

The Vanishing Irish Strain.

"Dear Father: Some time ago I enclosed the question, "Why are you so dam radical and narrow minded?" Today I perceived the answer at the bottom of your "daily tirade." If it may be called an answer. I have studied the Bulletin for several minutes, and I fail to perceive one iota of sense in this supercilious statement.

"I am not much of an English student my self, but I should think a man of your posit- and learning would be..... As the fact stands I, myself am Irish and possess none of these so called characteristics you attribute to our illustrious race.

"If it would not be too distracting from your work of converting Howard Hall I would be very much pleased if you would answer my question in a way that may be understood by "just a boy trying to get along." I thank you."

Irish blood is running thin as whey if you are Irish. The true son of the Old Sod must be as radical in principle as the Easter Rebellion, must be as narrow as Holy Mother Church on matters of Truth. But since the days of Geraldus Cambrensis English gold has maintained "broad-minded" sycophants in Ireland -- informers, and the like. Your disease is analyzed and disposed of prettily in last Saturday's Ave Maria, in an article entitled, "On a Certain Silliness." From the line suppressed in your letter it may be presumed that the Ave Maria is beneath your notice. The Bulletin does not seem to be, however, so a portion of the article is herewith transcribed:

"..... The average glib talker, whose superficial acquaintance with a multitude of matters has won for him some little reputation in a particular coterie, is very apt, when he takes up a pen, to betray that he is notably deficient in logical sequence of thought, and not less wanting in skill to give his thought adequate expression. There is one correspondent, however, who renders himself especially obnoxious by the obtrusive silliness with which he thrusts himself into a newspaper discussion, it is a shallow-brained critic who denounces some point of the Church's doctrine or discipline and blandly subscribes himself (A Practical Catholic.)"

"We have before us a dozen such criticisms, thus or similarly signed, that range over the whole field of faith, morals and disciplinary regulations. In not a few cases the signature is flatly belied by the tenor of the correspondence. Whether or not the writers be cognizant of the fact, the beliefs expressed can be entertained only by practical heretics or schismatics; as, supposing the authors to be bona fide Catholics. They will readily discover if they will take the trouble to consult their Father confessors. We mention the proviso, that they are really Catholics, even in name; for not infrequently, of course, the signature is simply a constructive falsehood."

Since you seem unable to draw an inference, see if you can understand this: when there is a fight on, no real Irishman remains anonymous. He wants you to know who threw the brick: he brags about it. And it looks like a late Spring.

The First Saturday.

Pope Pius X granted a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to all who receive Holy Communion on the First Saturday of the month in reparation for blasphemies against the Blessed Virgin. This devotion should be regarded by Notre Dame men as a quasi-obligation. Nothing can be dearer to us than the honor of Our Mother in Heaven.

Prayers.

Two special intentions, a sick priest and two other sick persons, two deceased relatives and one act of thanksgiving are commended to your prayers.

THE NOVENA FOR MOTHERS' DAY BEGINS NEXT SATURDAY.