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.

A new steamer was launched from the yard of John Lynch of Galway on Feb. 23. She is intended for trade on Lough Corrib. It is 25 years since a vessel like her was constructed in the City of the Tribes, and consequently great numbers attended the launching.

Miss Birdie Connolly, Tycooly House, Caltra, was lately received into the Ursuline Order of Nuns in the Convent, Sligo.

The Tuam *Herald* of Feb. 19 said: "There now can be seen in the Galway Grand Jury room of County of the Town court house two pictures—one of the late Father Daly, a magnificent oil painting, and the other an engraving of the late Charles French Blake-Forster, who, at the age of 21 years, was high sheriff of Galway. Those pictures were in a pitiful state of decay; the features as well as the framing had almost ceased to resemble the originals, but some members of the board, with a veneration for those whom the pictures represented, voted that they be renovated, and the task was placed in the hands of Mr. Lawrence McNeill, whose talent as a painter and decorator is widely established. The result is that to-day those two pictures are as fresh in appearance, as distinct in outline and as perfect in finish as they were when first they came out of the artist's studio. This is another instance of the superior class of work that can be done in Galway.

LEITRIM.

Mr. Michael Flynn presided at the last meeting of the P. A. McHugh branch of the I. N. F. The widow, Anne Gilhooly of Killoman, came before the meeting and complained that Patrick Gilhooly of the same place grabbed her farm, from which she was evicted two years ago. The committee strongly condemned the act, and it was decided to hold an indignation meeting at Killoman in the near future. Denis Wrenn of Dargoon was also before the meeting, and apologized for speaking to the Coolegrane grabber, and promised not to repeat the offense.

MAYO.

At Monument hill, Westport, on Feb. 18, died Michael Lavelle, at the fine old age of 88 years. Interment was in Aughagower.

Mr. Francis O'Donel, agent for Sir Roger Palmer, died in Ellison street, Castlebar, Feb. 19, aged 73 years. Interment was in Newport.

At Carrowconnell, Ballyvary, lately, died Ellen, sister of the late John Vahey, Redhill House, Ballyvary; also to Patrick Vahey, chairman, Castlebar Guardians.

At Westport last week the adjourned prosecution of John O'Donnell, James O'Haire, Patrick Cusack, Thos. Moran, John Moran an Patrick Moran connected with the newly formed United Irish League, came before the magistrates, but was adjourned on the application of the accused to permit of their counsel, Mr. Harrington being present. Subsequently an attempt was made to hold a public meeting, but this was prevented by the police, who hustled the people and made them keep moving. A meeting was, however, held in the rooms of the United Irish League, at which resolutions were adopted condemning the action of the police, and calling the attention of the Government to the fact that, while the people were living in a condition of destitution on small mountain and bog holdings, there were plenty of good land given and devoted to grazing purposes.

ROSCOMMON.

Mr. P. J. Cullen, merchant, Frenchport, was married a few days ago to Miss Katie McGuire, daughter of Mr. Patrick McGuire, J. C., Sligo. The nuptial knot was tied by Father Humphrey in Sligo Cathedral.

A very handsome group of figures has been created outside the principal entrance to the new church, Castlerea, representing our Lord blessing little children. The group is full life size, carved out of a single block of Portland stone, and stands on an ornamental pedestal four feet in height. On the front panel appears the text from St. Matthew, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," and on a side panel is the record, "Pray for the donor, Justin McLoughlin." In a prominent place on the church grounds, close to the north transept gable, stands a cross commemorating a mission, which was conducted last May by the Redemptorist Fathers. It is twelve feet in height, with a full-sized figure of the Redeemer and the emblems of the Crucifixion. These beautiful objects of donation were blessed on Sunday after the 11 o'clock mass by the Rev. Father Clune, C. SS. R., St. Joseph's, Dundalk. Before performing the sacred function he explained the significance of the ceremonies. He addressed himself to the characteristics of the Irish Catholic Church, particularly pointing out its purity, its perfection and generosity.

SLIGO.

The death of Mrs. Marron, Bunninadden, occurred on Feb. 11, and was deeply and widely regretted. The interment was in the local cemetery. Very Rev. Canon Stenson, assisted by the Rev. P. Mulligan, Rev. J. Keon and Rev. J. Daly, Ballaghaderreen seminary, officiated.

Mrs. Lavin, Heapstown, died Feb. 5 at the age of 80 years, deeply regretted.

Miss Katie McGuire, Sligo, was married lately to P. J. Cullea, Frenchpark, Roscommon.

Mr. J. J. Lowry presided at last meeting of the Tubbercurry branch of the '98 Centenary association, when fifty new members were enrolled.

On Tuesday the solemn ceremony of religious profession of three young ladies took place in the Ursuline convent, Sligo. Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Lord Bishop of Elphin, received the vows of Sister Mary Joseph, (Birdie) Connolly, daughter of Martin Connolly, Tycooly House, Caltra, county Galway. The young sister was a distinguished pupil of the Ursuline convent, in which she will be no less successful as teacher, being yet only 21 years of age. Another sister of hers—a pupil, too, of the same school—is also a member of that excellent teaching order, the Ursulines.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

On Jan. 29, died at her residence, Slaney quarter, Tullow, Mrs. Jane Lynch, aged 79 years. Office and high mass for the repose of her soul took place at the Catholic church, Grange.

Mr. Maurice Neill, poor law guardian for the Balloon division of Carlow union, will resign at an early day.

The county Carlow championship was played in the Paddock between Loughmortin Emmets and Bagnalstown Volunteers, which resulted in a victory for the first mentioned. Mr. R. Fitzpatrick was referee.

DUBLIN.

A shocking fatality occurred on the Great Northern line, a short distance outside Amiens street terminus, last week. Michael Ryan was standing on the line chatting with an overseer in the employment of the Drumcondra Link Line railway, which is constructing a tunnel under the Great Northern line, when he was knocked down by a train from Belfast and killed on the spot. The unfortunate young man belonged to Coolgreaney, and was a member of one of the families evicted on the Brooks estate. He was about 35 years of age and for a time acted as correspondent for the Wicklow News Letter, from the manager of which journal a letter of recommendation for employment was found in his pocket.

Recent deaths in Dublin.—Byrne—Feb. 20, at 25 Sandwich street, John Byrne, aged 55 years. Cannon—Feb. 20, at Ballyedmonduff, Katie Cannon, aged 14 years. Cummins—At 34 North King street, Honoria Mary Cummins. Quigley—Feb. 15, at 157 Clonliffe road, Mrs. Anne Quigley, of 64 Lower Dominick street. Kelly—Feb. 17, at Glenegeary, Thomas Kelly, at an advanced age. McDonnell—At 5 Ashford terrace, Ballsbridge, Kevlin McDonnell. Rooney—Feb. 21, at 2 Deane street, Margaret Rooney, aged 46 years. Kenny—Feb. 3, at 25 Clanbrassil street, Margaret Kenny of Haddington road, aged 71 years. Breaden—Feb. 5, at 2 Susan terrace, Comparlour, Dublin, Thomas Breaden, aged 68 years. Landy—Feb. 11, at 134 Thomas street, Ellen Landy. Brown—Feb. 17, at Capetown, South Africa, John Arthur (Artie,) aged 19 years, of 48 Upper Leeson street. Doyle—Feb. 21, at 96 Cook street, Louis Joseph Doyle. Quinn—Feb. 21, at 34 Upper Gingegorman, Mrs. Mary Quinn.

KILDARE.

An association of male teachers on the national schools in Athy was lately founded, of which Messrs. Kirby and Lacy were elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

The '98 Centenary association in Kildare has among its members, J. T. Heffernan, J. Cosgrove, M. Forbis, J. Hackett, E. C. Murphy, E. McCormack, J. Cleary, M. J. Kennedy, W. Sheridan, J. McGuinness, M. Dooney, W. Colton, T. Barte, J. Hoolahan and S. Hoolahan. They are a guarantee of its future usefulness in the national ranks.

KILKENNY.

The death of Mr. John Fielding, Portnascully, occurred lately. He was a justice of the peace and sat in Kilmacow courthouse. Requiem services were held in Carrigeen church and interment was in the cemetery adjoining.

The community of the Sisters of Mercy in Thomastown are erecting a new convent. Considerable progress has been made. Col. Butler, Kilkenny, gave a site for the building in what is called the "Chapel Field."

The late Rev. Canon Walsh, P. P., of Slieverue, was born in Thomastown in 1827. He began his ecclesiastical course in St. Kieran's college, Kilkenny, and completed a distinguished course in Maynooth. Windgap, Callan, Mooncoin, Dunnemaggin and Slieverue were the scenes of his missionary labors. Office and high mass as month's memory were offered up in Slieverue church last week for the repose of his soul. Very Rev. John Canon Shortall, Durrow, presided.

Mrs. Margaret Heneberry, mother of the Rev. James Heneberry, Kilkenny, and Mr. Patrick Henneberry, Tramore and aunt of Mr. William Reddy, master of the Waterford workhouse, died at her residence, Waterford, lately. The remains were conveyed for interment to Slieverue, followed by a large and representative cortege.

KING'S.

The nuns will soon take charge of the Union Infirmary in Edenderry.

Julianmore National Teachers' association, met last week in Charleville schools. Mr. D. G. Norris presided. Messrs. D. G. Norris and F. McElhill were appointed to represent the association at her next congress. Messrs. D. G. Norriss and P. Cunningham Newbliss were nominated for the presidentship and vice-presidentship of the I. N. T. A.

LONGFORD.

Mr. Farrell, Longford, who is member of Parliament for the division of West Cavan, left for the scene of his parliamentary duties. The interests of his constituents and of Ireland generally will be carefully attended to by Mr. Farrell.

Branches of the '98 Centenary association are being formed in almost every parish of the county.

LOUTH.

Mr. Patrick Farrell, Balgreen, Drogheda, has been appointed a magistrate for county Meath.

The beautiful little chapel attached to St. Nicholas', Dundalk, was the scene of a solemn and imposing function lately, being the unveiling of a statue to St. Brigid. High mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock, the celebrant being Rev. P. Finegan; deacon, Rev. B. Donnellan, Adm., and sub-deacon, Rev. F. McNeece. The ceremony of unveiling took place at three o'clock before a large congregation, after which Rev. Father Matthew, of the Capuchin order, preached. The devotions were brought to a close by Rosary and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

MEATH.

The death of Mrs. Denning, Flower hill, Navan, occurred lately. The remains were removed to St. Mary's church, where office and high mass were celebrated. Interment was in Kilbarry cemetery; funeral cortege long.

With regret we chronicle the death of Mr. Patrice Giles, at his residence, Moyfin House, Longwood, on Thursday. The deceased, who was over 80 years of age, was a member of the Trim Poor Law Board for close on forty years.

QUEEN'S.

On Feb. 14, at the Convent, Stradbally, Miss Julia Kehoe of Clenagh, Spink, Abbeyleix, received the habit of religion, and is known as Sister Mary Vincent. The impressive ceremony was performed by Rev. Michael Brennan, assisted by Rev. Martin Harrick and Rev. Thomas Doyle.

The annual concert of the Literary Institute, Maryboro, was recently held and was a great success.

A great '98 meeting was held lately in Stradbally. Dr. Higgins presided. It was agreed to name the branch after Lord Edward Fitzgerald. This resolution was enthusiastically passed: "That we, the Nationalists of Stradbally and surrounding districts, in public meeting assembled, hereby express our undying veneration for the men of '98, and our steadfast devotion to the cause for which thay died."

WESTMEATH.

Many branches of the '98 Centenary association are being established in the county, and the people intend to take their proper place in the ranks of those who will honor the memory of the men who died for Ireland 100 years ago.

WEXFORD.

Mr. Patrick Byrne, ex-chairman of the town commissioners of New Ross, died Feb. 32, aged 80 years. In the famous election of 1852, he was an efficient lieutenant of Mr. Charles Gavan Duffy. He was taking an active interest in the '98 movement now on when he was called away.

The death of Mr. Richard Crosbie Horetown, occurred recently. Interment was in Ardcandrisk.

Miss Doyle and Miss Byrne of Wexford were received lately into the community of St. Paul's convent, Birmingham, England.

The tragic death of Robert Earle, Raheenagurren, caused a painful shock in the neighborhood of Gorey. On Thursday morning last week he was found in a mud hole adjacent to his dwelling, suffocated in three feet of water.

WICKLOW.

The weekly meeting of the Baltinglass Literary and Debating society was held on Wednesday, Mr. A. Warring presiding. Mr. Charles P. Tracy, solicitor, Naas, read a paper entitled "Legal Sketches,' and enlivened it with humorous anecdotes and bright passages of commentary. The paper was criticized by Dr. McDonald, Mr. J. D. Cope, Mr. J. Dagg and the chairman. Miss Alcock proposed a very warm vote of thanks to Mr. Tracy for his paper and for his kindness in coming so long a distance to augment the sessional program. Mr. Dagg seconded the vote of thanks, which was passed with acclamation.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

The governors of the Enpis insane asylum at their last meeting passed this resolution: "That we respectfully request the government to take over the entire control of the lunatic asylums in Ireland, the same as the prisons, and thereby relieve the ratepayers of the great burden of taxation, for the maintenance of the insane poor."

A report from Broadford states that a few nights ago the house of a man named Farrel, a farmer, between Kilbane and Broadford, was fired into. Eleven revolver shots were found on the premises by the police. A young man named Markham, living in the locality, has been arrested, but there is nothing but suspicion to account for his arrest.

Mr. Patrick Henry, Bunratty, died lately, having reached the extraordinary age of 108 years. He was always a true Nationalist, and his great age did not prevent him from recording his vote for Mr. William Redmond, when he traveled four miles to the polling place. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Croaghane and was attended by a large circle of friends.

The death of Mr. James McCarthy, ex-chief boatman of coastguards at Kilkee, on Friday, closed a record of valor which falls to the lot of few men. Because of his daring many persons escaped a watery grave. Perhaps his noblest act was the thrilling part he took in the rescue of lives from the ill-fated bark, the Edmund, which in 1850 was wrecked on the Duggena Rocks at Kilkee, when 100 persons were lost. Those who recollect that terrible night say that no words could describe the gallant acts of McCarthy, who was instrumental in saving the lives of many of the passengers. In consequence of the rescue a pathetic story is recounted of how the first person saved by McCarthy was a woman from Kilkee, whose name was Betty Crowleo, and who was going to her friends in America. She was half unconscious when got ashore, in McCarthy's arms, and on recovering her first inquiry was, "Where am I?" To which her rescuer cheerily replied: "Faith, you are home again, Betty!" In his 88th year he passed away as peacefully as a little child.

CORK.

Sister Mary Camillus, who died lately in the convent, Ballina, county of Mayo, was a native of Fermoy. Her family name was Casey. She was aged 49 years.

An Irish class has been started in Ballingeary, under the direction of Mr. Michael O'Brien, N. T. A branch of the Gaelic league is to be established at an early date.

An extraordinary affair in connection with the strike on the Bandon railway took place in Cork last week, when military men in civilian dress, who arrived in the steam packet company's vessel, Innisfallen, from Milford, were mistaken for blacklegs, with the results that they were severely attacked and beaten.

Recent deaths in Cork.—Horgan—Feb. 22, at 41 Gould's street, Cork, Mrs. Julia Horgan. Crean—Feb. 21, at Ballycunningham, Donoughmore, Timothy Crean, publican, aged 65 years. Hartnett—Feb. 21, at Kilcondy, Maria Hartnett. Cronin—Feb. 21, at 8 Richmond hill, John Cronin. Millwood—Feb. 19, in Presentation convent, Maynooth, Annie (in religion Sister Joseph Mary), daughter of the late Daniel Millwood, Bond street, Queenstown. Godsell—At Bath street, Waterford, Thomas Godsell, aged 24 years. O'Connell—Feb. 19, at West End, Mallow, John R. O'Connell, late of Dong room. Ellis—Feb. 19, at Ardmanning, Cork, Edward Ellis. Coakley—Feb. 19, at Union Quay, Nano Coakley. O'Connell—Feb. 19, at Lisleigh, Ballyclough, Johanna O'Connell. Murphy—Feb. 4, at Cavendish quay, Bandon, Bartholomew Murphy, aged 57 years. Donovan—Feb. 17, at Midleton, William Donovan, aged 75 years.

The weekly meeting of Cork '98 Centenary committee was held in the council chamber, municipal buildings, Cork, last week. The mayor, Mr. P. H. Meade, presided.

A great demonstration was held in the Market square, Fermoy, last week, in connection with the '98 Centenary celebrations, and was participated in by representatives of all creeds. The Glanworth band attended, and several of the members of the deputations from the rural parts were dressed as representing Croppy boys. Rev J. Sisk, Adm., Fermoy, occupied the chair.

KERRY.

A lady of 105 years of age, Mrs. Griffin was on Tuesday interred in Drumwallar, parish of Killorglan. Till 12 months before her death she was in possession of all her faculties. Her sight then became a blank, but this did not prevent her conducting a news agency near Laune Bridge. A still more extraordinary case of longevity is presented in an old matron of 113 winters, who lives in the same locality. Her name is Mrs. Foley, and she lives with a daughter who has passed the octogenarian stage of life, but still ministers to the wants of her aged mother, and it is to be hoped that some charitable persons will, on learning of this interesting case, contribute to indulging this venerable centenarian with some of the luxuries which the eccentricities of age demand. Such persons would be amply repaid by the reminiscences which the old lady recites of the days of '98, when she witnessed public executions in the streets of her native town, and of many other events of a past generation of which she was an eye witness.

LIMERICK.

The funeral of Mr. Edward Hackett O'Callaghan took place from St. Michael's church, Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, the mayor, attended by the sergeants-at-mace and a large number of clergymen and citizens joined in the procession to Mount St. Lawrence cemetery, where the Very Rev. T. R. Shanahan, officiated.

On Feb. 16, at Newport, South Wales, Miss Eileen Massy, 23 years old, fourth daughter of the late Joseph Massy of Newtown, Clarina, was professed a Sister of the French Order of St. Joseph nuns. Her name in religion is Sister Mary Michael. Most Rev. Dr. Hedley, bishop of Newport, officiated. The above lady has a sister a nun in the Sisters of Mercy community, Ennis, and is sister-in-law to Mr. John Mulqueen.

TIPPERARY.

In the Sisters of Mercy convent, New Ross, county Wexford, a few days since, the edifying ceremony of the profession of a novice to the sisterhood was performed, the young lady being Miss Murray, Carrick-on-Suir, who was given in religion the name of Sister Mary Paul. The ceremonies were performed by the Bishop of Ferns, assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Kavanagh, New Ross, and his curates, Revs. W. Rossiter, T. Quigly and J. Prandy.

Mr. Delaney, Bawnreigh, Slate Quarries, died recently at the fine old age of 82 years.

WATERFORD.

The running of a motor car to Dunmore will, in all probability, be an accomplished fact by the end of May.

The dead body of John Murphy, Tramore, was found floating in the river Roch, at Rochdale, Lancashire, England, recently.

Mrs. John Power, Carrigeen, Kilmacthomas, died at her residence, 34 Grosvenor road, Rathfar, Dublin, Feb. 20. Deceased was the mother of Fathers James Power, of All Saints' church, Harlem, New York, and of Lawrence Power, Carrigeen. Interment was in Newtown.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

The funeral of Mr. Patrick Feeney, Larne, was numerously attended last week. Interment was in Feystown.

Mr. James Donnelly, Glenravel street, Belfast, who died lately, had been during 30 years an active member of the St. Patrick's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. He was also the prefect general of the Holy Family Conference. Since 1842 he had been an official of the city council as superintendent of public works.

ARMAGH.

An excellent concert was given in the Armagh Catholic reading room lately. Rev. Felix McNally presided. A number of young ladies from the Sacred Heart convent rendered beautiful glees and part songs. The accompaniments were played by Miss O'Neil, Belfast, and Mr. Owen Webb.

Rev. Peter Quinn, Stewartstown Tyrone, preached the annual sermon in aid of the Christian Brothers' schools at Greenpark, Armagh. St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, was filled with a sympathetic congregation. The response was generous.

A few days ago two Maynooth students, Rev. J. Mollan and Rev. Aloysius McOscar, were ordained to the priesthood in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, celebrated mass and was the officiating bishop.

DERRY.

The usual meeting of the Robert Emmet '98 club was held in the Emmet hall, Magherafelt, on Sunday. In the absence of the president, Mr. Louis Smyth, the chair was taken by the vice-president, Mr. John Kearney. Mr. Edward Quinn gave a lecture on the life of Lord Edward Fitzgerald. Robert Emmet's speech from the dock, delivered with elocutionary ability by Mr. Myles Cassidy, concluded a very successful meeting. Mr. Peter Devlin signified his intention of giving the members a lecture on the life of Robert Emmet at their next meeting.

Mr. John Miller, Ballyshannon, has been appointed manager of the gas works in Bagnalstown, Carlow.

DONEGAL.

Mrs. Catherine Monaghan, East Rock, Ballyshannon, died Friday, Feb. 10, deeply regretted.

A meeting of the committee of the Ballyshannon branch of the Gaelic League was held on Monday in Ballyshannon national school, Rev. J. Gavigan in the chair.

DOWN.

John Moorhead, Burren, died suddenly lately from syncope, due to an attack of influenza.

On Sunday a deputation from the congregations of Shinn and Sheeptow, in the parish of Newry, waited on Rev. M. McPolin, at Loughbrickland, when they presented him with an address and testimonial. There was also an address and testimonial presented to him on the same date by the Fewry Holy Family confraternity. Father McPolin had several of his parishioners invited to meet and dine with the deputations, as well as Father McLoughlin, Glen; Father Campbell, Tullylish, his successor; Very Rev. J. O'Brien, Banbridge, and Father McAvoy.

FERMANAGH.

John R. Moore, Mullinaskee, farmer, was fatally injured last week by a fall off his cart at Pound Brae, Enniskillen. He was aged fifty-five years. The only injuries external were a very slight bruise on the forehead and an insignificant cut on a little finger.

MONAGHAN.

A gymnastic and athletic club has been established in Clones. Mr. M. E. Knight, solicitor, president, and Mr. William Burgess, secretary.

TYRONE.

Members of the Stewartstown '98 club held a meeting last week, at which Mr. John McElhone presided. Rev. John Reck, pastor, Clonoe, will deliver a lecture for the society.

A meeting was held at Cookstown in the Catholic reading rooms, Very Rev. Canon Rice in the chair, to elect delegates to the Synod hall, St. Patrick's cathedral, Armagh, for the meeting of the people of the Archdiocese of Armagh, in connection with the university question. Mr. W. J. Harbison acted as secretary.

A successful concert was given in St. Patrick's national hall, Coalisland, on Friday, under the auspices of the Literary and Debating society. The hall was filled by a highly appreciative audience