

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.

William Carr and John Geraghty have been elected Poor Law Guardians for the districts of Killiney and Ardmuttillan in room of late John Carr and Michael Hoarty.

Bridget Meila, who died in Tuam lately, went there from Westport 80 years ago. She followed the late Archbishop McAle, and used to say she rocked him in a cradle at Tubbernavine. He died at 92, 10 years ago, so that she must have been about 110 years old.

At the annual convention of the Gaels of the County of Galway, at Athlone lately, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. John Keane, and seconded by Mr. Patrick Murray, and passed with acclamation: "That the forthcoming celebration of the '98 Centenary is deserving of the whole-hearted support of every Irishman and Irishwoman who remembers with pride and affection the glorious and disinterested effort made by our forefathers to 'free our native land.'"

At the fine old age of 93 years died recently Mr. Martin Healion of Castlehackett. As stock manager on the Castlehackett property for half a century he had come in touch with the farmers of the district, and all esteemed him. Interment was in the family plot in Desaghpatrik, high mass de requiem being celebrated in Oaheristrane. The extent and character of the funeral cortege was an eloquent testimony to his popularity, and a proof of the respect and esteem in which he was and his family are held by all classes.

Returning from the Dunmore fair Michael Gleason of Beagh, left town with two others and was found within a quarter of a mile of the town dying. The matter was reported to the police, who conveyed him to the barracks, where he was attended by a priest and doctor, but he never recovered consciousness and soon passed away. James D. McDonough, coroner, held an inquest, assisted by Doctors O'Reilly and Costello, who made a post-mortem examination. The jury rendered a verdict "That the deceased Michael Gleason met his death on the night of Dec. 11, near Dunmore, from mortal injuries inflicted by some person or persons." The remains were removed from the barracks about 9 p. m., when the friends who attended the funeral joined in a heartrending and blood-curdling wail never to be forgotten by those who were present.

Members of the Tuam branch of the Independent League met last week. Attendance numerous. Mr. P. O'Brien, M. P., was present. On the motion of Mr. Francis Keane, seconded by Mr. Timothy Fahy, the chair was taken by Mr. M. O. Shine, T. C. The chairman, who was received with applause, said he was glad to address such a large and representative meeting. Mr. Patrick G. Kelly read the following resolutions which were adopted at convention: "That we endorse the action of the Irish Independent Parliamentary party, led by Sir J. E. Redmond, in all at times and against all difficulties upholding the principles of Charles S. Parnell in the British Parliament and defending the civil and religious rights of the people of Ireland and at home, and we pledge them our support. That we approve of the Irish Independent League established at the National Convention in Dublin in October last, and hereby resolve to organize a branch in Tuam. That the continued incarceration of the Irish political prisoners is a disgrace to any government professing to be civilized, and we call for their immediate and unconditional release. That the centenary of the heroic struggle for Irish national freedom in 1798 is a national event, calling for the hearty union of all professing Nationalists, so that we cordially pledge our co-operation for that truly National purpose."

LEITRIM.

Rose Wynne, Barrack, help in Dromed, died suddenly last week in the Barrack from a disease called dilated heart. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was given by the jury.

The interment of Joseph Rourke, son of Mrs. Rourke, Gortough, took place last week in Kiltokher. Father Burke officiated. Deceased was only 13 years old. His father died one year ago.

A deputation of National teachers, headed by Mr. Michael McGovern,

Tullydevan, N. S.; Mr. W. Lee Guha-veony, N. S.; Mr. Flynn, Shannonview, N. S.; and Mr. Sheridan, Kilduff, N. S., waited on P. A. McHugh, M. P., at the Shannon Hotel, to recount the many grievances, still unredressed, under which the Irish National teachers suffer, and to ask him to have the matter brought up in the House of Commons. Mr. McHugh listened attentively to the deputations, showed them the greatest kindness and declared he was shocked that a teacher beginning work at 17 or 18 years had to labor at his wearying and trying profession for 50 years before he could hope to retire on a pension.

MAYO.

Mr. William Kelly, teacher of Prison National School, Balla died recently, deeply regretted. He was aged 64 years. He was taken ill suddenly on Friday, and died the evening of the following day.

Peter Scallan, who is in possession of Mrs. Sammon's farm at Carrowcra-vedy, reported to Lord Sligo's office that on his release from Castlebar jail a warder gave him a kick, called him an "ould landgrabber," and told him to "give the woman her land." Though it is highly improbable that a man wearing the livery of the British Government would indulge in such pleasant pastime, no matter how much he might like to do so, yet a complaint has been made to the prison management.

The obsequies of Archbishop Cavanaugh took place at Knock in the presence of an enormous concourse of people. Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Keltimagh and surrounding towns were represented. Many attended from more distant districts, while the parishioners assembled en masse to pay a last tribute of affection to his memory. Solemn high mass de requiem was celebrated at 11 o'clock.

ROSCOMMON.

A representative meeting was held in the courthouse, Coeshall, during last week for the purpose of establishing a creamery on the co-operative lines.

A statue about 10 feet high has been placed in front of Castlereagh Catholic church. It represents Our Lord in the temple blessing the children, and the words on the pedestal are: "Suffer little children to come unto Me and forbid them not." The donor is Mr. James McLoughlin, Castlereagh, a gentleman who is well known for his benevolence to God's house. The statue is a splendid one and adds considerably to the beauty of the new church.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Pat Hanly, the Lodge, Ballydoole, Roscommon, at the age of 79 years. Requiem services were held in Ballin-ahughish church. The celebrant was the Rev. J. Doherty, Ballinabeghish; deacon, Rev. T. O'Dwyer, Castlereagh; sub-deacon, Rev. T. Sharkey, Castlereagh; and master of ceremonies, Rev. John Corcoran, Roscommon.

SLIGO.

Mr. P. Curran presided at a recent meeting of the Geevagh branch of the Irish National Federation.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The committee of the Carlow-Graigue '98 Memorial have adopted the design of Mr. W. P. Hade, C. E., for a memorial in the inclosed ground at Graigue over the graves of the men who were murdered by the English in Carlow in '98. The design is a splendid specimen of a Celtic cross fifteen feet high and the arms four feet. The cross is ten feet seven inches and the base four feet five inches. The cross is rolled around the edges. The face and back are generally carved with Celtic designs, the tracing being of the most intricate character. There are raised carved bosses on the face and back. The pedestal will have rolled mouldings and sun panels on lower side. The cross will be curved at the top and a suitable inscription will be cut on the pedestal.

At a recent '98 Gaelic tournament, held in the Paddock, Carlow, the Loughmartin team beat the old Leigh team by one goal and six points. The Carlow-Graigue team beat Athy by three points. Mr. Elce Borriss was referee.

DUBLIN.

A council meeting of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language was held at No. 6 Molesworth street, Dublin, last week, Lieut. Bryan J. Jones in the chair.

A representative meeting was held in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin, a few days ago, under the auspices of the Irish Financial Reform League. The meeting was a protest against the over-taxation of Ireland and it was attended by prom-

inent men of all parties and creeds.

A meeting of the Wolf Tone club was held at their rooms, Odd Fellows' Buildings, Upper Abbey street, Dublin, on Sunday. Mr. John O'Shaughnessy in the chair. Proposed by Mr. George Sparks, seconded by Mr. Richard Fitzharris: "That a subscription be forwarded to the Amnesty Association towards the fund for the families of the political prisoners." Passed.

Recent deaths in Dublin—Brady—Dec. 17, at the Mater hospital, Mary Brady, 92 Lower Mount street. Casey—Dec. 16, Robert Casey, 1 Blackberry lane. Colgan—Dec. 16, at Cappagh, Enfield, Teresa Colgan. Conroy—Dec. 16, at 10 Heytsbury street, Catherine Conroy (Lynch and Conroy), 57 Dame street. Donegan—Dec. 17, at 8 Thomas court, late of Marrowbone lane, Patrick Donegan, aged 48 years. Dowling—Dec. 17, at 21 Green street, late of Mary's lane, Joseph Dowling, member Branch Isle of the Sea L. N. Foresters, to the great grief of his young family and friends. Farrelly—Dec. 18, Rev. Charles Farrelly, P. P., Castletara, Cavan, in the 49th year of his age and 24th of his sacred ministry. Gunning—Dec. 17, at Cook Street hospital, Katie Gunning, 6 John Dillon street, aged 8 years. Healy—Dec. 17, at St. Vincent's hospital, Terence Healy, Ballinascorney, Tallaght. Holmes—Dec. 15, at Bedford house, Upper Norwood, S. E., Emma Matilda Holmes, aged 62 years. Lennan—Dec. 17, at Connaught street, At Lane, Patrick Lennan, aged 70 years. Mangant—Dec. 17, Elizabeth (Lizzie) young and dearly beloved daughter of the late Nicholas and Elizabeth Mangant.

KILDARE.

A successful concert was held in St. James' school house, Castledermot. It opened with a pianoforte solo by the Rev. J. L. Jesson. Mrs. Waller and Miss Deering sang one of Mendelssohn's duets.

KILKENNY.

The death of Rev. Canon O'Hanlon evoked general feelings of regret. He was parish priest of Gowran since 1870. The attendance at the funeral was very large.

At a special meeting of the Board of Guardians of Kilkenny Union held lately, at which 27 guardians were present, and was presided over by Mr. J. P. Smithwick, J. P., chairman, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. M. M. Murphy, solicitor: "That the Royal Commission appointed by her Majesty to inquire into and report on the financial relations of Great Britain and Ireland has established that Ireland is taxed between two and a half and three million pounds per annum too much. This excessive taxation has injured and is injuring Ireland in her material interests and her commercial prosperity, and as long as it exists it constitutes a great National grievance, affecting all classes of the community, and, therefore, it is imperative on all Irishmen, irrespective of party, to join in the effort now being made by the Irish Financial Reform League to redress and remove the undue burden on our resources. There is no justification for delay in dealing with the financial grievances of Ireland, having regard to the report of the able and distinguished financiers who formed the Royal Commission of 1894. We therefore respectfully request the Marquis of Ormond, K. P., Lord Lieutenant of the County of Kilkenny, to call a meeting of the inhabitants at an early date for the consideration of this matter." Mr. Barrett seconded the proposition, which was passed unanimously.

KING'S.

The new and beautiful Church of the Immaculate Conception at Fербане is completed. The church consists of nave, with gallery at west end, chancel, north and south transepts, scorielles and baptistry, and affords seating accommodation for 700 persons. The interior is very fine, the nave floors and also the floors of chancel and transepts being laid with tiling of a beautiful pattern. The windows are stained glass, rich in coloring and chaste in design. A beautiful marble high altar occupies the east end of the church, with carved retables and canopy, while on either side stand altars of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin Mary. The roof is of open timber construction, with panels and moulded ribs, finished with carved bosses at intersections, the effect being very pleasing. Externally the church presents a very fine effect, a striking feature being a well-proportioned tower and spire rising to a considerable height at west end next entrance, and visible from all parts of the country. It is surmounted by a fine cross of copper, heavily gilt. The belfry contains a powerful yet sweet-toned bell. The material used in the construction of the walls of the church and tower

is limestone, the carvings of finials, bosses, crockets, etc., being splendidly executed. The work was commenced two years ago with very slender means—in fact, no accumulation of funds. Yet Very Rev. Canon Sheridan decided to commence the work of God, knowing well that no church in the Island of Salutz was left unfinished. His parishioners, notwithstanding the serious depression existing, faithfully and generously responded to the call. Those who gave donations will be remembered in the masses of each day.

LONGFORD.

The death of Mr. C. O'Neill Kenay, solicitor, Longford, recently, was deeply and generally regretted. He had been only six years in his profession, but was making to the top round of the ladder.

LOUTH.

James P. Kelly, High Sheriff of Drogheda has re-appointed Thomas Byrnes, sub-Sheriff and James Gannon, Solicitor, West St. Drogheda, as returning officer.

MEATH.

On Thursday the funeral obsequies of Sister Mary Baptist Murray, of the Convent of Mercy, Navan, took place in the Convent Chapel. Very Rev. P. Callary, Trim, presided at the funeral obsequies. At 11 o'clock the solemn Office for the Dead was chanted, followed by requiem mass.

QUEEN'S.

A numerous attended meeting of the Michael Dwyer branch of the '98 Centenary organization was held on Sunday in Castletown, to extend the association. Mr. Mark J. Codd, president, in the chair.

WESTMEATH.

Rev. Peter Ledwith, O. C., has been transferred to Orstown, to act as administrator, and he has been succeeded by the Rev. Father Clavin, O. C., Moynalty.

WEXFORD.

A branch of the '98 Centenary association has been established in historic New Ross. Mr. M. J. Finn presided at the inaugural meeting.

Mrs. Mary Ryan's interest in her farm at Duganstown, near New Ross, comprising 168 acres, was recently sold to Mr. Boyd, solicitor, New Ross, for £450, about \$2,250.

The annual subscription for the new church in New Ross was held a few Sundays ago, and the aggregate reached the grand total of £989. New Ross people are extremely generous in the building of this church.

Rev. Aidan O'Brien, son of Mr. Andrew O'Brien, Blackwater, was lately in the chapel of St. Peter's college, Wexford, raised to the priesthood by Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Ferns. His lordship was assisted by the Rev. Professors of the college. The young priest pursued his ecclesiastical studies at St. Peter's college, and subsequently at Maynooth. A number of the friends of the newly ordained clergyman were present.

Died—December 12, at Bushortown, Garrig-on-Bannow, Mr. Michael Carroll, aged 62 years. The most heartfelt regret was experienced throughout Carrig-on-Bannow when it became known that Mr. Carroll, a member of one of the oldest and most respected families, had died. High mass and office was held in Ballymitty chapel, after which the remains were interred in Kilkavlin.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

While men were engaged in making excavation on the Kilrush road, Ennis, a short time ago, they came upon a number of coffins and skulls. In some cases the coffins bore only slight traces of decay. It was found that within the memory of some of the older inhabitants the place was used as a graveyard called Garraunkilla, which was closed in the year 1847.

On Sunday a meeting of the Nationalists of Killaloe and Ballina was held at the court house of Killaloe to establish a branch of the '98 Centenary association, so that Killaloe, Ballina and the surrounding districts may be enabled to take part in this year's celebrations. A deputation from Limerick, consisting of Kett, Prendergast and Whelan, attended, and there was a large, representative meeting. Mr. J. H. Ryan was moved to the chair.

CORK.

The Rev. M. O'Connor, Ballynoe, has been promoted to the pastorate of Shandrum. Rev. John Morrissey, Iniscarra, has been promoted to Ballina and the Rev. C. Murphy, C. C., Meelin, has been transferred to Iniscarra, his place being filled by the Rev. Father Kelleher, late military chaplain at Kiltworth.

Recent deaths in Cork—Bullman—On Dec. 11, Kate, daughter of the late William and Catherine Bullman, Ballinacra, Ballindagat, aged 25 years. Lynch—Dec. 17, at 94 Fair Hill, Margaret Lynch. Murphy—Dec. 17, at 79 Friar street, Charles Murphy, aged 60 years. Lynch—Maria Lynch, Cregane Churchtown, aged 47 years. McCarthy—At 18 Lady's Well Hill, Maria McCarthy. Butler—On Dec. 13, at 13 Great George's street, Nicholas Butler aged 58 years. Murphy—On Dec. 13 at 24 Summer Hill South, Richard J. Murphy, Hon. Sec. Cork Young Men's Society, eldest son of the late Stephen B. Murphy, butter inspector. Looney—At No. 4 Church street, Queenstown, on Dec. 12, Mary Looney. O'Shea—On Dec. 13, Ellen O'Shea of Shanbally-Power—Dec. 14, at St. Patrick's hospital, Wellington Road, William Power, Lower Road. Coughlan—Dec. 14, 10 Paul street, Hannah Coughlan, in her 78th year. R. L. P. Hallinan—On Dec. 13, at Brittas, Gloucestria, Margaret Mary (Miss) Hallinan, daughter of Thomas Hallinan, aged 16 years. O'Sullivan—On Dec. 12, at Campaign House, Mitchelstown, James S. O'Sullivan.

A few days ago a raid for arms was made at Ennismone House, the residence of Mr. George Hewson, D. L., by armed and disguised men. Three of the party entered the house by the kitchen door and took a gun and a rifle. There was no violence on the part of the raiders.

A successful retreat for the Third Order and Archconfraternity of St. Francis, by the Very Rev. Father Bernard, O. S. F., provincial, Cork, was closed on Sunday, in presence of the largest congregation ever seen in this beautiful Franciscan church, Killarney. During the masses over two thousand persons received Holy Communion.

LIMERICK.

On December 13 Mrs. Powell, Burtanock, Cappamore, gave birth to triplets—two boys and a girl. All are doing well.

General Lord Clarins died lately at his residence, Elm Park, Limerick. He was born April 29, 1830, and in 1872 succeeded his father to the title.

The relations and friends of Mr. Jas. Madden of Ballinameth, Ahluikard, will regret to learn of the death of his only daughter, Mary, in the 18th year of her age. She had been a pupil of Laure Hill convent, and was an amiable and highly accomplished young lady.

On Sunday was reorganized the once famous Killmalleck Faugha-Ballagha. A meeting of the Gaels was held.

The interment of Miss Mary Nealon, Newcastle, West, took place in Churchtown cemetery last week. The funeral was numerously attended.

TIPPERARY.

The Board of Guardians will supply seed to the farmers in the Union district who care to accept. Credit will be given in all cases for certain periods.

WATERFORD.

The Waterford and Limerick Railway Company are reported as being willing to give a guarantee of \$10,000 to assist the Dublin and Wicklow Railway Company to construct a line from Waterford to New Ross.

Mr. Anthony Cadogan has been re-appointed High Sheriff for 1898 for Waterford City. The exiles visiting Waterford during the year will be handsomely entertained by Anthony.

The residence of the late Messrs. Ferguson and Biggar, Butlerstown Castle, is now in the possession of Mr. Harry Fisher, of the Munster Express. It was generally supposed that either Mr. T. M. Healy or Father Flynn would get the property, but Mr. Biggar's son pulled himself together and took it over nicely.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

A meeting of the Central Executive committee of the Catholic association of Belfast was held on Sunday in St. Mary's Minor hall, Most Rev. Dr. Henry, Down and Connor, presided. The bishop said it would be a good move to approach Parliament and have a bill passed reducing the present voting qualification, which he characterized as ridiculously light.

The first meeting of the Ulster Provincial '98 Executive was held December 12, in St. Mary's hall, Belfast. Business of importance was transacted. The association in the North is collecting for the purpose of erecting memorials to Wolf Tone and Henry Joy McCracken.

The funeral of Mr. Alexander MacAllister, May street, took place on Friday to Friar's Bush cemetery. Mr.

MacAllister's death caused keen regret among all who knew him, and this was testified in an unmistakable manner by the size of the cortege.

ARMAGH.

A grand and successful bazaar and fancy fair and sale of work was held last week in the Sacred Heart convent of Mount St. Catherine, under the auspices of the Congregation of the Children of Mary, Armagh. There were five stalls decorated with exquisite taste.

CAVAN.

Hugh Flynn, Philip Smith and James Brown are working like beavers to make the Cooteshill branch of the '98 Centenary association all that could be desired. The "old town" will make a good showing when the "exiles" return.

Rev. Charles Farrelly, P. P. Castletara, died Dec. 13, in the 49th year of his age and 24th of his priesthood. Interment was in Ballyhaise church, and was numerously attended. Grief the most intense was expressed by all who knew the pastor.

DERRY.

A representative meeting of the Nationalists of Maghera was held the past week to consider what steps should be taken that the people should be represented in national commemoration of '98. The seating accommodation of the National hall was taxed to its fullest capacity.

DONEGAL.

At the Glenties Presentation Sessions for the barony of Boylagh an important application for £288 10s. to make a new road and bridge from Mesagoland over the river Finn was made. A proposed new station on the West Donegal line, to be at Glassaghbeg, was opposed. This was a part of the road necessary to reach the proposed station, the other portion being in the South Raphoe, and at Stranorlar Presentation Sessions on Tuesday last £817 10s. was asked for this part of the road. As an alternative for the proposed station at Glassaghbeg one is proposed to be put at Meenally. The promoters of the latter station opposed the presentation asked at Glenties for the Glassaghbeg station asserting the Meenally station would be more useful, but half-way between Cloghan and Ballinamore, whereas the Glassaghbeg station would be less than two miles from Ballinamore station, and the necessary road to the site at Meenally would be much cheaper. It was understood that the Congested District Board would assist financially. The whole of the Meenally road had been passed at Stranorlar Sessions at £150; on the part of the Glassaghbeg road that came up for presentation there was also passed, but the other part of the Glassaghbeg road now objected to by the promoters of the Meenally station, the presentation was refused, the notice not being properly served.

DOWN.

The population of the town of Comber is 2,051; Warrenpoint, 1,870; Donaghadee, 1,886; Killybegh, 1,513; Portaferry, 1,824; Rathfriland, 1,461.

Efforts are being made in the county to arrange for some demonstration to celebrate the historic "rising of '98."

FERMANAGH.

Mr. James Daly, Belleek, died suddenly lately of heart disease, deeply regretted. Interment was in Tectuney; cortege long. Father O'Connor officiated at the burial.

MONAGHAN.

The chapel attached to the Convent of the Sisters of St. Louis was the scene of a beautiful ceremonial last week. The occasion was the profession of Miss Mary Mulhern (in religion Sister Mary Loyola), daughter of Mr. Mulhern, Edarney, County Fermanagh, and sister to the Very Rev. Edward Mulhern, President of St. Meaartan's Seminary, Monaghan; and of the profession of Miss Annie O'Neill (in religion Sister Mary Anthony), daughter of Mr. O'Neill, Mullinacock, Monaghan. The ceremonies commenced in the presence of the Rev. Mother Frances Owens, sister of Bishop Owens, and the other members of the Sisterhood. Most Rev. Dr. Owens, assisted by Very Rev. E. Mulhern, and Rev. P. J. Lynch celebrated the holy mass.

TYRONE.

The members of the Slon Mills Dramatic club gave a public performance in the Recreation hall, Slon Mills, the proceeds being devoted to the funds for completing the new Catholic church in Omagh. The drama was "The Shaughraun." The large hall was filled. The performance reflected credit on all concerned, especially the secretary of the club, Mr. Andrew Hill.