

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.

The usual weekly meeting of the Galway Gaelic society was held on Sunday at the monastery, Lombard street. Mr. M. Usher occupied the chair. Messrs. M. Usher and Deeley addressed the meeting in English and Irish. Mr. Hunt and Mr. Redington opened the proceedings by the rendering of old Irish airs on the clarinet. Mr. Deeley delivered a beautiful recitation in Irish. Mr. Downs sang in a very spirited style "Eire mo Mhairain." Mr. J. Connolly read an extract from the current issue of "Faline an Lae." A meeting of the committee was afterwards held. The teaching of the classes was then proceeded with, the lessons being from O'Growney's Part I, II, and III, easy lessons.

A meeting of the Working Men's club, Ballinasloe, was held Sunday. Mr. John Donovan, president, in the chair.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Michael Mannion, which occurred after a brief illness, at Timidunna, Clonberne, on Sunday, February 23, in the 73rd year of his age. Deceased was widely and favorably known. By his geniality, uprightiness and probity during his life he enjoyed the esteem of all. Of this the long and representative funeral to Clonberne was evidence. It comprised contingents from Belclare, Tuam, Dunmore, Kilkerrin, Mountbellow, Castleblakeney and Moylough.

LEITRIM.

Bornacoola has just lost a well-known and greatly esteemed resident by the death recently of Mr. Patrick Molloy, Cloontuck, at the age of sixty-five years.

Died.—February 18, at Drumgane, Killydogher, Dora Byrne, aged 81 years. The funeral cortege to Kilmacuril was long and representative of the district.

MAYO.

At a meeting of the Ballinrobe board of guardians, Alex. Martin in the chair, the medical officer, Dr. R. B. Mahon, reported that 18 cases of typhoid fever had been admitted to the hospital within two weeks from Cross.

During the week a terrific thunderstorm broke over the western coast. In Ballyroy the houses of two men named Conway, father and son, on the slopes of Bunmore mountains, were struck and serious damage done. The house of the elder, Dermot Conway, was first injured, the lightning shattering the end wall and knocking down a good portion of the roof. Four cattle were instantly killed, while the woodwork of the bed on which the old man, bedridden and 85 years of age, and who recently received the last rites of the Church, was lying, was broken. Strange to say neither he nor any of the inmates of the house was seriously injured. The lightning also struck the house of the son, Michael Conway, 20 yards away, killing two cattle. The condition of these people is pitiable, as they have lost all by this visitation and are left entirely destitute.

The distress in Belmullet has reached a very acute stage. On Monday night Mr. D. O'Callaghan, the Parliamentary representative of the division, received from Mgr. Hewson, the following telegram: "Belmullet is practically without food at present. No meal, no flour, not even a loaf of bread to be had for love or money. If storms continue the people will starve."

ROSCOMMON.

Died, Feb. 23, Elphin Anne Rogers, aged 80 years.

Great sympathy is felt with Maj. Murphy, Abbeyview, Boyle, on the death of his father, Edmund Murphy, chief receiver of the court of chancery, and Government arbitrator, which took place on Wednesday last.

On Sunday last a large and representative meeting of the Castlerena (Arthur O'Connor) '98 club was held for the election of officers and committees. The attendance was so large that the rooms were inadequate to hold all.

SLIGO.

On Monday's meeting of the Sligo Centenary club was held in the town hall. Mr. J. M. Keenan in the chair. Several new members were elected, and a considerable sum was raised for the purpose. It was de-

ided to publish the list of subscribers to the '98 fund with the amount contributed by each.

A meeting of the Ballymote branch of the I. N. F. was held on Sunday at the league rooms for the purpose of reorganizing the branch. Mr. Pat McGettrick in the chair. The meeting pledged sympathy and support to the Collooney men in their noble fight against the grabber. M. Hannan and J. Gilmartin, hon. secs.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

We regret to record the death of Sister Mary Brendan Murphy, Bridgeline convent, Tullow. Sister Brendan had been an invalid for a number of years. She was in the 42d year of her age and 21st of her religious profession. Solemn office and high mass were celebrated in the convent chapel.

DUBLIN.

A fund for the relief of Irish distress was successfully inaugurated at the Mauston house, Dublin, last week under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, by whom the meeting had been called. Numerous subscriptions and influential assurances of sympathy and support were received.

A public meeting was held in the Foresters' hall, Merchants' quay, Dublin, during the week for the purpose of taking steps to have the ward take part in the '98 centennial celebration. There was a large attendance. The chairman explained the object of the meeting. He said that as one of the ward representatives he felt pleasure in presiding. He understood their object was to found branches of the United Irishmen Centennial association.

Recent deaths in Dublin.—Brownne.—Feb. 17, at 40 Booterstown avenue, Patrick Brownne, aged 64 years. Pigott.—Feb. 21, Mrs. Catherine Pigott, 33 Pleasant street. Blayne.—Feb. 25, at 11 Exchange street, Elizabeth Blayne, youngest daughter of the late Patrick Cunningham, Dunlavin. Murtagh.—Feb. 24, at Coneyhill, Balbriggan, county Dublin, Patrick Murtagh, aged 70 years. McConnell.—Feb. 23, Henry McConnell, aged 64 years, lithographic artist, for many years with Messrs. James Walker & Co., Jones road. Fennell.—Jan. 4, Mary Fennell, 7 Foster terrace, Dublin, and Postulant of the Convent of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Tex., who died at Baltillo, Mexico, aged 22 years. Sheridan.—Feb. 24, at 22 Lower Summer hill, Ann Sheridan, last surviving child of the late Nicholas and Mary Sheridan of Crover, Lough Sheelan, County Cavan. Swan.—Feb. 24, at Hilltown, Donboyne, James Swan of Smithstown. Hamilton.—Feb. 25, at 21 East Essex street, Edward Hamilton. Hyland.—Feb. 25, at Naas, Mary Hyland, aged 85 years. Kane.—Feb. 25, at 26 North Cumberland street, Daniel Kane, carpenter, after a short illness. MoNamee.—Feb. 25, at Maynooth, Mr. William MoNamee, aged 65. Coles.—Feb. 26, at Mercer's hospital, John Coles, late of 6 Augier street. Davis.—Feb. 25, at 6 Upper Buckingham street, James Davis.

KILDARE.

On Thursday Rev. Father Cullen, C. C., Naas, was riding out toward the Green, when his horse shied and he was thrown violently. He sustained some injuries about the shoulder and a nasty cut on the head.

Died.—Walsh.—At Barrestown, Mrs. Walsh, in the 78th year of her age. Murray.—Feb. 24, at Kishavana, Carbury, Kate Murray.

KILKENNY.

A sad fatality occurred at Tullahought Feb. 18. Alice Heffernan, on the way to Fiddown fowl market in a donkey cart, through some accident, got upset on the road, the cart overturning and falling on top of her. It is supposed that she was under the cart from 2 o'clock until 7, when she was found dead by Michael Butler, Dr. Walsh, coroner for the district, held an inquest on the following day, when it was proved in evidence that the unfortunate woman was subjected to fits. Dr. Quirke attributed death to shock, as a result of the accident, and the jury found a verdict accordingly.

Miss Annie Malone, Kilmogor, was lately professed in the convent of St. Paul's, Birmingham, England; also Miss Kelly, Kilkenny.

KING'S.

The Redemptorist Fathers who conducted the mission at Edenderry in Sept. and October last, are now having the great happiness of again giving religious instruction to the people of Edenderry.

LONGFORD.

On Friday Dr. Gray, coroner, held an inquest in the house of Patrick

Dolan, Killycreevagh, touching the death of James Cummins of Cornakelly, found dead on the public road at Killycreevagh on the previous night. Patrick Donnelly, Killycreevagh, deposed that he was going to Patrick Dolan's when he saw a man lying against the road ditch on his back. He saw three men leaving deceased, and he heard them asking Elias Dolan to let the man into her house, that he would be lost if he was left on the road.

LOUTH.

Mary Jane Black of Clanbrassill street, Dundalk, received fatal injuries by her dress getting ignited at the fireplace during the absence of her mother.

Died.—February 24, Luke J. Elcock, Laurence street, Drogheda, Sane Elcock, of Shop street, Drogheda, aged 80 years.

MEATH.

Mr. Denis Lynch, Poor Law Guardian for Edenderry Division of Kells Union, has resigned.

Died.—February 18, at Queen street, Durrus, Michael Mahar.

QUEEN'S.

On Sunday the fortnightly meeting of the Ballinaskill '98 Centenary committee was held after last mass. The president, Mr. J. P. Muldowney, in the chair. Several new members were enrolled, and the Comerford-Crennan branch of Ballinaskill is the largest in the county. A deputation waited on the Rev. Father Connolly and the reverend gentleman assured them that he was heart and soul with the movement. It was proposed by Sylvester Muldowney and seconded by Thomas Grace, that two bands be invited to Ballinaskill on St. Patrick's day, and that a procession be arranged to the graves of Comerford and Crennan. A warm vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Martin Moore for his generous subscription.

WESTMEATH.

On Feb. 16, in the chapel of the Presentation convent, Mullingar, the solemn ceremony of the religious profession of Sister Mary Alocque Waters, daughter of T. Waters, esq., merchant (atway, took place. The Most Rev. Dr. Nulty, Bishop of Meath, received the vows. The ceremony commenced with mass, the chaplain, Rev. P. Daly, celebrant, and Rev. William Rooney acting as master of ceremonies. There were present several priests and the relatives and friends of the young professed.

WEXFORD.

A sad discovery was made in the Slaney River at Tombrack, near Newton-erly, last week. The dead body of Catherine Fitzpatrick, a fine young girl of 17, and the daughter of a respectable farmer was found.

Mr. James E. Byrne, better known as the "Hermite of Coolroe," died on Tuesday at Rosemount, outside New Ross. He was a bachelor and was 90 years of age. He was a most remarkable old man, who possessed an extraordinary amount of obstinacy and determination. He inherited the Coolroe estate in South Wexford, and in the year '88 gained an unenviable notoriety by the wholesale eviction of his tenants. One of the tenant's houses, known as "Somer's Fort," was fortified and defended by twelve armed men, but after a long struggle, and chiefly through the agency of the battering ram, it was taken. All attempts at reconciliation or reinstatement were unavailing so far as the landlord was concerned, and the tenants are still at the back of the ditches. It was stated this evening that the deceased had a clause inserted in his will providing for the reinstatement of his evicted tenants.

WICKLOW.

The Fathers of the Order of the Holy Ghost are conducting a mission in Arklow.

Died.—Feb. 25, at Farm House, Clonliffe college, Laurence Byrne, late of Three Wells, Aughrim. Feb. 18, at Mill street, Baitinglass, county Wicklow, James Corcoran, aged 78 years.

Mr. Peter Murphy of Foulaphuca and George's street, Dublin, was married in SS. Michael and John's church, Dublin, lately, to Miss Margaret Mary Burke, daughter of the late Mr. Patrick Burke and of Mrs. Burke of Hollywood.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

Died, Feb. 25, at 84 Tritonville road, Sandymount, Helena Flinucane, Ballinacooda house, Ennis, niece of the late Cornelius O'Brien, D. L., and M. P., county Clare. Interment was in Glasnevin.

Mr. J. F. Hoderman, assistant teacher, Clonlara National school, has obtained a certificate in Irish from the

National board of education. He has established an Irish school for boys and girls and expects 20 more. He says that he would be greatly assisted in his good work if he were in a position to offer some prizes to the pupils, and he appeals for help in this direction.

On Friday a grand concert under the patronage of the Rev. Anthony O'Leary, P. P., came off at the school house, Knockerra. The signal success of the entertainment was due to the presence of a number of ladies and gentlemen from Kilmash, who contributed to the program. An attractive feature of the concert was the national songs and recitations.

Mrs. Catherine Dillon, of Cooga and Ennis, died suddenly lately. Solemn office and high mass were celebrated in the cathedral.

COEK.

With regret we record the death of Mr. Daniel Kidney, Ballynoe cottage, Queenstown, Feb. 17, at the early age of 45 years. Mr. Kidney was for 27 years in the employment of the Cork harbor board.

Mrs. Honora Hayes, Kilmakilly, died suddenly a few days ago. She lived in Lamb street.

A public meeting was held in the Town hall, Queenstown, Friday, to form a committee in connection with the '98 celebrations to provide a welcome to visitors from America during the historic year. The meeting was convened by Mr. Long, and was largely attended. St. Colman's brass band played through the town to the place of meeting. Mr. James Long occupied the chair. The chairman expressed his pleasure at the large and influential character of the meeting. It was right that it should be so. Queenstown would be the first place on which their fellow countrymen would place their feet when they came among them, just as it was the last place which they set their feet on when going away. They in Queenstown had opportunities of watching their fellow countrymen going away week after week, month after month, and year after year, and they had looked upon that sight with great sorrow for many years. But for the people of Queenstown things would now be altered. They met there that night for the purpose of making arrangements to meet those who had been compelled either through unjust laws or through force of circumstances to leave Ireland. They would meet them in a welcome manner. They would show that the old patriotic spirit was alive in Ireland, and that the old friendship and fraternal love—that must exist between Irishmen no matter where they were scattered—still binds the men at home with their brethren across the Atlantic. On motion of Mr. O'Leary, Messrs. T. O'Driscoll, T. C., and C. Love were appointed secretaries.

Recent deaths in Cork.—Daly.—On Feb. 25, at 58 Great Britain street, Jane Daly. Murphy.—On Feb. 24, at Riggsdale, Ballinacree, Denis Murphy. Funeral for Templemore. Collins.—At Lisalee, Courtmacsherry, Honora Collins. Funeral to Kilmacooda. O'Sullivan.—Feb. 24, Malp street, Buttevant, Ellen O'Sullivan, aged 88 years. Exham.—On Feb. 22, at Queenstown, Thomas Kenah Exham, late captain Royal Mail Steam Packet company, son of Thomas Exham, Monkstown, aged 46 years. Roche.—On Feb. 22, at 29 George street, Hanover square, London, Miss Maria Roche. Interment in Abbeydorney. Horgan.—Feb. 22, at 41 Gould's street, Cork, Mrs. Julia Horgan. Wilson.—At 53 Blarney street, Denis Wilson, millwright and engineer, late of Ladyswell brewery. Long.—Feb. 18, at Summers-town, Togher road, Kelleher.—Feb. 18, at Pallas, Ghanatane, M. Kelleher. Dawson.—Feb. 18, at 85 Evergreen buildings, Lizzie Dawson, aged 14 years. Nagle.—Feb. 18, William Nagle, Dripsey. Hegarty.—Feb. 17, at Kilcor, Castletyons, David Hegarty. O'Gorman.—Feb. 17, at Kilnudan, Ballyhar, county Kerry, Kate O'Gorman. Walsh.—Feb. 17, at Farlestown, Ballyheda, Edward Walsh, aged 24 years. O'Leary.—Feb. 17, at Ballinlough, Margaret O'Leary, aged 22. O'Connell.—Feb. 11, at Knockalohert, Castlecor, John O'Connell, at an advanced age. Foley.—Feb. 19, at 4 Rockgrove square Lower road, Michael Foley.

KERRY.

On Feb. 21, a presentation of an interesting character took place at Blermerville, Tralee, the residence of Mr. Henry O'Brien, supervisor of inland revenue, appointed to Lisnally, Wales. It took the form of a solid silver salver, inscribed, a gentleman's handsome gold pin, a beautifully illuminated address, with a pair of gold bangles for Mrs. O'Brien.

Saturday morning the Kenmare police received intelligence of a moon-

lighting affair which occurred the previous night. Monday, John Nash, farmer, residing at Bohacalla, employed Daniel Doyle to work. On Friday night the inmates of Nash's house retired to rest at their usual hour. Doyle, who was sleeping upstairs, heard a shot from a gun about 12 o'clock, which was fired through the window of the room, and lodged in the room near to his bed. Denis, Daniel and Michael Cronin, brothers, and John and Patrick Sullivan, brothers, were arrested in connection with the affair.

LIMERICK.

Miss Hennessey, Limerick, was recently received into the community of St. Paul's convent, Birmingham, Eng., on the feast of the Purification.

On Feb. 16, at Newport, South Wales, Miss Eileen Massey, 23 years, fourth daughter of the late Joseph Massey of Newton, Clara, 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, presided at the ceremony. The above lady has a sister a nun in the Sisters of Mercy community, Ennis, and is sister-in-law to Mr. John Mulqueen.

Bishop O'Dwyer of Limerick, interdicted the pastor of Bruff parish from blessing and distributing the ashes on the Wednesday in Lent set apart for that purpose; that there would be no evening devotions during Lent. The reason is that the people desire the return of the Christian Brothers to Bruff as teachers to their children. The pastor for some reason has caused the Christian Brothers to leave.

With feelings of sorrow we chronicle the death of Miss B. Dore, Newbridge, Rathkeale, which took place on Friday. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. C. Dore, late of Nanteau, whose eviction 17 years ago was the subject of much discussion at the time. The deceased was at that time three years old. A company of soldiers and a large force of police protected the sheriff in the work of razing to the ground the old homestead which for generations sheltered the Dore family. Deceased had been employed in the establishment of Miss McDonnell, Rathkeale, where she was held in the highest esteem. The funeral cortege to Nanteau cemetery was long.

TIPPERARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Prendergast, Derrygrath, on Friday morning. Deceased was only 22 years of age. He was a general favorite with all who knew him, and his death is sincerely regretted.

The following is from the Galway Post, Feb. 19: Considerable commotion has been caused at Derrylahan, Clonakenny district, five miles from Roscrea, owing to the appearance of a strange animal, the genus of which is a mystery. The newcomer is described as a quadruped resembling the porcine species, but larger, and furnished with a red shaggy coat. The extremities differ from those of a pig in being much more pointed, while the feet resemble those of a sheep, and the eyes are prominent and high on the head. The mysterious visitor has been in the locality for weeks, and appears to have taken up permanent residence on the farm of Mr. Bennett, at Derrylahan, where it has excavated a huge burrow, capable of admitting the body of a man. The animal divides its time between Derrylahan and Dangan Wood, and although apparently fond of seclusion, appears in no way disconcerted by the approach of human beings. A few days ago a gentleman when shooting, accompanied by a friend and two dogs, came suddenly on the strange quadruped in a clump of bushes. The dogs advanced, but on approaching the unexpected quarry, became seized with an uncontrollable fit of terror, and in spite of all calls and attempts to check their flight, ran home with the greatest speed, and refused food during the following day. The mysterious animal continues to roam the country unchecked.

WATERFORD.

Instructions have been received by the Borough surveyor, Mr. M. J. Fleming, to prepare plans for the new free library over the Market House, Waterford city. The building will measure 131 feet by 46, and be surrounded by a covered veranda.

The Steam Navigation Company, negotiating to run a line of steamers between Dundergarvan and Liverpool, are still considering the project.

Miss Nora Moloney, Abbotside National school, recently married Mr. McCarthy, male teacher of the same school. Father John Power married them in Ballinacorney chapel.

A fine young man, son of Mr. John Fives, school master of Tourin, was interred at Affane, lately. The funeral

was large. He was ailing for a considerable time, and passed away in the full possession of grace.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

The Union Line, Southampton, has contracted with Harland & Wolf, the Belfast shipbuilders, to build a magnificent passenger steamer on the lines of the Briton, recently built by them, and which is at present the first vessel built for the South African service. The new vessel will have a gross tonnage of over 10,000 tons. The Union Line has also placed an order with the firm to build a new intermediate liner of 7,000 tons, a little bigger than the steamship Gascon, and will build several other steamers in Belfast.

ARMAGH.

The last of a series of popular concerts in connection with the excellent institution, the Armagh Catholic reading room, was given last week, Rev. Michael Quinn, C. C., presiding.

The Catholic people of the archdiocese of Armagh in public meeting demanded a Catholic university system for Ireland. The meeting was held in the splendid synod hall, St. Patrick's cathedral. Mr. John Hughes, over 90 years of age, the oldest Catholic in the Primatial city, who has taken part from the time of O'Connell in all movements calculated to better the condition of his co-religionists, moved that Cardinal Logue take the chair. Mr. John A. Quinn, solicitor, Dunganou, seconded the proposition, which was received with great enthusiasm.

CAVAN.

On Feb. 24 the magisterial investigation into the charges preferred against Philip King for the willful murder of his mother-in-law, wife and two children—as resumed in Shercock court house. When the proceedings commenced, Mr. McNally, solicitor, Carrickmacross, said he had been engaged by the prisoner to defend him, but had since been summoned by the Crown as a witness. Under the circumstances he informed the prisoner he would not appear for him until he would consult the authorities as to his position. Mr. Kennedy, in reply to Mr. Starkie, said he could not undertake to say at the present time that Mr. McNally would not be called as a witness. After medical evidence had been given as to the injuries on the bodies, the prisoner was again remanded.

DERRY.

The reunion of Derry men in the west of Scotland took place in the Grand National halls, Glasgow, lately. The arrangements were of an elaborate and complete kind. The reverend chairman (Father O'Kane) on rising was received with loud cheering. In a stirring address Father O'Kane recalled the noble part played in the history of Ireland by the Irish chieftains from the earliest times to the present day. Fathers McKee, Waterside, Derry and Tracey, Barnead, also delivered spirited addresses.

DONEGAL.

Last week the house of Mr. Patrick Judge, an American army pensioner, who resides in chapel street, Donegal, was entered by some persons unknown, but whatever their intention was they failed in accomplishing it.

Mr. Thomas Mulligan, of the "Indicator," has been appointed assistant secretary of Ballyshannon agricultural association.

DOWN.

A meeting was held on Sunday last for the purpose of organizing a branch of the '98 Centennial association, Ballybride. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, a very large number of the young men attended.

A large and representative meeting of tenant-farmers was held on Sunday at Aghnagon for the purpose of protesting against the action of the trustees and their agent in serving ejectments for one year's rest on the estate of the late Dr. Morrison in Aghnagon.

FERRANAGH.

Michael McCann, Killea, was thrown by a horse near Tempo last week, and sustained fatal injuries. Deceased was a jurymen on the inquest on Robert Moore, Mullinaskree, who was killed by a fall from his cart.

Mary Magovern, aged 55 years, of Clones street, Newtonbutler, died recently from injuries sustained from burns. Interment was in St. Patrick's cemetery, Donagh. Funeral cortege long.

MONAGHAN.

Clones is going to have a new source of information, as Mr. J. Wilson is getting ready to issue a paper to be known as the Clones Observer.

A successful concert, under the auspices of the Clones "Jack Connelly" '98 club, was given in the Town hall, Clones.

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