

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.

Rev. M. J. Leahy, administrator of Loughrea parish, has been changed to Eyrecourt.

Mr. Thomas Johnston and Mr. Henry H. Lewis were lately elected Barony constables for Loughrea and Leitrim districts.

Mrs. Mary Forde, Cloonfish, Tuam, who died recently, was deeply mourned. The interment was in St. Jarlath's old church cemetery, Cloonfish; funeral cortege long.

LEITRIM.

Miss Kate Quinn of Ballinamore, who died in Mohill recently, was deeply regretted. Her remains were conveyed to the cemetery of Outeragh and interred. Funeral procession was very long.

Mr. P. McDermott, Drumna, during the recent examinations in Dublin for the exchequer, was most successful.

MAYO.

Mat Kerrigan, the informer, upon whose evidence in '93 four men were hanged for the alleged murder of Lord Ardilaun's bailiff, Huddy, died recently in Cloughbrook, a village situated on the shore of Lough Mask. He had police protection until a year ago. He died in very poor circumstances.

As Father Flately, O. C., Holly Mount, was returning from a third sick call, on meeting a funeral, his horse took fright and running furiously along a very bad road dashed into a deep pool, throwing the reverend gentleman under the water. Mr. O'Kane, Belmont, and others, who were passing, came to the rescue and released the priest from his perilous position. The car and horse were so badly injured that they could not proceed, but Father Flately soon selected one from the many vehicles tendered and proceeded to his residence for a change of clothes and then drove 10 miles to Killybeg to read the funeral service for a deceased parson.

ROSCOMMON.

The death of Mr. John Connolly, Battle Hill, Strokestown, occurred lately at the age of 20 years.

Mr. Arthur Fallon, son of Mr. Dominick Fallon, national teacher, Boyle, died lately in Manchester, England, at the early age of 28 years.

Having reached the fine old age of 71 years, Mrs. Maria O'Connor, Castle street, Roscommon, died on Christmas eve. She was a member of one of the oldest and most respected families in the county.

SLIGO.

On Thursday morning the band, accompanied by a very large contingent, left Sligo in wagoonettes and cars to take part in the great demonstration at Carrignagat to celebrate the memory of the heroes who sacrificed their lives for love of country. Keesh was also represented with a band, and all the surrounding districts sent contingents. In the afternoon several bands arrived in town and paraded the streets to the music of stirring national airs. Cheers for '98 were given often and heartily.

The Dominicans of Sligo will celebrate the golden jubilee of their church in High street. It was blessed with great pomp and splendor in 1848, shortly before the Young Irelanders, under Smith O'Brien, tried to achieve the freedom of the motherland. It is certainly a singular coincidence that the opening of the church and its golden jubilee should respectively occur in years which are landmarks in Irish history. The Dominicans not only of Sligo but of all Ireland gave hostages not only for faith but for fatherland in the trying days of the penal laws. To give one or two examples out of many—close on 600 Irish Dominican priests were murdered and transported by Cromwell. In '98 a Dominican father named Bret was arrested in Dublin while reciting his office and on the merest suspicion of being a United Irishman was cruelly flogged and then transported to the West Indies. The members of the convent (the abbey as it was called), down at the Riverside, close by the waters of the Garavogue, did their part equally well with their brethren throughout Ireland. The white-robed nuns of St. Dominic came to Sligo in the year 1823. It is expected that '98, the date of the golden jubilee of the

church, will be also the date of its much needed completion, for it is understood the community intends to commence the work as soon as possible.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The Rev. D. Byrne, P. P., Graigue, was very seriously ill, but the reverend gentleman's illness had recently taken a turn for the better.

Mr. David Murphy, Lisilcan, died lately. His remains were interred at Ballymurphy on Tuesday, the funeral being the largest seen in Carlow county for thirty years. It was attended by a cortege of 128 carriages and cars, 57 equestrians and a very large number of pedestrians.

DUBLIN.

On January 1 the inauguration of the Lord Mayor for 1898 took place under circumstances regarded as historical. In the first place, the initiation into the high and responsible office of Chief Civic Magistrate on the eve of a year the very name of which is so remarkable forms a landmark not easily to be forgotten. Then there were peculiar circumstances associated with this particular pageant. It was the only occasion on record in the city annals—certainly the only one that occurs to one's mind at present—when, save through illness or death, the outgoing Lord Mayor did not form a chief figure in the gathering. In this particular instance the fact that the ex-Lord Mayor had ceased even to be a member of the town council, contributed an element which made the situation practically unique. There was then the further circumstance involved by the little difficulty relative to the military. It is an undoubted fact that the absence of the soldiers deprived the show of what would beyond all reasonable doubt have lent a curious and variegated interest to it.

A meeting of the Citizens' Provisional committee in connection with the '98 centenary celebration, was held at Costigan's hotel, Upper O'Connell street, Dublin, during the past week, at which it was reported that a deputa-tion on behalf of the committee had waited upon the Lord Mayor to present the requisition prepared by the committee, inviting the Lord Mayor to summon a public meeting to prepare for the proper reception of the visitors to Ireland in connection with the '98 centenary. The requisition was signed by 88 members of the corporation, Mr. John O'Leary and by John Redmond, P. O'Brien, John Dillon, T. M. Healy, T. Harrington, D. Sheehy.

A great public meeting was held in the Mansion house, Dublin, on the 11th ult., to demand from the Tory government a Catholic University, so that a majority of the people of Ireland may have the same facilities for obtaining education that the small minority have possessed for hundreds of years. The Lord Mayor presided. Among those who spoke were Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, the O'Connor Don, Lord Emly, John Dillon, M. P.; Lord Powers-Court, Sir Henry Bellingham, Sir C. Nixon, T. Harrington, M. P.; the mayors of Limerick and Waterford. The arguments in favor of the institution were unanswerable. Every county in Ireland was represented and not confined to the Catholics. Many hundreds were in the building. It is rather a late hour to be seeking for religious equality in Ireland, but religious bigotry dies harder than any other kind of bigotry.

Recent deaths in Dublin—Kenna—Jan. 5, at 55 Queen's square, East, Mrs. Catherine Kenna, mother of the Very Rev. T. M. Kenna, D. D., O. S. A., Doyle—Jan. 4, at the Mater hospital, Miss Eliza Doyle, late of St. Francis Xavier schools, Drumcondra, last surviving daughter of the late Daniel and Mary Doyle, formerly of Newtownmountkennedy, County Wicklow. Farrell—Jan. 4, at 4A North King street, Mrs. Catherine Farrell, aged 78 years. Lynch—At 29 Grenville street, Mary Lynch. Nolan—Jan. 2, at Grosvenor Villa, Crumlin road, Dublin, Mary Nolan, aged 18 years. Seix—Jan. 4, at 29 Charlemont street, Dublin, Harriet Mary Seix, formerly of 2 Warrington place, Tannam—At Stephen's place, Mary Tannam. Walton—Jan. 6, at 1 Seapoint Villas, Bray, John Joseph Walton, aged 20 years. Gibney—Jan. 4, at 20B East Hanover street, (late of 16 King's avenue, Ballybough road), James Gibney, late member of the Bakers' association, Bridge street. Ryan—Jan. 6, at Mercer's hospital, Patrick Ryan, late of Grangeorgan and for 26 years in the employ of Messrs. Guinness, Son & Co., shipping department, third son of the late Edward Ryan, Dolla, Nenagh, County Tipperary. Brennan—Jan. 6, at Paulstown, County Kilkenny, James Healy

Brennan. Boyd—At 5 Swanville place, Rathmines, Bridget Boyd, beloved wife of the late Thomas Boyd, Rathmines. O'Neill Jan. 4, at Lower Mount Town, Kingstown, Andrew O'Neill. Howard—Jan. 5, at Ring Commons, Balbriggan, Mrs. Elizabeth Howard.

KILDARE.

Mr. John J. Bealin of the Kildare Men's association, New York city, recently delivered a most interesting lecture on "Athy, Its Castles and Ruins."

Seven families were evicted at Killyberry last week. The landlord is Mr. Arthur Robert Verschoyle, whose address is given in the ejection decrees as the Carlton club, London. The following families were evicted: William Hutchinson, three in family, John Kelly, wife and sister-in-law; Pat Lawler and his brother; Tom Stafford, wife and four young children; Thomas Dunne, a single man; Widow Kane and her three sons; Mrs. Taylor, two children and an old uncle, aged 80. The poor people have for the present found shelter among their neighbors.

KILKENNY.

Mrs. Kate Joyce, wife of the master in Uringford union, died lately, after a few hours' illness.

David Dunphy, while walking from Dummamaginn, fell into a deep drain and sustained fatal injuries. Death ensued in two hours.

KING'S.

The latest instance of longevity in this county is not a centenarian, but if she had lived two years more she would have been one. This woman—named Corbett—resided in the vicinity of Cloneygowan and performed household duties up to recently. She died a few days ago at the "mature age" of 98 years.

LONGFORD.

Died—January 8, at Our Lady's Hospice, Haroldscross, Mary Frances, daughter of Patrick and Catherine O'Connor, 38 Middle Gardiner street, (late of Main street, Granard.)

LOUTH.

Walter Garpon, tenant on the estate of Lord Louth, has had his rent reduced from £28 to £17.

MEATH.

The landlord, J. Corry, has raised J. P. Donovan's rent from £41 to £48 annually. The old rent was £60. This is a sample of what farmers in Meath suffer.

QUEEN'S.

In these days, unfortunately, we very rarely chronicle instances of good landlordism, and it is neither as widely known or appreciated as it should be what a rare example for landlords, not only of Queens county, but of Ireland, there is in Robert E. Piggott, of Capard house, Rosenalla. Not only this year, but every year since the estate came into his possession, has he met his tenants like a generous and good-hearted man, heeding their just complaints and remedying them. Evictions on his estate are unknown. Mr. Piggott aims at having his tenantry as far as he can, among the most prosperous in Ireland, and if they are not, the fault does not lie with him. His abatement this year was 20 per cent.

WESTMEATH.

Last week a shocking occurrence took place three miles from Mullingar in the Multyarnham. After mass a family named Williams were seated in their house at Oullion, when an old woman named Mary Williams, aged 80 years, desired a drink of fresh spring water. Her daughter-in-law went to get the water, and proceeded to a well near by. In her absence Mrs. Williams, senior, took charge of the 18-months-old child of her daughter-in-law. While nursing she was also attending to some food cooking, when somehow her clothes became ignited, and before assistance arrived she and the baby were enveloped in flames. Both were very badly burned, and the old woman died in less than an hour the child in three hours.

WEXFORD.

Rev. Denis Doyle of Cairn, who died recently, was born in Courthoyle, near Adamstown, in 1817.

Patrick Ryan, T. C., was installed mayor of Wexford on New Year's day. At the convention of the Independent party in Wexford a few days ago the sum of £150 was subscribed.

Among the recent deaths in Wexford were these: Michael Carroll, Bushertown, aged 62 years; Richard Tompkins, Glynn, Courtown Harbor, aged 86 years; Andrew Neville, Ballinabola; Mrs. Furlong, Palace. Mrs. Furlong was a link of the historic past,

for the Furlong family, to which she belonged, took an historic part in the insurrection of '98. Matthew Furlong of Kabeen was a prominent and trusted officer in the insurgent army. At the time he was 26 years of age, and a man of splendid physique. How he bravely risked his life and died for his country at the battle of Ross is told in every history of the time. It was to the son and heir of this martyr for his country that this venerable lady was married full 70 years ago; and on the eve of the '98 centenary she has passed away. She was the mother of the present Mr. Matthew Furlong of Kabeen and grandmother of Mr. Tobias Rosser of Newbawn and Mr. John Rosser of the House of Missions, Ennisceorthy.

WICKLOW.

Mr. John O'Reilly, Bathboys, Blessington, who died recently, was poor law guardian for the Burge division of Naas union. Father Heffernan, P. P., attended him during his illness.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

Not a single case of a criminal nature was before the judge at Clare quarter sessions last week. He was, consequently, presented with a pair of white gloves.

A meeting of the Killaloe and Ballina branch of the '98 association was held on Sunday. Mr. J. H. Ryan, president, occupied the chair. It was decided to forward to the Centenary association £2 for affiliation purposes, and also to get a good supply of printed posters circulated in the town and outlying parishes in reference to the forthcoming gathering. The patriotic inhabitants of the surrounding districts of noble Clare and gallant Tipperary will assemble on Sunday and testify by their presence their veneration and gratitude for the cherished name and endeared memory of the fearless men who sacrificed their lives upon the field and on the scaffold in defense of Ireland's liberty.

CORK.

The people of Macroom have patriotically raised a fund to defray the expenses of the Ladies' Irish language classes in connection with the Gaelic league. Although the subscriptions were fixed at a very low figure, nearly £10 was collected.

Mrs. Julia Clancy of Inchima, Banteer, died recently at the age of 105 years.

To celebrate the centenary of '98 in Bandon, St. Patrick's brass band paraded the town, followed by an immense crowd, to the strains of patriotic airs. The scene was a most striking one, and, as stated, was a finer display than any procession seen in the town previously.

Twelve months ago a short sketch of the life of John Linehan of Knock-shehy, who at that time attained the extraordinary age of 111 years, appeared. He was in the best of health, except for a slight deafness and a touch of rheumatism. Mention was also made at the time of his son, an old man, over 80 years, grandson and great-grandson, all living in the same house and eating at the same board. This long-lived old gentleman has just died, having reached his 112th birthday. He suffered from no serious illness, but passed painlessly away from sheer old age. His immediate descendants number close on 100, there being eighty great-grand children alive. The deceased preserved his memory in a very vigorous manner and was wont to relate stirring incidents of the famous rebellion, the centenary of which will be celebrated this year. Mrs. Julia Clancy of Inchima, Banteer, who expired on yesterday, was 105 years old.

An old soldier named Michael Mulliffe, late of the Connaught Rangers, lately died suddenly at St. Joseph's road, Malloy. At the time he was entitled to his pension and had intimated his intention of visiting the post office for it on the morning of his death. The woman with whom he was lodging reported the matter to the police and handed over his effects to them, including his pension papers and some money. The pension papers were remitted to the Horse Guards. All expected that the poor old soldier would at least get a decent burial, but the English war office didn't care a snap. On Tuesday a coffin was sent from the union in a common butt to the house where the poor old man lay. The neighbors objected to the coffin being carried through the streets in a common butt, but to no avail, and consequently they did not follow the remains to the last and glorious resting place for an old soldier—a pauper's burial ground. After fighting for the increase and extension of British influence this poor man died on the day

his pension came due and they would not give his pension to bury him decently.

Recent deaths in Cork—Mountjoy—On Jan. 1 at the North Fever hospital of typhoid, Denny Mountjoy, aged 27 years, late Cork G. P. O. Moore—Jan. 1, at Bandon road, Lizzie Moore. McCarthy—At 3 Mardyke Parade, Cork, in the 92d year of her age, Mary, sister of the late Keva, Philip (P. Aughah-down, Ross) and William McCarthy Hamilton—Jan. 1, at 11 Angles street, William Joseph Hamilton O'Sullivan—Jan. 2, at 11 Dean street, St. Finbarr's, Katherine Agnes, second daughter of Alexander O'Sullivan, aged 16 years. O'Shea—On New Year's day, at Gratton Hill, Miss Abigail O'Shea Joyce—On Dec. 27, at St. Leonards-on-Sea, John Joyce, aged 66, for many years governor of the county Gaol, Cork. Norris—Dec. 29, 1897, at Fowldrow, Portlaw Norris, aged 69. Twohig—On Jan. 2, Habbah Dooley; funeral from St. Finbarr's church. Coughlan—On Dec. 2, at Myrtleville, Crosshaven, Mrs. Ellen Coughlan, aged 74 years. Taylor—Jan. 2, at New street, Newmarket, Mary Anne Taylor, aged 85 years. Healy—At North Infirmary, Cork, on 6th inst., Catherine Healy, aged 42 years, daughter of the late John Healy of Ballinadee and Barleyfield Mills, Kilbrittain. Buckley, Jan. 6, at Jordanstown, Buttevant, Mrs. Hanorah Buckley, aged 90 years. Ronayne—On Jan. 5, at Ardsallagh house, near Youghal, the residence of her sister-in-law, Mary Kate Ronayne. O'Flynn—Jan. 5, at 33 Fair lane, Ellen, wife of Thomas O'Flynn.

KERRY.

John Townsend Trench, land agent, Kenmare, while in London, England, a few days since, was robbed of £200. Thomas Leane of Cleabane was almost drowned in the canal basin, Tralee, last week. He was rescued by Pat Mack.

An extraordinary occurrence took place on Friday in Killurley West. Doniel Connor, 75 years of age, has been ailing for some time. About 2 o'clock he sank into a comatose condition. His friends, believing him dead, made preparations for laying out, and actually had the old man placed with candles lighted around him. Silvester O'Connor, son-in-law, on the news being conveyed to him left for the supposed wake. After entering the house he examined the "corpse," raised the old man's eyelids and asked him if he recognized him. The old man made a kind of a move, showing that he was alive. The occurrence caused a sensation.

LIMERICK.

Meeting on Sunday, 2d ult., of Athen branch, I. N. F., Mr. J. M. White presiding. There was a large attendance. The following resolution was passed: "That we condemn the action of the government in refusing to give relief during this winter in Ireland."—P. Griffin, hon. sec.

As the Knight of Glin, D. L., Lady Rachel Fitzgerald and Lady Allena Wyndham Quinn were driving last week with the County Limerick fox hounds, they had a hairbreadth escape from being seriously injured. The spirited animal jumped over the parapet of the bridge by Nantewan church, and remained suspended in a perilous position. Mr. R. Noonan, who was passing, quickly jumped into the river and extricated the horse from the carriage with the assistance of some parties who arrived.

TIPPERARY.

The statue to the memory of Charles J. Kickham has just been completed and is in the possession of the memorial committee in Tipperary. The casting is in bronze, and is a beautiful work of art. The patriot is represented sitting, and the memorial measures upwards of five feet high, while the pedestal will exceed nine feet in height. The ceremony of unveiling will take place in April.

Miss Mary Ann O'Gorman, daughter of Mr. Michael O'Gorman, died Dec. 21, aged 25 years, at Rosemount, Cahir.

After a long and painful illness, borne with true Christian fortitude, died Sister Maggie O'Meara (in religion Sister Columba), Presentation convent Thurles, second eldest daughter of the late James O'Meara, of the hotel Nenagh.

WATERFORD.

Mr. Perry, the English lessee, on New Year's day, took over the bridge for a three years' tenure and disemployed the Waterford hands. He put Englishmen in their places.

Recently died in the Holy Ghost institution, Waterford city, Mr. Patrick Conde, who was one of the oldest sailors belonging to this port. He was over 90 years of age, and belonged to the old school of local mariners.

men who sailed out of Waterford in the early '40s, when the sea-faring profession was a leading one here.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

Messrs. Harland and Wolff of Belfast are building nine large steamers. So that things are kind of booming in the city just now.

Alderman James Henderson of the Belfast News Letter was invested with the insignia of the Lord Mayoralty New Year's day. He stated that Greater New York municipality became an accomplished fact. That morning he cabled congratulations to the mayor of New York, and in reply he got a cablegram congratulating Belfast and hoping that its shadow would never grow less. The corporation decided to confer the freedom of the city on the Right Hon. W. J. Pirie, outgoing lord mayor. Belfast is the only city in Ireland wherein the mayoralty is merely honorary; no salary attached to the office.

ARMAGH.

A serious disturbance was averted in Armagh last week when a Nationalist band, which had taken part in the '98 celebration, was peacefully proceeding home. At the corner of Scotch and Thomas streets, Orange rowdies did their utmost to cause a disturbance by cursing the Pope. Stones were thrown by the rowdy mob, and Head Constable Stuart was struck with a stone. The Nationalist party passed on without heeding the blackguardism and no serious disturbance took place.

CAVAN.

The dawn of '98 was ushered in at Belturbet in a patriotic manner. The National Flute band left their room at 11.30 and proceeded to the Diamond opposite the Town hall, followed by a large crowd, who waited for the clock to sound the dawn of the new year. The last stroke given was the signal, when, amid the strains of "Who Feared to Speak of Ninety-eight," "God Save Ireland," "The Wearing of the Green," etc., a burst of the town was made.

DONEGAL.

Ballyshannon does not intend to lag behind in the good work of reviving the sweet old language of Erin. A branch of the Gaelic league will soon be founded. A meeting will be held for that laudable purpose on an early date in the National school, College lane.

One hundred thousand dollars worth of fish was caught this season on the east part of the coast between Swilly and Teelin. On an average the men earned \$25 a week during the good period.

DOWN.

Rev. Dr. McGovern, bishop of Dro-more, recently made these changes in the diocese because of the death of Father McAlenan, P. P., Tullylish; Rev. P. P. Campbell, P. P. of Loughbricland, to Tullylish; Rev. M. McPolin, C. C. Newry, parish priest of Loughbricland; Rev. Edward McGovern, O. C. Garrison chapel at Newry, to the curacy of Newry, and Rev. Father McGrath, C. C. Dromara, Garrison chapel at Newry.

MONAGHAN.

At Main street, Carrickmacross, Jan. 5, died Mrs. Ann Mary McNally, deeply and widely regretted. Interment was in St. Joseph's cemetery. The Tyroland fife and drum band came into Monaghan for the purpose of celebrating the advent of the new year and to participate in a movement intended to do honor to Irishmen who offered up their lives for the liberty of their country 100 years ago. Old Cross square was decorated. The ancient cross was swathed in evergreens, and on its apex was planted a banner with vignettes of Robert Emmet and Wolfe Tone, and the words "Remember '98."

TYRONE.

On April 4, last, Rev. Daniel Sweeney, C. C., Kincaslogh, while driving to Letterkenny, via Glenveagh, lost parcel containing £76. He reported the matter at the surrounding police barracks. The Catholic clergy of the neighboring districts also announced it in their churches and £5 reward was offered for the lost parcel. Nine months elapsed and there were still no tidings of any one having found the parcel and all hope of getting it was abandoned by the reverend gentleman. A few nights ago Sergeant McNicholas of Falcarragh arrested a young man for drunkenness, and on bringing him to the barracks found in his inside vest pocket a roll of paper containing £76 in single pound notes and cheques, the latter having been issued by Mr. Jas. O'Donnell, Kincaslogh. The sergeant believed he had the right man, and was fully borne out by subsequent events—the money found corresponding exactly with that lost to the Rev. Father Sweeney. The prisoner is named Patrick McHilroy Beltony, near Gartahork.

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