Edmund D. Whelan Leaves Ulster and Enters the Country of O'Rourke.

Old Historic Ruins.

SLIGO, IRELAND.

Leaving Enniskillen, the traveler turns his back on Ulster, and heads away from Connaught. Cromwell never dreamt of sending the Irish to Purgatory—it was to H——l or to Connaught. So let us have a look at this remarkable land—Cromwell's alternative to the "Bottomless Pit" for the Irish. Ensconsed in one of the neat blue-cushioned carriages of the Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway, one is whirled along by Castle Coola, then it curves around and crosses the Erne river by a fine viaduct. Lisgoole Abbey, Florencecourt, and Belcoo are soon passed. A good deal of bog, water (small lakes), mountain and moorland are passed on this journey. It is, indeed, a wild country around here. To make it better (or worse as the case may be) the weather was bad, and O'Rourke's country-hills, moors, ruined castles and the rest were enveloped in a "wet blanket." But if I couldn't view the scenery, the loss was made up for by a fair, charming companion whom I had in the train. She was a Mrs. A——, a lady of the district, the wife of a landlord. We were the only occupants of the carriage. My temporary companion was a pretty brunette—amiable, cultured, refined and sympathetic. She pressed me to take a share of her lunch—sandwiches and fruit. Above all I was pleased to hear that she loved America and admired its people. She thinks going there for a while broadens people's views, and improves them in many ways. Don't be flattered now you have read these lines. So if the fog hung over the landscape, the views of an amiable young Irish woman were bright—unclouded. She said they were on the best of terms with their tenants. On one occasion, when a storm blew down of hundred ton rick of hay, the tenants all collected in a body and fixed it up again in quick time, and would take no payment for their trouble. I didn't wonder when they had in my informant such a—what?—well, let us say an unlandlord-like landlady. My very interesting traveling companion got off at Collooney Station, at which I regretted, needless to say. Seventeen miles and a half from Enniskillen we pass Glenfarne station, where we leave county Fermanagh and the province of Ulster, and enter Connaught and the county Leitrim at the same moment. Soon Manorhamilton is reached—a village chiefly remarkable for its picturesque environment and the ruin of a castle, from which the place derives its name, erected during the rebellion of 1644 by Sir Frederick Hamilton.

At Drumahair, the fog hid from our view the very interesting ruins of O'Rourke's Castle. This is mentioned in the guide as a bright village in the center of a picturesque county. O'Rourke's Castle, needless to say, witnessed many thrilling scenes, and has an interesting, if not a sad, history; but more about it later on. Beside the renowned castle, from which the fair but false Devergilla eloped with the traitor McMorrough, is the remains of a long banqueting hall, of which little is known save what the poet tells us, that:

> O'Rourke's noble feast
> It shall ne'er be forgot,
> Or by those who were there
> Or by those who were not.

In the neighborhood of O'Rourke's Castle are the extensive remains of the Abbey of Creevelea—a magnificent ruin—established in 1508 by Margaret the Pious, wife of Eugene O'Rourke. It was founded for Franciscans Friars, but Margaret died in 1512, and the work came to an end. The reformation followed a few years later, and the structure, which is the same size as Sligo Abbey, was never completed. The beautiful Lough Gill runs up close to Dromahaire amidst wild mountain [illegible], and, it is said, that a charming valley, which stretches away from O'Rourke's Castle to the lake, is the scene of that well-known poem of Moore:

> The valley lay smiling before me
> Where lately I left her behind.

At Colooney we pass over a rapid river, the Owenmore, on the banks of which is the little town. [illegible]

[illegible] the thick weather. I got a glimpse, however, of a pretty valley and a romantic torrent as our train pushed onwards. Here we strike the junction of the Midland Great Western and Waterford and Limerick railways. The latter line was recently extended from Claremorris to Collooney, which opens direct communication between Sligo, Limerick and Waterford. It brings the wilds of Mayo into touch with civilization.

Wilder still—wilder still! These were my impressions as we approached Sligo. And oh, the many little cabins and cottages nestling amidst wild, rocky hills—something like one sees on nearing Schull. Perhaps it was the gloomy weather, but the landscape looked the ideal of dreariness along this journey. As we ran into Sligo, however, the sky seemed to brighten—as if the curtain was lifted—and revealed rather a nicely cut, cheerful, prosperous-looking town. I must not omit MacDonough's Castle. The Owenmore, after being joined by the Owenbeg, flows by the ruins of MacDonough's Castle—an old fortress that dates from the time of the Kings of Sligo. Immediately around this ancient structure was the old town of Collooney, but it has vanished altogether. In 344 it was ravaged by the Danes. In 1291 it witnessed a battle between the forces of Cathal O'Connor and Manus O'Connor, King of Connaught, and important engagements were fought here in 1526, 1584, 1599 and 1691, in each of which history states the English were discomfitted. A garrison of French soldiers were defeated in 1798—its last battle scene—by Col. Vereker at the head of some militia and yeomanry. The principal charms of Colooney are its pure air and its natural beauty. There lives in Colooney one who has done much to unearth the story of Sligo, historically and archæological, I mean the Ven. Archdeacon O'Rorke, who has written a very interesting "History of Sligo." In this book the Archdeacon writes on the Colooney landscape: "One could travel far to find so noble a prospect as it affords, including all the elements of a perfect landscape: woods, water, bold mountains, tranquil valleys, pretty cottages and venerable ruins—the varied beauties of nature." Col. Woodmartin has also done a good deal to "spread the light" by his "History of Sligo" and "Pagan Ireland." The latter is a pre-historic work.

EDMUND D. WHELAN.

It will be remembered that, some weeks ago, it was reported that the fast cruiser Columbia had been strained while being docked in Southampton. Since the return of the vessel to New York it has been ascertained that the damage done, while not serious, would entail an expenditure of at least $1,000 in repairs. As is usually the case in such matters, a court of inquiry was appointed to fix the blame for the accident, and, on the finding of this court, a court martial has been ordered to try the commander of the ship on the charge of neglect of duty. The charges appear to be that the straining of the vessel while being docked was due to lack of care on the captain's part in not having the dock flooded to relieve the strain on the vessel as soon as it developed, and, lastly, in having paid for the docking of the vessel before ascertaining the extent of the damage and holding the dock company responsible. The prompt court martialing of officers high in rank for cases of alleged neglect of duty is calculated to have a beneficial effect upon the personnel of the navy, as it will force all officers of every grade to be more attentive to their duties. The new vessels of the navy are exceedingly costly, and the loss or serious damage of one of them would entail a heavy loss upon the country. They must, therefore, be handled with infinitely more care than the old wooden ships, and, in order to insure the proper degree of caution, officers must be held to a strict accountability for their acts. Although due allowance should be made for errors of judgment, [illegible] shall must be promptly punished. When it is remembered that some of the new battle ships will have cost the government, when completed, upwards of $[illegible],000,000, it will be seen that the country cannot afford to risk the safety of these expensive vessels in incompetent hands.

No longer than ten years ago even the Transvaal was looked upon as no better than a howling wilderness. Some traces of gold had been found, but they were not regarded as [illegible]

His Holiness Assigns Bishops to Several Sees and Confers the Cardinalitial Hat.

The Church of St. Pietro in Montorio.

[illegible]

In the late Consistory, His Holiness conferred the Cardinalitial hat upon Cardinal Sanchay Hervas, created and proclaimed on May 18, 1894, and upon Cardinals Galli and Manara, created and proclaimed on the twenty-ninth of November last. His Holiness then nominated Bishops to the following Sees, some of which had been already filled by Brief. The following Bishops were nominated:

Spinolay Maestre to the See of Seville.

Bereira da Silva Barros to the Titular See of Darnia.

Alda y Sancho to the See of Saragossa.

Glavina to the Titular See of Theodosiopolis.

Supervia y Lostale to the See of Huesca.

Munoz y Herrera to the See of Malaga.

De Cayzedo to the See of Popoyan.

Morena to the See of Pasto.

Blano y Barea to the See of Avila.

Carrascosa y Gabaldon to the See of Orense.

Pereira to the Titular See of Diocaesarea.

Weber to the Titular See of Temnos.

Casas to the Titular See of Adrianopolis.

Stoeckli to the Abbacy of Mariatella.

Kenrick to the See of St. Louis.

Zardetti to the Titular See of Mocissus.

Castellano to the See of Buenos Ayres.

Van de Wetering to the See of Utrecht.

De Angelis to the See of Athens.

Knight to the Titular See of [illegible].

Maurovic to the See of Segna.

Waffelaert to the See of Bruges.

Gonzales Suarez to the See of Ibarra.

Piccardo to the See of [illegible].

Abbot to the Titular See of [illegible].

Marilleri to the Titular See of Memphis.

Gallagher to the Titular See of Adrassus.

Ria y Cabanas to the Titular See of Thamassus.

MacNeil to the Titular See of Nilopolis.

Scianon to the Titular See of Livias.

Pellet to the Titular See of Resimus.

Mostyn to the Titular See of Ascalon.

Depierre to the Titular See of Benda.

Reisna to the Titular See of [illegible]bas.

Passerini to the Titular See of Acanthus.

Remond to the Titular See of Lides.

Maison to the Titular See of Lisias.

[illegible] to the [illegible] Metropolis.

[illegible] to the [illegible]comum.

Farley to the Titular See of [illegible]ma.

Nardi to the Titular See of [illegible]bes.

Oateone to the Titular See of Augustopolis.

De Gales to the Titular See of Mirina.

[illegible]

An interesting ceremony in connection with these events was the installation of Cardinal Sancha y Hervas in his Titular Church of S. Pietro in Montorio on December [illegible]. That historic church gave its title to the late Cardinal [illegible]. It contains the tombs of Hugh O'Neil, Baron Dungannon, son of the Earl of Tyrone, and of Roderick O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, who died in Rome, exiles for their unsuccessful struggle on behalf of Irish freedom. The legend of the church is that it was founded by Constantine on or about the supposed site of St. Peter's death. Its foreign associations are mostly Spanish. [illegible] it at the expense of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. It has been held as titular church by many Spanish Cardinals, and by it stands the Royal Spanish Academy. The Cardinal was received at the door where he put on Cappa Magna. After adoring the Blessed Sacrament at the altar of the [illegible] della Lettera, he advanced to the high altar and took his place on the throne. After the reading of the Brief, Father Patrick, a Spanish Franciscan, [illegible]

[illegible]

Save Your [illegible]

[illegible]