
very conspicuous place in the Irish
World and a highly commented edito-
rial, called for action on the members
of congress. No action was taken—
notwithstanding our Cardinal is the
respective representative of no less
than twelve millions of Catholics in
these United States. What explana-
tion, if any, has that congress to offer,
or was it entirely devoid of that sense
of honor or addicted to that degree of
stupidity as not to be able to grasp at
the significance of so important an ad-
dress that concerned all Catholics in
general. That is, the weight of the
petition simply demands a due share
and fair treatment that is accorded to
other religious denominations. In
fact, the petition from the alpha to the
omega presents a logical demonstration
that cannot fail to win the attention
of an unbiased mind. Hence, when
His Eminence addressed the members
of congress, in a general body, the
very least he could have expected was
a respectable hearing. Having not
been granted the due courtesy in that
respect—the question naturally pre-
sents itself in this fashion: "What are
we Catholics going to do about it?"

To answer the so important ques-
tion to be happily and vigorously
coincide with the suggestion of the
"Ave Maria," and quickly acted up-
on by THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL, in
the sending of a joint letter of the
American bishops to their flocks and
a congress of Catholic editors to agree
upon a uniform and vigorous policy.
And sooner the matter is attended
to the better it will be for those whom
it is concerned. Heretofore, we Catho-
lics, as a body, have been too tolerant
in many things, especially of the
"religio-politico order." As, I have
on other occasions declared in THE
CATHOLIC JOURNAL—too much toler-
ation is worse than no toleration at all.
We are having a working illustration
of it just now in Ireland. The people
of that country put aside the policy of
toleration and now are beginning to
learn the magnitude of their own
strength. At various times, in this
country, we hear much of the re-
markable degree of Protestant toler-
ation. So much (?) so that we can look
in vain for an example where the
offices of the president, vice president
or secretary of State have been
honored by Catholics being elected to
the same. Although a practical re-
publican in politics. I am sorry to
have to say I am ashamed of the many
doings of my party and entirely dis-
gusted with the present administra-
tion. The very atmosphere at head-
quarters seems doped with "Anglo-
Saxons" bearing the foul breath of
the London autocracy; The republic-
an party must not harbor the
thought that a favor here and
there, now and then, satisfies us
Catholics as a class of people! Not
at all. No more than one swallow
can bring the summer.

I hope it will not be necessary to
have a centre party with a Windthorst
at its head; but will join that party
that will respect us Catholics by grant-
ing our portion of attention and favors
so lavishly bestowed on other classes
of individuals. Either party cannot
get into power without the assistance
of the Catholic vote. That is an es-
tablished fact and clear as the noon-
day's sun. Therefore, let us cast our
votes, hereafter, to that party that
will see that justice is done to Catho-
lics at large. By such action our
present congress will see the wise
policy of taking up Cardinal Gibbons'
petition and give it due consideration.
Otherwise, the writer will out short
his affiliations with the republican
party. As nothing is gained except
we use personal exertion and a pre-
determination to have our rights ac-
knowledged—the matter becomes
plain in the word of "duty."

It is very easy to be seen, that in
the demise of the great James G.
Blaine, the republican party lost an
able guide and a true American leader.
In his time there was no English
snobbery evinced in its dealings and
its actions savored of the true Ameri-
can spirit. Verily, Blaine did not lack
the courage to see that Eagan and
Ryan were appointed as ministers to
foreign countries. Evidently the
Eagan's and Ryan's "are not in it,"
just now! A change has come over
the present administration that makes
the "snubbing" of Cardinal Gibbons'
petition no surprise at all to those who
have kept an "Eagle Eye" on the
workings of our government. Know-
ing the unfavorable condition of mat-
ters at the present time the Catholic
press is justified in making rebellion to
those things that have been practiced
against us. Therefore, it behooves us
to survey the situation in all its de-
tails and act accordingly to our best
interest. Party name has about as
much real significance and worth as

the soap-balloons sent from clay pipes
by little children. It is party action
that should be considered by every
individual who has the right and
privilege to cast a vote.

That our present Republican ad-
ministration must necessarily have a
reaction to set itself right with the
people for a victory in 1900 is very
clear to be understood by the ordi-
nary citizen. That the mistakes have
been many, snap judgments indulged
in, and very weak policies adhered
to cannot be denied.

WATKINS, N. Y. H. O'G.

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL—Fourth Sunday after
Easter—St. John xvi. 5-14.—At that
time, Jesus said to His disciples: "I
go to Him that sent Me, and none of
you asketh Me: Whither goest Thou?
But because I have spoken these
things to you sorrow hath filled your
heart. But I tell you the truth: it is
expedient to you that I go, for if I go
not, the Paraclete will not come to
you: but if I go I will send Him
to you. And when he is come He
will convince the world of sin, and
of justice and of judgment. (Of sin: because they believed not in
Me. And of justice, because I go to
the Father, and you shall see Me no
longer. And of judgment, because
the prince of this world is already
judged. I have yet many things to
say to you but you cannot bear them
now. But when He, the Spirit of
truth, is come, He will teach you all
truth: for He shall not speak of Him-
self, but what things soever He shall
hear He shall speak, and the things
that are to come He shall show you.
He shall glorify Me, because He shall
receive of Mine, and shall show it to
you."

What are we to learn from this gos-
pel?

Seeing the apostles filled with sor-
row because they must separate from
their divine Master, we should learn
how great our sorrows ought to be
when of our own accord we separate
ourselves from Christ by sin; and
learning how necessary the Holy
Ghost was to the apostles, we should
always invoke Him that He may also
instruct us in the truths of the faith,
and guide our steps in the way of
evangelical perfection.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday, April 30—Fourth Sunday after
Easter—Gosp. St. John xvi. 5-14.—St.
Catherine of Siena, virgin.
Monday, May 1—SS. Philip and James,
apostles.
Tuesday, 2—St. Albanasius, bishop, confes-
sor, and doctor of the church.
Wednesday, 3—Finding of the Holy Cross
Thursday, 4—St. Monica, widow.
Friday, 5—St. Pius V., Pope and confessor.
Saturday, 6—St. John before the Latin
gate.

FORTY HOURS' ADORATION.

The order of Forty Hours states
that the devotions will take place as
follows:

April 30—Seneca Falls, Avon, On-
tario, St. Mary's, Rochester; Moravia,
Corning.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. John Wilson died at the
family residence, 169 Kent street,
Monday, April 17th, aged 43 years.
The funeral took place Wednesday,
April 19th at 9 o'clock from the Ca-
thedral chapel. Rev. George B.
Burns said the requiem mass. The
bearers were Alderman Casey, Frank
D. Knight, James Garvey, Hugh
Hackett, Hugh McGuire and Daniel
Egan. The deceased leaves besides
her husband, two sons, Lemuel and
John, and one sister, Mrs. B. Quinn
of this city, besides three sisters, Ellen,
Ann and Maggie, and two brothers,
Thomas and Jeffrey of England.
Lemuel Wilson is a prominent
member of Division No. 2 A. O. H.,
also Branch 88 C. M. B. A., and
deep sympathy is extended to the
brother in his bereavement.

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