

OUR IRISH LETTER.

NEWS FROM ALL THE COUNTIES OF IRELAND.

What is Being Done by the People at Home—Various Items From Every Section of the Emerald Isle.

ULSTER.

Captain Hugh Cleland, harbor master, Belfast, died suddenly, September 12.

Mr. William McConnell's coal and shoe store, Ballymena, was lately destroyed by fire.

ARMAGH.

George Bond of Annaghmore was found dead, last week on the road between Moy and his home.

CAVAN.

James Sorden died recently at his residence, Guthrie street, Edinburgh. He was a native of Belurbet. When he was about 15 years he went to the capital of Scotland. It was neither popular nor safe then to advocate Irish patriotic sentiments, yet he found a means not alone of receiving information on the wrongs of his country, but succeeded in instructing his countrymen on their duties to Ireland. Although he had wellnigh reached his 70th year, Mr. Sorden was a regular attendant at the meetings of the National League until his death.

DERRY.

Report on the crops in Coleraine is: Up to a very few days ago (that was September 4) the harvest prospects in this part of North Derry were regarded with very mixed feelings. All round the fields promised a good yield, but the heavy rainfall seemed destined to injure all crops, causing great uneasiness. Better conditions have prevailed since Monday. Upland hay proved a strong crop and as fine weather favored the sowing process, the yield is in good condition. The meadows have given a better yield than last season. Flax was sown but sparingly, and is of but average quality. The oat crop will be a fortnight later than last year, but in ears and straw the prospects are encouraging, although the yield can hardly be better than an average.

The death of Miss Mary Reid happened at Victoria House, Kesh; funeral cortege long. Solemn requiem mass was celebrated in parish church.

DONEGAL.

Cardinal Logue will soon visit the town made famous by the Four Masters, to assist in the ceremonies in Clar Chapel.

DOWN.

The members of the Carnacally branch of the Irish National Federation met last week. Mr. Francis Connell, president, and Mr. Owen Digney, secretary, was present. Mr. Henry McAlinden denounced the Land Commissioners for the inadequate amount of reductions in the rents.

FERMANAGH.

Colonel J. D. Johnston, Snow Hill, Lisbellaw, has been appointed Deputy-Lieutenant for the county.

MONAGHAN.

The county is divided into five baronies, of which one is named Oremora. The area of this is 84,584 acres, and on these acres in 1841 there was a population of 58,110 persons; but in 1891 there were only 24,162 persons returned on the census. More than half the population had disappeared. This is in Ulster the prosperous.

TYRONE.

George Bond, horse dealer, of Annaghmore, county, Armagh, was found dead on the roadside between Moy and Annaghmore, September 12.

Mr. Foster McKey, clerk of the town commissioners, and Petty Sessions, clerk of Aughnacloy, would not permit the gentleman who was to revise the lists of Parliamentary votes to sit in the Court house, last week.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

Mr. James Hanrahan, shopkeeper, Ennis, was fired at last week near Ballymoley. Two shots were discharged at him by some person standing in the shade of the entrance gate to Mr. Purcell's residence.

CORK.

The telephone trunk system between Cork, Limerick and Dublin is in operation. Subscribers can be put into direct communication with Limerick, Dublin and Belfast, and the principal places in England and Scotland.

Most Rev. Dr. Croke, archbishop of Cashel, recently visited Macroom, as the guest of Very Rev. Canon Murphy. Dr. Rev. Dr. Browne, bishop of Cloyne,

was also staying there. They were given a hearty reception on arrival, the local band playing "God Save Ireland" and other national airs.

The members of the Mallow Athletic Sports met in Moran's hotel last week. Mr. J. J. Fitzgerald stated it was a pleasing duty to have to inform the committee that the sports were a complete success in every respect. Though the expenses were this year increased by £60, they were able to carry forward a substantial balance, though not at all as great as last year. The principal item of the increase was in prizes, which amounted to £40 more than last year.

On September 9 took place in the pretty chapel in the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Skibbereen, this ceremony, when three young ladies made their solemn vows before His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, bishop of the diocese. The three young ladies are: Miss Blake, Grange House, Buttevant, in religion, Sister Mary Lella; Miss Kelly, Ballyroan, Queen's county, in religion, Sister Mary Eridig; and Miss Cummins, Stradbally, County Waterford, in religion, Sister Mary Lorenza. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Thomas Kearney and Rev. Jeremiah Burke.

At the Sacred Heart Presentation convent, Killook, September 8, feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Lady, Miss Johanna Riordan (in religion Sister M. Finbarr), daughter of the late Mr. William Riordan, Glanmire, Cork, made her solemn profession, and received the black veil from Most Rev. Dr. Foley, bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, assisted by Very Rev. M. Barrett, professor Maynooth college, and Rev. J. Kirwan, Adm., Killook.

KERRY.

The members of the Kerry National Teachers' Gaelic Language Association met in Killarney last week. Mr. M. A. Manning, Ballyferrier, Dingle, chairman, presiding. The following resolutions were proposed in globo by Mr. Lynch, Kilmackerin, Caheriveen, and supported by Mr. P. Murphy, Ballynalkille, Caheriveen, and supported by other gentlemen, who spoke in Irish: "That, having regard to the great success which has attended the introduction since 1893 of the bi-lingual method of instruction in the primary schools of Wales, as testified in the reports of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools, and in view of the admission of Mr. Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland in the House of Commons, that in those districts in Ireland where Gaelic was the actual language of the people the best way to educate the children would be, in the first instance, to teach them properly the language they naturally spoke, we respectfully call upon the Commissioners of National Education to sanction arrangements whereby in Irish-speaking districts the vernacular can, at the option of the managers, be utilized, as in Wales, as the medium of instruction in all classes of the schools. 2. That to facilitate Irish instruction, we are of the opinion that Irish professorships should be granted to the training colleges. 3. That as an extra subject as at present permitted, we consider the first examination in Irish should commence with the fourth class, and that the Irish course should be extended to five years."

LIMERICK.

A great demonstration was held in Athea on Sunday, September 12, to consider the condition of the evicted tenants. Mr. M. J. Flavin, member of parliament for North Kerry, and Mr. William O'Brien, were present and made addresses. One pleasing and encouraging feature of the business was the fusion of Parnellites and anti-Parnellites. Mr. Maurice O'Connell, a leading Parnellite in the district, proposed the following resolution: "That as we yield to no people in our desire for unity, we pledge ourselves to do everything we can to bring about an acceptable union of our Parliamentary party in the spirit of the letter of the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, archbishop of Cashel (cheers) in order that they may once more present one solid phalanx before the Saxon foe."

At the last meeting of the Newcastle West Board of Guardians a discussion took place on the extraordinary epidemic of typhoid fever in various parts of the union, notably in Ardagh and Kilmee. In the latter village of about 600 souls there have been numerous cases.

TIPPERARY.

A melancholy occurrence, resulting in the death of John Doherty, took place at Carney, Borrisokane, September 12. Three respectable inhabitants were shooting, and going on the land of a Mrs. Hogan, for whom Doherty was caretaker, he remonstrated with them. A dispute ensued. Doherty seized one of the men's guns, and Michael Doherty endeavored to

get it back. In the scuffle the weapon exploded and John Doherty was shot dead. Michael Doherty has been arrested.

On Sunday a preliminary meeting was held in Mullinahone in support of the Evicted Tenants' Fund. Among those present were: Dr. Molloney, P. F. Mullally, W. O'Brien, M. Gleeson, Peter Han, M. Vaughan, J. White, N. K. Shee, E. Butler, W. Ryan, T. O'Brien, S. O'Connor, P. Crotty. On the motion of Mr. N. K. Shee, seconded by Mr. P. F. Mullally, Dr. C. Molloney took the chair. Proposed by Mr. M. Vaughan, seconded by Mr. W. O'Brien, D. V. O., P. L. G., and passed: "That a collection for the Evicted Tenants' Fund be held in this parish; that for the purpose of carrying out the collection the persons present form a committee, with power to add to their numbers; that a deputation consisting of Dr. C. Molloney, E. Butler, W. O'Brien and N. K. Shee wait on the Rev. W. Cantwell, P. P., and the Rev. T. O'Connor, to ask their co-operation.

At the Convent of Mercy, Carrick-on-Suir, Wednesday, the following young ladies made their final vows as members of the order: Miss Walsh (in religion Sister M. Camillus), third daughter of Mr. James Walsh, Bilboa House, Limerick; and Miss Carroll (in religion Sister M. Xavier), third daughter of the late Mr. Michael Carroll, Mornington, Drogheda. His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, officiated, assisted by the Very Rev. T. McGrath, Carrick.

WATERFORD.

The street preachers who invaded Waterford City lately are not making an impression. Converts are mighty scarce; in fact, none at all are found in the city which a Pope named "Little Rome." When the preachers have to stand up against the singing of "The Boys of Wexford" there is no hope for their business.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

Right Rev. Dr. Foley has made the following changes in the diocese. Rev. James Connelly, P. P., Leighlinbridge, to Ballinakill parish; Rev. James Coyle, Adm., Tullow, parish priest of Leighlinbridge; Rev. James Byrne, C. C., Carlow, transferred to Bagnalstown; Rev. John Lawler, C. C., Bagnalstown to Leighlinbridge, to replace Rev. Joseph Mounsey, C. C., transferred to Leighlinbridge; Rev. John Corbett, C. C., Monasterevan, to Carlow; Rev. J. Feulon, C. C., Goresbridge, to Rathoe; Rev. M. Handrick, C. C., from Stradbally to Monasterevan, succeeded by Rev. T. Doyle, C. C., Carragh; Rev. J. Byrne, Carlow College, C. C., Carragh parish.

DUBLIN.

On September 13 was held the annual bazaar and drawing of prizes of the Sisters of Charity in aid of their schools, Seville place, Dublin, opened by Very Rev. Canon Brady, St. Laurence O'Toole's. It is held in the aid of the schools which the Sisters are conducting. Among those present were Father Breen, Rev. Nicholas Cantwell, St. Laurence O'Toole's, and Rev. W. Lockhart, Glashuila. The Munster stall is under Mrs. O'Leary and friends, Emerald stall, Mrs. Keough and friends; and Miss Lockhart and friends have the Harp and Shamrock stalls. The Misses Barlow preside over the Erin-Go-Bragh stall, Mrs. Duffey and Miss Farrell have the Leinster stall. There is a beautiful stall in charge of the Children of Mary, and presiding over it are Mrs. Wall, Miss Lennor, Miss O'Reilly and Miss Sullivan; and Mrs. Ramsey and Miss Crovey are in charge of the refreshment department.

Recent deaths in Dublin. Carroll, September 12, at 9 Grattan street, Mary Carroll, aged 17 years. Colgan, September 12, James Colgan, late of 11 and 12 Mary's lane, aged 74 years. Courtney, September 11, at 82 Kenilworth square, Bridget Courtney. Lowen, September 13, at the Hospice for the Dying, Haroldscross, Mary Lowen, aged 30 years. Hogan, September 13, at 15 North King street Thos Hogan, aged 22 years. Powell, September 13, at 16 Windsor road, Lucy Mary Powell, aged 19. Daly, September 11, at 4 Mabel street, Drumcondra, Charles Daly, formerly registrar of Lusk Intermediate prison. Dempsey, September 12, at Nicholas street, Elizabeth Dempsey. Hancock, September 11, at 169 Haroldscross, Elizabeth Hancock, 19 Lower Exchange street, aged 70 years. Canavin, September 11, at Hendrick street, the result of an accident at Fairview, Owen Canavin. Monks, September 11, at 11 Leinster street, North, North Strand, Patrick Monks, Clonsburgh, County Dublin. O'Connell, September 14, at 97 Summer hill, John Cogan, aged 65

years. McGlynn, September 14, at Bridge street, Clara Milne, daughter of the late William McGlynn, aged 30 years.

KILDARE.

The death of Mr. Nicholas Mape occurred on September 11, at Nicholas-town, Kilkullen, aged 51 years. After office and high mass the interment was in Gagenstown. The cortege was long and representatives of the districts around the home of the deceased attended.

KILKENNY.

In the convent of Mercy, Callao, recently died, Sister Mary Bemurris deeply regretted by her religious associates and the laity of the district. She was a sister of Rev. Edward McGough, Arklow.

KING'S.

On September 13, in the Convent of Mercy, Clara, died, Mother Vincent Murphy, in the 79th year of her age.

LONGFORD.

The Venerable Archdeacon Smyth, the revered parish priest of Granard, has returned after a holiday. He is enjoying good health. The Rev. J. Keville, C. C., has gone on vacation for a few weeks. Both are popular in the parish.

The news of the death of Miss Josephine McQuade, which occurred at her father's residence in Drumlish, was received with regret in the surrounding districts. She was but 14 years old, yet her loss is keenly felt by her father and family, for whom the deepest sympathy is felt.

LOUTH.

Ardce is an inland town in this county, five miles from Dunleer, eleven from Drogheda and ten from Dundae. The town is watered by the river Dee. In the market square is a statue of the late Sir John F. Foster. In 1871 the population was given as 2,972. In 1891, 2,067.

MEATH.

Mrs. Anne Swan of Screen, died September 9, widely regretted. The death of Mary Farrell of Norman Cottage, Rathoe, at the very early age of 16 years, has caused widespread regret in the district.

QUEEN'S.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. John T. Whelen of Maryborough, one of the most prominent Gaiels in Queen's county. Mr. Whelen was for years representative on the Central Council of the Gaelic Athletic association and was a good all-round athlete, and more than once played for his county in the All Ireland Football championship. Thoroughly straightforward, Mr. Whelen commanded the respect of all who knew him, and his other characteristics were such as made him hosts of friends, who will learn of his demise with unfeigned regret. The funeral took place on Thursday from Clonliffe road, Dublin, to Glasnevin, and was largely attended. The large concourse of sympathizers who took part in the funeral, testified to the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

WESTMEATH.

The tenants on the Cook estate, near Athlone, have agreed to purchase their holdings at a reasonable price. The estate is in the Court of Chancery.

WEXFORD.

Dr. Murphy, coroner for the district, held an inquest on the body of William Fortune, aged 29 years, who expired at Fernsedemane on Saturday evening. The jury found that the deceased died from rupture of a blood vessel in the left lung. The late Mr. Fortune was a car-driver who enjoyed public confidence.

Died.—August 29, at Waterloo road, Wexford, Michael Devere; August 26, 1897, at the school house, Monamolin, Corey, Margaret Goff, aged 85 years; August 30, at Charlotte street, Wexford, Annie Hanway.

WICKLOW.

Mr. M. H. Jones, coroner for East Wicklow, held an inquest, near Wood-entridge, on the body of John Healy, 11 years of age, son of John Healy, a hard. Healy and his family resided in a cottage, the property of Mr. Brennan, a rate collector, and the deceased, John, and his sister slept in a room where there was a large balk of timber running from the front to the back of the house. During the night of Sunday, the beam of timber fell on the bed in which the boy and girl slept. The girl's legs were badly injured, but the little boy was killed in-

stantaneously. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Died.—September 7, Edward Valentine, of Leamore Park, Newcastle, county Wicklow, aged 45 years, third son of the late Amadeus Valentine, Cullen, county Wicklow, September 8, at Upper Dargle road, Bray, Elizabeth Dempsey.

CONNAUGHT.

GALWAY.

Catherine Caudfield, aged 60 years, of Tea Lane, Ballinasloe, was fatally burned lately. By some means, not known, the house in which she lived got on fire. She lived a few hours after rescue. Deceased had nine children, all in the United States.

LEITRIM.

C. J. Dolan, eldest son of Mr. J. Dolan, chairman of the Manorhamilton Board of Guardians, obtained the gold medal for classics, and took fourth exhibition in the Junior grade, his marks making the grand total 0 3 003. His schoolmate, J. P. McDermott, son of Mr. P. McDermott, N. T., Manorhamilton, won the gold medal for classics in the middle grade, besides gaining an exhibition. That the two gold medals in classics have come to the same town is a record of which the district may feel proud.

Rev. James Dolan, P. P., Drumkeeran, has acknowledged with thanks check value thirty five pounds sterling (£35) per Dr. Roden, from Mr. Francis Roden of Edinburgh, and Shilvillagh House, Drumkeerin, in trust for Mr. Peter Kelly, formerly of Shilvillagh (evicted) Farm, parish of Inishmaghath.

SLIGO.

The exhibits of the Sligo Convent of Mercy at the recent Irish Textile Exhibition in Dublin created a favorable impression among the visitors. A contemporary, referring to this matter, says: "The Convent of Mercy, at Sligo, sends some very beautiful designs in lace and cambric. A cambric embroidered table cloth from Sligo has been bought by the Lord Lieutenant, and a muslin embroidered cushion cover in an original and beautiful design, with the words 'God Save the Queen' in Irish, was purchased by the Princess Henry of Pleasa. The Earl of Portarlington also chose a pocket handkerchief of Limerick lace from the same convent." "God Save the Queen" no doubt looks well in Irish, but the prayers seem strangely out of place for a sovereign under whose government the Irish people suffered such terrible destruction by famine, fever and emigration in the awful years of 1847 and 1848, and every year down to the present, one of great distress, also.

MAYO.

Anthony A. McHale of Louisburg has written to Mr. Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary of Ireland, calling his attention to the very deplorable condition of the people in the district, and that the terrible distress existing through failure of the crops cry for instant and generous treatment from the government. He suggests that a line of railway be constructed from Westport to Louisburg to give employment to the people, who want work—not idleness and charity.

Mr. Patrick Durkan, Westport, died lately from bronchitis. His demise is deeply regretted. His funeral was largely attended. The interment was in Aughavale. The chief mourners were Martin Durkan and M. J. Durkan, sons; Dominick Hastings and Michael Duffy, sons-in-law; P. Sweeney, P. Sweeney Jr.; Michael Joyce, eto. Rev. Fathers Healy, Adm., Bourke and Bonayne, officiated at the grave.

At a meeting held at Bekan the following committee was formed to collect subscriptions for the evicted tenants, Mrs. Anne Burke: Bekan—Rev. B. G. Freely, Rev. M. J. Conroy, Martin Healy, Bryan Lyons, John Bourke, John Ward, Thomas Connell, Austin Lyons, Ballyhaunis—Messrs. Michael Delaney, John M. Conroy, John Daly, John Delaney, Michael Tighe. Castlebar—Messrs. James Daly, P. M. Flannery, Balla—Messrs. Thomas Reilly, Thomas Conway. Belcarra—Messrs. Thomas Reilly, Thomas Conway. Belcarra—Mr. Laurence Kearns. Treasurer, Rev. B. G. Freely; joint Secretaries, M. Healy, B. Lyons.

CAPUCHINS IN WASHINGTON.

The Mother House of the Order to be Erected There. Washington, D. C., Oct. 9.—Just east and adjacent to the University grounds, a tract of land has been purchased for \$44,000. At this place the Franciscan Capuchin monks will establish their first mother house in America. The plans have all been carefully formulated of the work to be done from this house. The first buildings will be erected next year and will be handsome structures in harmony with the University buildings.

The Capuchins are one of the oldest orders of the Church, having been founded in 1526 by Pope Clement VII. for missionary work. The order is little known in America, though they have a few houses, one in New York and the others in the northwest.

It is not true, as has been stated by some secular papers, that "on hints from the Vatican" the Jesuit Fathers were going to affiliate with the University. "Hints" never come from the Vatican, and the Jesuit Fathers need no "hints" as to the University. The General of the order and all the superiors are heartily in sympathy with the aims and the objects of the University.

Cardinal Mazella has been made prefect of the Congregation of Rites, and his appointment revives the controversy over a change in the Church music. The Jesuits and Cardinal Mazella as one, have contended that the true Church music is the Gregorian chant and the composition of Palestrina and his school, and the new prefect of the Congregation of Rites may insist upon the return to the old school, though the effort will meet with strong opposition.

The excommuni- cation by the Bishop of Majorca of Sr. Bor Reverter, one of the Spanish cabinet, raised a discussion as to the power of the bishop. But the highest authorities of the Church say that the bishop acted strictly within the canons of the Church in the exercise of the power to excommunicate. Of course the rank and dignity of the individual censured made no possible difference as to the right, for the Church is no respecter of persons. The only exception is that the power of excommunicating rulers rests with the Holy Father.

It may not be uninteresting to yourselves, as the time is approaching for the taking of another census, to look back and see what the growth of the Church has been in America, despite A. P. Allen and his adjunct, the Junior Order of American Mechanics. In 1890 the number of actual communicants in the Church was 9,941,870, the next largest number in any of the Protestant churches being the Methodists, of all divisions, with 4,589,284. Of 20,812,806 communicants, the Church had thirty-five per cent. in 1890—that is about eleven per cent. of the whole population. The census shows that every communicant represents three persons. Applying this rule to the Catholic communicants would give nearly 21,000,000, as the Catholic population of the United States in 1890—that is thirty-two per cent. of the whole population.

The Church has grown more rapidly since 1890 than ever before. The parish records all over the country in every section show this, though the growth from immigration has fallen off. It is almost certain that the next census will show 40 per cent. of the population Catholic in name at least.

This population at that time will show as great advancement in education as that of any other class and above the average.

The American church already exercises a powerful influence on the whole body of the Church, as shown in the letter of last week. It has to-day not only in the highest officials of the Church but in the priests who daily meet the people, the most intelligent body of men, in any Church of any time. The increasing advantages of education for the priesthood as well as the laity will still further elevate the standard of the former and the opening of the 20th century will see the Catholic church of the United States leading in all Church policies.

Speaking some days ago on this subject with one of our clergymen he said: "The influence of the American church is increasing. Its broad ideas are but the natural outgrowth of the great country we inhabit. I mean great in its area. The man who can travel 8,000 miles over cultivated fields, by iron and coal furnaces, mills and factories, over vast prairies and great ranges of mountains and yet all the time be within the borders of his own country—under his own flag—necessarily broadens mentally. He has advantages over the man who cannot travel a hundred miles without crossing into another country. Look at the Russians. They are the youngest of European nations so far as civilization is concerned, and yet you find some of the greatest statesmen and greatest writers of the century among them. There are no great artists; that comes later on. But the immense area of the country has had its effect on the only two lines of thought to which the Russian mind is directed. And they have been broadened."

I saw how well this applied to the American, not only in Church but in every other matter, and so used it.