

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.

CONNAUGHT.

GALWAY.

Meeting of the Galway Gaelic League on Sunday at St. Joseph's seminary, Nun's Island, Mr. M. Usher, vice-president, in the chair. Mr. M. J. Connolly and Mr. M. Downes sang Irish songs and were loudly applauded. Rev. James J. R. Neenan, who has been visiting friends at his old home for a few months, returned home on October 22 accompanied by his sister and her son to America.

Lady Henrietta Guinness and another lady have donated 10 guineas for the erection of the new Church of St. Enda, Inishkeer, on South Aran Island, Galway. Rev. Murtagh Faragher, P. P., has acknowledged the receipt.

The annual convention of the Gaelic of the County of Galway was held in Athenry recently. Mr. M. O. Shine, president, presiding. The representatives of the affiliated clubs present were: Kilmara, M. Donoghue, and M. O'Rourke; Oramore, M. Grealey; Ma-re, M. O'Rourke; Adrahan, J. Keane and P. Mitchell; Tuam, M. O. Shine, (president); Galway City, J. Flaherty, P. Fleming, M. O. Burke and M. Crowe; Claregalway, P. Ross and P. Griffin; Turroughmore, P. Murray and P. Hes-lion; Loughrea, W. J. Duffy (hon. sec.), J. O'Loughlin (treasurer) and T. Grourke; Killmore, J. Kelly; Peters-well, P. Head, J. Caulfield and J. Mor-gan; Athenry, J. Kelly. All the out-going officers were re-elected.

A public meeting was held in Gal-way a few days ago in the Grocers' Assistants' Association rooms for the purpose of organizing a '98 centenary club. There were upwards of 200 people present, among whom were E. Lee, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. T. A. Sullivan, Mr. Slater, editor Galway Pilot, and Mr. Lavelle, representative of the Dublin branch of the '98 centenary. On the motion of Mr. Lee, and seconded by Mr. Ford, Mr. P. Usher occupied the chair. On the motion of Mr. T. A. O'Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. O'Flaherty, Mr. Ford was appointed secretary. Mr. Slater was appointed treasurer. A committee was also formed. Mr. Lavelle said that of course they all knew that the '98 centenary club was non-political, the rules were that every Irishman was welcome to celebrate the great event, and that the Galway people at least showed that they had a McCarthyite chairman and a Parnellite secretary, it showed that there was again a sign of unity among the people. He said that clubs had been organized in Munster, Leinster and Ulster, in London, the North of England and in America, and were the people of Connaught to be backward. A thousand times no. He also announced the publications of a series of national songs suitable for '98, some of which were written in Gaelic. One was "Who Feels to Speak of Ninety-eight?" translated by Dr. Douglas Hyde; and that every enthusiastic Irishman should take an interest in the revival of the Irish language, the language of their fathers, and the language which some of the heroes of '98 loved and died in the defense of it and its country. He also announced that a convention of all the Connaught branches of the '98 centenary would take place soon. The secretary of the Galway branch announced that their meetings would be held at 2 o'clock on Sundays. Mr. Usher sang in Gaelic "The Wearing of the Green," Mr. O'Flaherty sang "The Men Who Wear the Green," and Mr. Lavelle recited a very exciting scene of '98 known as "Michael Dwyer."

LEITRIM.

The churning machine invented by our enterprising townsman, Mr. M. F. Gallagher, Carrick-on-Shannon, was on exhibition at the Winter Show, Ballis-bridge, Dublin, last week, and the Dublin papers speak highly of it.

MAYO.

Members of the Irish National Fed-eration met in Ballyhaunis on Sunday. Rev. J. P. Connelley, P. P., in the chair. Mr. P. J. Kelly, county Coroner, held an inquest at Farnagh, near West-port on the body of Mr. Patrick Mc-Dermott, who died. The following jury was sworn: Messrs. Thomas Moore, John Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Austin Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Michael Burke, James Kelly, Michael Kelly, Charles Kelly, John Kelly, Francis Mayberry

and P. J. Doria. P. J. Kelly having summed up the evidence, the jury returned the following verdict: "We find that the deceased, Patrick McDermott, died from injuries sustained from ac-cidentally falling from a cart and the wheel of same going over his body, on the night of December 1. We con-sider there was no blame attached to any person."

A branch of the Gaelic League has been established in Newport, called St. Patrick's branch. Patron, the Very Rev. P. Canon Grealy; president, Rev. J. Godfrey; vice-president, Mr. J. Cas-ey; treasurer, Mr. P. O'Donnell.

ROSCOMMON.

Mr. Owen T. Martin, relieving officer of the Boyle Union for the districts of Ballyfarmon and Keadue, has resigned. The Board of Guardians expressed their regret on reading his letter of resignation.

Mr. McHugh, V. S., James Tier-nan, M. O'Farrell, John Blane, G. O'Reilly, Michael Sharkey, Michael McHugh G. Leonard, P. Cummins, John Gearty, James Blane and John F. Donnellan were interested in the great New Year's ball.

SLIGO.

On December 4 died Helena Mary Moore of George's street, Sligo, aged 19 years.

With the deepest regret the people of Drumcliffe heard of the sudden death of Mr. Andrew Egan. For the last forty years he took a deep inter-est in the politics of the district, and was known as the father of the Land League in the district. When the League was dissolved, he joined the Federation, in which he held a prom-inent position. Being a favorite with all creeds and classes, his funeral was a large one. For his sorrowing wife and family in their sad bereavement there is much sympathy all over the district and among his friends in the United States.

A very successful concert and ball was given last week in the Emerald club rooms, under the auspices of the Ballymote C. B. S. The rooms were beautifully decorated for the occasion by the Misses Bailey. The accom-paniments were played by Miss Heag-herty and Mrs. Cunningham with much skill and taste. Those who did not go to the concert sustained a loss by missing some sweet vocal music.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The Christian Brothers, at the re-quest of the Most Rev. Dr. Foley, bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, have opened a classical school in Carlow. The course of studies embraces Latin and Greek, in addition to the other subjects of the program of the Inter-mediate Education board.

Last Monday the weekly meeting of the members of the Total Abstinence Society was held in Dublin, under the presidency of the Very Rev. Father Nicholas, O. S. F. O.

During the past week a retreat was given to the members of the male and female branches of the association of the Immaculate Conception at the Church of the Oblate Fathers, Inch-cora. The exercises of the retreat were conducted by Father Coyle, O. M. I., lately returned from South Africa, where he spent many years in missionary work. The church was crowded during the retreat, and on Sunday night there was no standing room. On Sunday morning solemn high mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Kirby, O. M. I., with Rev. Father Brody, O. M. I., as deacon, and Rev. Father Flynn, O. M. I., as sub-deacon. Rev. Fr. Malone, O. M. I., master of ceremonies, and at which Rev. Father Coyle preached.

DUBLIN.

A council meeting of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language took place on Tuesday at 6 Molesworth street, Count Plunket, B. L. M. R. L. A. in the chair.

Recent deaths in Dublin.—Behan—Dec. 13, at the Incurable Hospital, James Behan, sr., late D. M. P. and W. I. H. Brien—Dec. 11, at St. Vin-cent's Hospital, Thomas Brien, third eldest son of the late James and Catherine Brien, 1 Fitzwilliam lane, aged 17 1/2 years. Byrne—Dec. 12, at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Mrs. Martha Byrne, late of 5 Lower Clan-brassell street, Clontarf—Dec. 12, Mich-ael Clinton of 38 Temple Bar. Hanley—At Ballydooley Lodge, Patrick Han-ley, aged 79 years. Lennon—At 40 Marlborough street, Agnes Elizabeth Lennon of consumption, youngest and last surviving child of the late Richard Lennon, compositor. M'Assey—Dec. 12, 53 Dawson street, John M'Assey, aged 78 years. Byrne—Dec. 11, at 21 King's place, Grand Canal Harbor,

Anne Byrne, of Carlow. Lawlor—Dec. 14, at Patrick's Well, Rathvilly, Ed-ward Lawlor. L'Esion—Dec. 14, Richard L'Esion, 11 Seafort parade, Williamstown. Sweeney—Dec. 14, 107 Great Britain street, Alexander Swee-ney, aged 49 years. Wheeler—Dec. 15, at 6 Farrell's lane, Jane Wheeler, wife of James Wheeler, in her 37th year. Behan—Dec. 14, at 11 Charle-ville Mall, Beulah Behan. Brennan—Dec. 14, at Blackhall parade, Mary Brennan, daughter of Christopher Kan-naugh, carowner. McGowan—Dec. 12, 55 Lower Clanbrassell street, Mary McGowan. Fitzsimmons—Dec. 14, George Fitzsimmons, aged 79 years.

QUEEN'S.

A branch of the '98 Centenary movement has been established in Castle-town. A large and representa-tive public meeting was held on Sun-day for the purpose of extending the organization.

During the past week a bazaar and sale of work in aid of the Stewart In-stitute for Imbecile Children was opened at the courthouse, Marybo-rough, by the Countess of Portarling-ton. A concert was given each even-ing. Archbishop Torrens delivered an address.

WESTMEATH.

A large and influential meeting of the tenants on the Palmer estate, situ-ate at Clonlost, was held on Sunday at Turin. This is the third meeting of the tenants to deal with the question of the rents, and to consider their po-sition in regard to the purchase of their holdings. The tenants demand-ed 20 per cent on the rents, due in consequence of a bad season, and the promise of the landlord, made at the beginning of the proceedings for pur-chase, which reduction was to be given until the purchase had been com-pleted. A letter was received from the landlord offering 10 per cent on the present half year's rent and 10 per cent on the May rents. This the tenants refused.

WEXFORD.

Rev. P. M. O'Leary, C. C., Galbally, died on Dec. 11, after a very short period of sickness. He was only 47 years of age. Ballykelly, Ballymurrin, is his native place. Deeply regretted. The commissioners of National Education have informed the Educa-tion Board of Guardians that on the report of the district Inspector they have promoted Miss Annie Sin-nott, teacher of the workhouse female school, from the lower to the higher division of second class.

We regret to chronicle the demise of Rev. Andrew Murphy, C. C., Kil-tealy, which occurred on Saturday. Father Murphy was a native of Ballin-valley, Monaghan, and was a com-paratively young man, having been ordained only 12 or 13 years ago. He was first stationed in Clongeen and afterward to the curacy of Kiltelly. Requiem office and high mass were celebrated at Kiltelly, after which the interment took place.

The interment of Mr. Charles G. White, ex-champion oarsman, took place in Salskar Abbey, Wexford, last week. He was the second son of the late Mr. William White, French Con-sul, of Richmond house Wexford, and grandson of Mr. John White, founder of the well known White's Hotel of Wexford. On his becoming a resident of Dublin Mr. White became a mem-ber of the Pembroke Rowing Club. In 1875 he sprang into prominence by carrying off the Elbana Cup for the Irish championship. He repeated this notable triumph 1878, 1879 and 1880. In English rowing circles his success was equally brilliant, and his victories on the Thames and in all prominent regattas throughout Eng-land were numerous. One of the most notable was the occasion on which he won a valuable piece of plate, presented by the Prince of Wales for the championship of the Thames. He defeated such giants in the rowing world as F. Gullestan and Frank Playford. The most stubborn race he ever had was against Playford for the Wingfield Soules, which the Englishman won by a very narrow margin.

WICKLOW.

Michael Nolan, Bray, died Dec. 14, in the Mater Hospital, Dublin. In-terment was in the cemetery in Little Bray.

Died—Dec. 11, 1897, at Knockra-been, late of Mullinaveigue, Christo-pher Murphy. The Earl of Drogheda entertained a large shooting party in Moore Abbey, Monasteraven. Great numbers of pheasants, rabbits, etc., were shot down remorselessly.

KILKENNY.

A crusade against English influences

is being pushed forward by the branch of Gaelic League in Kilkenny City. Many new students have joined, and a junior class is being conducted. In order to encourage and popularize the study of Irish as a subject of examina-tion under the intermediate system, the League intends, in addition to the capitation grant promised to the teachers, to present students who pass in the Irish portion next June with a book prize. Thus, every in-dividual student who is able to satisfy the examiner in Irish will have the certainty of obtaining a prize for his trouble.

Thomas F. Murphy, Club House, Kilkenny, will be the high sheriff for the city during 1898.

Died—On Dec. 5, at Instigoe Ed-ward T. Hayden, Bishopslough. Dec. 13, at Bootstown, Freshford, Michael McGrath, father of the Rev. M. J. McGrath, C. C., Owing Templemore, aged 80 years. Office and high mass at Freshford. Interment was in Johnswell cemetery.

KING'S.

Julia Toohy during the past week was convicted at Roscrea and sen-tenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labor, for the recent win-dow breaking at Roscrea Convent.

The sufferings experienced during the past week by the people living in the low lying lands along the banks of the Shannon cannot be exaggerated. The recent heavy rains have swollen the river so that the country for miles in the neighborhood of Shannon Bridge and Shannon Harbor looks like an inland sea. The village of Reekis surrounded with water. A similar state of things exists near Shannon Bridge, where the waters of the Suak united with those of the Shannon. A heavy gale blowing from the southwest drove the water across the G. S. & W. railway near Banagher.

LONGFORD.

Among the recent deaths in the county were those of Mr. Charles Brady, T. C. Granard, who died very suddenly; O. O'Neill Kenny, solicitor, Carton house, Longford, aged 30 years. His remains were removed from St. Mel's cathedral and interred in Abbeyshrule, and on Dec. 14 Peter Carraghan, jr., of Lough Looney, Keshagh. Interment was in Fergney cemetery.

LOUTH.

James P. Kelly, Fair street, Drogheda, will be the High Sheriff during 1898.

Rev. Dr. Nulty, Bishop of Meath, has been pleased to make the follow-ing changes: Rev. T. McCormick, P. P., Mountaughey, to be P. P. Slane; Rev. P. Brody, P. P. Slane, to be P. P. Kilkenny West; Rev. P. J. Smith, O. C. Clara, to be P. P. Mountaughey; Rev. P. Ledwith, O. C. Delvin, to be Adm. Oristown; Rev. C. V. Cronin, O. C. Oristown, to be O. C. Clara; Rev. James Clavin, O. C. Moynalty, to be O. C. Delvin; Rev. T. Scally, to be O. C. Clontarf; Rev. L. Ryan, O. C. Kings-court, to be O. C. Beapure; Rev. E. Kallaghan, to be O. C. Skryne; Rev. F. Geraghty, O. C. Clontarf, to be O. C. Kingscourt; Rev. G. Buchanan to be O. C. Killybegs; Rev. F. Kelly to be O. C. Moynalty.

Died—Dec. 9, at Laurence street, Drogheda, Josephine Patricia Elcock, aged 9 months. Dec. 4, at Back street, Kells, Mrs. Elizabeth Murray, widow of the late Michael Murray, late ma-jor Kells Union. Dec. 9, at 65 West Gate, Drogheda, Patrick McKee.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

The dwelling house of James Clune, a farmer, residing at Ruan, was struck by lightning; his wife also sustained very serious injuries. The house was almost entirely demolished. The bolt came down one of the chimneys and struck Mrs. Clune, who was sit-ting by the fire. Mrs. Clune died in the hospital at Corofin.

The Rev. F. McMahon, O. C., Kilm-hill, who was transferred from Kilmaloe, was made the recipient of a very handsome testimonial from the people of Kilmaloe.

Mrs. Anne Armstrong of Shepherd Hill, midway between Spanishpoint and Miltownmalbay, has just passed away, at the age of 113 years. She had been ailing for a few weeks. Up to the time she became ill no person in the parish ever heard she was sick on any previous occasion. She was always to be seen around her cottage until 5 p. m., when she would retire to rest. Mrs. Armstrong was a native of Florence Court, County Fermanagh, and came to Clare with her husband in the year of the rebellion, 1798, her husband being sent as a peace officer with other men from the same locality. She has stated she was then 18 years

old at least. Her maiden name was Bracken. She was a Protestant, and while able to travel to church always attended regularly her religious duties. She had three children, all of whom are dead, and her great desire, which was carried out, was to be buried along with her husband in the graveyard at Miltownmalbay Protestant Church.

On Sunday a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Independent National-ists of Kilmaloe was held in the club-rooms, Francis street, to form a branch of the Independent League. Mr. Stephen McMahon was moved to the chair.

CORK.

Mr. Thomas Ryan, Buttrant, died recently. During 40 years he was the principal teacher of the boys' school in the town. His demise is deeply re-gretted.

Recently a large and influential meeting was held at Killeagh for the purpose of protesting against the con-temptible closing up of Killeagh grave-yard. The people of the parish, with their energetic pastor, Rev. E. Murphy, were present in large numbers, while from Mogely, Castlemary, Lady-bridge, Middleton, Cloyne, Ballymacoda, Ballycotton and Youghal deputations attended. Resolutions were adopted denouncing the intended action of the Local Government Board. Present: P. Carey, J. J. Connolly, R. P. Ber-gue, W. Coleman and Mr. Purcell.

Recent deaths in Cork—O'Callaghan—Dec. 10, at Knockbarry, Lisacarrill, in the 89th year of his age, Patrick O'Callaghan of Toorard. Barry—Dec. 9, Ellice, second daughter of John and Margaret Barry, Mellifontstown, Bar-jony, aged 16 years. Kennedy—Dec. 10, at Rochespoint, Cornelius James Kennedy, aged 13 years. Sullivan—Dec. 9, at The Pier, Ballycotton, David Sullivan, aged 40 years, the last branch pilot of Ballycotton. McKay—Dec. 6, at 11 Upper John street, William Francis McKay. McCarthy—Dec. 6, Mary Teresa McCarthy, Prospect Place, Sunday's Well. McCarthy—Dec. 6, at Gurrane, Banteer, Michael McCarthy. O'Mahony—Dec. 6, at Barrack Hill, Fermoy, Mary O'Mahony.

KERRY.

Died—At Inch house, Killarney, Dec. 5, Harriet Emily, wife of W. P. Trant McCarthy, solicitor. Dec. 4, at Mill street, Mary O'Sullivan, late of Coombe, County Kerry.

Mr. Patrick Galvin of Kilmaloe has arrived in Listowel, whence he emi-grated 20 years ago. He experienced varying fortunes until he struck for Kilmaloe, where he became immensely rich. He refused £200,000 for some land he owns there, and sold one of his claims for £20,000. His account of the journey from the new gold country is most interesting. Mr. Gal-vin, who was accompanied by his wife, traveled by the Dalton trail and had to tramp 574 miles, and Mrs. Galvin had to walk 150 miles during the journey. They had 11 pack horses, and at the journey's end they had but four. The provisions, too, ran scarce, and they had to subsist on flour and water for a considerable time.

TIPPERARY.

The remains of the late Mr. D. J. O'Meara were removed from the Ma-ter hospital in Dublin during the week for interment in the family burial ground at Ballingarry, Shilrona. He was a student of the Catholic Univer-sity school of medicine and was pre-paring for his final examination when he contracted typhoid fever and died. Mr. O'Meara was popular with stu-dents, and there was a general feeling of regret when his demise became known. All the students of the school assembled at the hospital when the remains were removed at 8 a. m. and walked in procession with the funeral cortege to the Kingsbridge station.

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Hennessy, Galfin, whose death occurred on Dec. 6, at the fine old age of 89 years. Mrs. Hennessy, Holy-cross. Her maiden name was Gleeson, and she belonged to an old and re-spected family, well known and highly respected in Limerick. Her remains were taken to the parish church on Wednesday morning where the fol-lowing priests attended the obsequies: Fathers Tuohy and Connery, An-na-carty; Fathers Crowe and Noonan, Cappawhite; Fathers Ryan and O'Meara, Knockville; Father O'Keeffe, Cloncutty; Father Duggan, Doon; Fa-ther Fitzgerald, Kilcummin, and Fa-ther Hennessy, Holycross. The re-mains were interred in Kilpatrick, ac-companied by a large funeral cortege.

LIMERICK.

The new Mayoral chair for Limer-ick city is in the style of an ancient throne used in Ireland.

Died—December 10, at Mortalstown House, Kilmaloe, Thomas Wallace, M. D., aged 44 years.

It is good news to have to report when distress is prevalent that what promises to form an extensive source of remunerative employment is being established in Tipperary. The Derry-castle state quarries in Kilmaloe dis-trict, which have for several years re-mained unworked, are being reopened on a large scale, and there is every hope that the undertaking will prove successful, not only as a means of employment, but as a profitable enter-prise for its promoters. Col. Spaight upon whose property the quarries are situated, is taking an active part in pushing forward the project, and al-ready it appears a number of men are engaged making preliminary arrange-ments.

Recently while some men were ex-cavating on the premises of Mr. M. Feehan, O'Connell street, Clonmel, for increased cellar accommodations, they came on a long disused underground passage that must have been in exis-tence many centuries. An arch door-way, lance-shaped overhead, similar to those of the middle ages, is still in an excellent state of preservation, and will be shown by Mr. Feehan to any visitor taking an interest in archaeol-ogy. Tradition has it that there was an underground passage connecting the Cistercian Monastery, (now St. Mary's Protestant church), and the Franciscan Friary, and the supposition is that this is part thereof.

WATERFORD.

Mr. John E. Redmond, M. P. for Waterford, addressed his constituents on December 7 in the City Hall, Wa-terford. Great numbers attended to hear their representative give an ac-count of his stewardship. He emphat-ically declared the time had come for a union of all Irishmen on the Home Rule question, as the National Liberal association had omitted all mention of it on its program for the future.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

The results of the elections in four wards in Belfast—Falls, Smithfield, (the Catholic wards), Dock and Potter-gar—are satisfactory. The special fea-ture of the results was the return of all the nominees of the Catholic as-sociation, of which Bishop Henry is the head, and the defeat of the candidates of the Nationalists.

ARMAGH.

The inaugural address of the Ar-magh Catholic Debating Society was delivered recently, and among those who attended were His Eminence Car-dinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, who oc-cupied the chair.

CAVAN.

A public meeting of the Cootehill Grattan Volunteers was held on Sun-day. Mr. Hugh Flynn presided.

DERBY.

A large and representative meeting of Nationalists of Maghera was held on Monday for the purpose of consid-ering what steps should be taken in order that the people should be repre-sented in the National commemoration.

DONEGAL.

Deep and sincere regret was felt throughout Donegal for the death, on December 4, after a brief illness, of Dr. Charles O'Doherty, medical officer of the Dispensary District of Dungloe. The deceased gentleman, who was quite a young man, was held in great esteem for his amiable qualities and the care and skill exercised in the performance of his duties. It was while so engaged, in the service of the poor, that he was stricken with typhus fever, which proved fatal in four days. No sooner was the nature of his dis-ease ascertained than he was taken, for greater convenience of medical treatment, to Glenties, where Dr. Kelly of Glenties, Dr. Smyth of Burton Port and Dr. Byrne of Derry, did all that medical experience could suggest to save his life.

FERMANAGH.

Mrs. Anne Armstrong, of Shepherd Hill, between Spanishpoint and Miltown-malbay, died a few days ago at the ex-traordinary age of 118 years. She was a native of Florencecourt, in this county, but in the historic year of 1798 came to the County Clare, with her husband, who, she stated, was a kind of policeman.

THURLOW.

On Wednesday of the past week a serious accident happened to Dr. E. C. Thompson, Omagh, when he was knocked out of his trap. He was badly cut in several places on his face, and sustained a large lacerated cut, or wound, about the right eye extending to the crown of the head.