

THE POPE IN POLITICS.

DR. M'GLYNN TALKING TO THE ANTI-POVERTY PEOPLE.

Hundreds failed to gain admission to the Academy of Music last night, where Dr. Edward McGlynn spoke before the Anti-Poverty Society about "The Pope in Politics." The speaker was very much in earnest, and for over three hours held his audience spellbound by his invective and sarcasm. There was bitterness in his tones and deep-seated conviction in his gestures, and he handled Pope and prelates, figuratively, without gloves.

"The Pope in politics. What is the Pope to politics, and what is politics to the Pope? What are the Pope's men to politics, and what is politics to the Pope's men? Many hundreds of years ago there was a Man who said, 'I am the Great I Am.' The gold and the power of earth could not tempt Him from the Father's work and He refused to have anything to do with temporal power. The Pope, if he is anything, is but the successor to the man who smote the servant of the high priest in the Garden of Gethsemane and cut off his ear. And his office is salutary in the world only as it fulfills the mission for which it was created. And if the Pope is the successor of Peter, who rather than all other men should surpass Peter in meekness and lowliness and humility of spirit?

"Peter and his successors for three centuries did fulfill their proper office. They loved the sheep for their own sakes, and not for the sake of their fleeces. We hear of no concordats between the Pope and the Emperor. [Wild applause.] We hear of no scheming for temporal power during those three centuries. We look in vain for any of the self-assertiveness in Peter that characterizes the latest of the Popes. Men never dreamt of carrying Peter upon their shoulders, but they carried him in their hearts. And it is preposterous for an old man, already tottering upon the brink of the grave, to arrogate to himself the triumph of the Christian church throughout the world. And the successors of Peter for many hundreds of years continued to be modest in their high office. When the church began to gather power and clerical courts were clothed with civil power, then power came to be more esteemed than religion. This mistake should not be permitted to occur in this new virgin empire. As the church grew, wealth and power, ecclesiastical and temporal, were lavished upon the officials of the church, until ecclesiastical and temporal power became so entangled and interwoven that they were indistinguishable. This was the second great mistake. And this is the mistake which, repeated now, would be a crime.

The beneficence of the Pope in politics, Dr. McGlynn said, had been well illustrated in the Catholic nations of Europe. Italy was in arms against him, and in no country was his authority recognized. True, there was an attempted revival of his temporal dominion, but it was only an opera bouffe revival. Bismarck, the great humorist of Europe, had lately been amusing himself with the Pope by asking his Holiness to be the arbitrator of an international dispute with Spain over one of the little Caroline Islands. And the whole Roman Catholic Court had held up its hands at this bit of recognition and exclaimed: "Did you hear our lion roar?" The moment the Pope went into politics he at once became a politician—a partisan. And the example set by the Pope was emulated with increased zeal by his subordinates when they had opportunity. The last election had felt the power of the priestly clique working under orders from Tammany Hall. This infallible Pope had bedeviled the politics of other nations as he has those of Italy. Only recently, at the instance of England, he had sent two Italian priests to investigate Ireland for the purpose of exercising a police authority over her landlord-ridden people in the service of England. [Hisses.] "The Pope in politics—infallible? The most fallible of men. Impeccable? He cannot take a step in politics without making a blunder that was worse than a crime. Every man should stick to his own business, and every ecclesiastical cobbler should stick to his last."