

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.

Father Joseph Cassidy of Rossmuck-Maam Cross, Connemara, on March 4, reported that there were 150 families in his district requiring instant relief. According to his statement the government relief works are hollow and aggravating shames. Persons must be actually dying before they get work. This is in line with the assistance the paternal British government afforded the Irish people in the past. The quicker the Irish die off the better they would like it; but the Irish will not oblige their inhuman rulers, or rather misrulers, so long as men like Father Cassidy live in the old land.

The Most Rev. Dr. Healy, bishop of Clonfert, addressed an enthusiastic gathering of natives of Connaught and friends in Glasgow lately. The hall was crowded, and the bishop, who presided, was accompanied on the platform by the clergy and prominent Nationalists. He said the story of the present in Ireland is a sad one of hunger and suffering. Especially is this the case in the congested districts along the western seaboard as well as in the cold mountainous districts of the interior. Last summer and autumn were very wet; the immature potato crop was stricken with the blight, and in consequence there was not half the usual produce. The result will be particularly felt during the spring and summer months and I will take the liberty of saying that if you can do anything for your friends it was never more needed than now. A famine on this scale is not likely to recur again. Things, however, in my opinion, will never be right in Connaught until two things are done, which even now are being slowly accomplished. First, the tenant farmers must become the owners of the soil they till, and, secondly—which is a complement of this—the really good province, which is at present out of cultivation, must be tilled.

LEITRIM.

The dead body of John Lagan, butcher, of Ballinamore, was found in the canal last week. The interment was in Oughterard and the funeral was largely attended.

The Nationalists of the parish of Cloone held a meeting to organize a branch of the '98 Centenary association.

MAYO.

O'Hare, sentenced on Thursday at Westport Petty Session to four months' imprisonment for being a member of the United Irish League, has been liberated owing to delicate health. The remaining prisoners are well and have been visited by Mr. Doris of the Mayo News.

At a special meeting of the Ballina Town Commissioners on Wednesday, it was resolved to present Miss Maud Gonne with an address on the occasion of her coming visit to Ballina. A committee consisting of the chairman, Mr. Bernard Egan, Mr. Mullen, and the clerk, Mr. McNulty, was appointed to prepare the address. The board also signified their assent to, and approval of the erection of a suitable memorial to the memory of the martyrs of 1798 in Ballina.

ROSCOMMON.

Mr. Cotter Kyle, who owns a large property in Moore, a few miles from Ballinacree, county Galway, has given a very generous settlement to his tenants, some of whom owed sixteen years' rent. Owing to the intervention of Father Begly, who represented to Mr. Kyle the futility of holding these arrears over the heads of his poor tenants and which never could be paid, he has generously offered to strike off all arrears and give a clear receipt on payment of one year's rent, and to give 25 per cent. reduction to those who are not in arrears on payment of a year's rent. Close on 100 tenants are affected by this settlement.

SLIGO.

The funeral of Mrs. Marren, Buncannon, was attended by Very Rev. Canon Stenson, Rev. P. Mulligan, Rev. Rev. J. McKean and Rev. J. Daly of the seminary.

Mr. Michael McGuinness is a Sligo man who can look back 107 years, he is from Kilmacolligan and is on a visit to Liverpool, where his son resides. A correspondent of an English paper interviewed the old gentleman and then snap-shotted him while

resting in one of Liverpool's open spaces. Mr. McGuinness had no special prescription for old age beyond a breath of the excellent air of the Sligo hills. Though he is a hundred and seven he sees no good reason why he should not live as long as his grandfather who reached 107.

A meeting of the members of the Killanure Branch of the Irish National Federation was held last week at Killavoggy. Mr. Martin Dolan, president, was in the chair.

The repairing and renovating of the Geevagh Catholic church, undertaken by Rev. G. J. Coyle, is almost completed. The sum needed for the undertaking was £1,500, and £500 yet remains due. The people of Geevagh parish contributed generously to the Sligo Cathedral, presbytery and college, and now they appeal to the people of Sligo to enable them to clear off this debt.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

On Sunday a case addressed to Mr. Henry Boake, Burrin street, Carlow, and marked "The Deceased," was brought to Carlow station. Mr. Boake had not received notification that anything had been consigned to him, and on the railway authorities communicating with him he was surprised. The police were communicated with and the case was opened, and inside was found a little coffin with a breastplate bearing the name of the child. The following day a letter was received by Mr. Boake from Dr. R. O'Callaghan, London W., and late of Carlow, stating that the child was his, and as there had been another interred in Carlow it was his and his wife's desire to have both laid together, and accordingly the remains were interred in the Graigue burial ground.

The death of Mr. William Hayden of Main street, Bagnalstown, on Feb. 24, is deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. He had attained the ripe old age of 72 years. Being of a retiring, gentle disposition, he won the friendship of all who knew him. He was an ideal Catholic, and gave his two only sons and daughter to the Church of God. These are Rev. Patrick J. Hayden, S. J., St. Winifred's, Preston, England; Rev. Michael Hayden, Wrexham, North Wales, and Sister Mary Patrick, St. Winifred's convent, Holywell, Wales. The immense cortege which accompanied the remains to Ballinacorney to the very high respect in which he held.

An exquisite marble altar has just been made for the parish church of Borris by Mr. Patrick Molloy, Callon. Died—At Millford hotel, Waterford, Mrs. Anne Keating. Interment at Graigueamnanagh.

DUBLIN.

The feast of the Angelic doctor, St. Thomas Aquinas, was celebrated with great devotion in the Church of St. Saviour, Lower Dominick street, Dublin, on March 7. Pope Leo XIII. has made the great saint the patron of the Catholic universities and schools in the world. Very Rev. Dr. Delaney, S. J., delivered the panegyric of the saint.

The annual sermon in aid of the Christian Brothers' schools, St. James' parish, Dublin, was preached on Sunday by the Very Rev. Richard Duggan, Saggart, in St. James' church, at the first gospel of the 12 o'clock mass.

A meeting of the central branch of the Irish Independent League was held in Dublin last week. William Field presided. John Redmond and John E. Parnell were present. The former delivered a good address.

Very Rev. Michael J. Brady, P. P., St. Laurence O'Toole's, Dublin city, has been appointed Arch-deacon of Glendalough, in succession to the venerable Arch-deacon Keogh, recently deceased. Very Rev. P. Fee, administrator, has been appointed parish priest of Balbriggan.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. Edward P. O'Farrell, which took place on the 9th, at Rutland Square. He had been in delicate health for several months.

A crowded meeting of Wicklowmen's '98 association of the centenary association was held at 47 York street, the president, Mr. Hugh McCartney, in the chair. Messrs. Cunniam and Byrne reported the result of their canvass of the Wicklowmen, and handed in the subscriptions and names of several leading business men. The chairman congratulated the members on the growth of their organization. In numbers and finance they were the strongest branch in Dublin. On Sunday the branch would assemble at St. Catherine's church, Thomas street, where the purest of Ireland's martyrs, Robert Emmet, was executed, and proceed to the Phoenix Park, to take part in the great demonstration. Mr.

John Mooney suggested the organization of a pilgrimage to the grave of the patron of the branch—Billy Byrne of Ballymaus—in the old churchyard of Wicklow, which was warmly received. Messrs. Bernard Doyle and Charles O'Byrne were appointed delegates to the convention.

KILDARE.

At Broad Leas, on March 8, died John O'Toole, after a long illness. Interment was in Ballymore-Eustace. Funeral cortege long.

We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Joseph Brennan, Johnstown, Maganey. He was aged 81 years. Interment was in Levittstown church. Funeral cortege long and representative of all classes. Mass for the repose of his soul was celebrated by Father Talbot, Castleterrace.

Mr. Edward Neill, Knavestown, has been elected poor law guardian for Quinsborough and Lackagh division of Athy union in place of Mr. Thomas Scully.

Under the presidency of the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Murphy, on Sunday, a large and successful meeting was held at Rathangan to discuss the question of a Catholic university for Ireland.

KILKENNY.

Mrs. William Sweeney of Green street, Kilkenny, died March 8, widely and deeply regretted. Interment was in St. Canice's cemetery. The funeral was largely attended.

The death of Mrs. Michael Brennan, Crosspatrick, Johnstown, occurred on March 8, at the age of 74 years, deeply regretted. She was mother of Rev. Thomas Brennan, Castlecoombe, and of Rev. Martin Brennan, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. Interment was after office and high mass in the local church. The funeral cortege was long.

KING'S.

Mr. John Dooley, late of Armagh, died on March 6, at Marlborough St., Dublin. Interment was in Glasnevin. Numerous friends of deceased in the United States and Australia will learn of his death with feelings of regret.

LONGFORD.

An inquest was held on March 9 by Dr. Gray, coroner, on the body of Patrick Brady of Longhill, who was found dead on the roadside. Deceased had been in Longford, and after a brief stay in Ballinacree, proceeded homeward. The jury found that the death was due to heart disease, accelerated by fatigue and exposure.

With deep regret we chronicle the death of Mr. Robert M. Noud of Longford at the early age of 41 years. Mr. Noud was the only surviving son of Mr. Michael Noud, Roscommon and Longford. He was extremely popular with all classes of people, and was very well known not only in Longford, but in all the adjoining counties, where his talents as a vocalist were frequently called into requisition, and they were freely placed at the disposal of any charitable or other good work. Interment was in Glasnevin, Dublin.

LOUTH.

Mr. J. B. Connolly, recently appointed executive sanitary officer in Drogheda, by the Drogheda Corporation, would not be sanctioned by the Local Government board.

Died—March 8, at 8 St. John's Terrace, Clontarf, Mrs. Elizabeth Daly, late of West Gate, Drogheda. March 2, at Laytown, Andrew Farrell, aged 25 years. March 2, at Oldcastle, Jane Grace. March 2, at Boyne View, Drogheda, James Jones Keappock, late proprietor of White House hotel. March 4, at Rowans, Anne May. March 4, at Killineer, at an advanced age, John Smith.

MEATH.

Died—March 5, at Harmonstown house, Stackallen, Navan, Mary Josephine, dearly beloved daughter of James O'Brien and neice of the late Very Rev. Michael Gogarty, Castlepollard, and grandneice of late Very Rev. James O'Brien and the late Very Rev. Denis O'Brien, Slane, deeply regretted.

A meeting of the Shercock branch of the '98 Centenary association was held on Sunday evening. Mr. James Clarke in the chair. A paper was read on "The Rebellion in County Meath."

QUEEN'S.

Died—On Feb. 21, at Johnstown, Maganey, Joseph Brennan, aged 81 years. February 13, at Springhill, Mary Bourke.

A meeting was held on Sunday, in Arles, to establish a branch in connection with the '98 Centenary movement in Dublin. On the motion of Mr. Laurence McLoughlin, seconded by Mr. John Byrne, Clonagh, the chair was taken by the Rev. Father Dowling.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

James Melshaw, stone cutter, aged 50 years, while at work in the new Catholic church at Ballynafeigh, fell off a scaffold and was fatally injured. He resided in 25 Hanover street, Belfast.

ARMAGH.

John Clements, who lived near Middleton, was recently found dead in a quarry hole near Navan Ring.

CAVAN.

The people of Cavan are making preparations to celebrate the centenary of the glorious, though unsuccessful effort to throw off British rule by the brave men of 1798.

DERRY.

The Melbourne Advocate of Jan. 22 contains the following: "Despite the hurried departure of the Rev. Philip O'Doherty from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, in response to the call of the bishop of Derry, his ecclesiastical superior, two very flattering tributes of the esteem in which he is held by the Catholic clergy and laity of the colony were paid him at the Hibernian hall. The Very Rev. Dean McKenna occupied the chair. On behalf of the clergy, he bade Father O'Doherty bon voyage, and desired him to accept an illuminated address and a purse containing 164 sovereigns. The address, which was beautifully decorated with colonial wild flowers and scenes emblematical of Ireland and Australia, was read by Father Denis Murphy. Appended to the address were the signatures of his Grace, the Archbishop of Melbourne, their lordships, the Bishops of Ballarat and of Bendigo, the vicar-general of Bendigo, Very Rev. P. Duane, V. G., Albury, N. S. W., and of about seventy of the Victorian clergy. The Celtic Cross was of solid gold, paneled with Celtic interlacements on face and sides and studded with a diamond centre and four bezels of Queensland opal. The materials and workmanship were Australian. Inscribed on the back is: 'To the Rev. Philip O'Doherty, M. R. I. A., from the Victorian friends of Ireland for his services to faith and fatherland Melbourne, 17th January, 1898.'"

DONEGAL.

The people on Tory Island are in danger of being starved, as the abnormal stormy weather which has prevailed for some time cut off communication from the mainland. Several attempts to land provisions by gunboats and by the steamer Tyroon were unsuccessful. The island has a population of about 600 persons. Rev. E. Cassidy presided at the last meeting of the Red Hugh O'Donnell branch of the '98 centenary association, when all those who held office were re-elected.

DOWN.

In the cathedral, Hill street, Newry, Saturday, the retreat of the members of the Sacred Heart confraternity was brought to a conclusion. Sunday morning there were upwards of 2,000 communicants. Immediately after the recital of the rosary the Rev. Father McDermott delivered an eloquent address, exhorting the people to remain faithful to the good resolutions they had formed and to fortify themselves by prayer and other good works against the great danger of relapse. The renewal of the baptismal vows was then made with marked solemnity.

FERMANAGH.

The annual retreat for members of the Arch-confraternity of the Holy Family and the Children of Mary was opened in St. Michael's Catholic church, Enniskillen, on Sunday night. There was a large congregation. The retreat is conducted by Rev. Father Daly, S. J., and Rev. Father O'Reilly, S. J.

MONAGHAN.

With sincere regret we record the death of Mary Jane Kennedy, Kellenyduff, Carrickmacross, which occurred on January 18, at the early age of 82 years. Interment was in Killynny cemetery. Funeral cortege was long and representative of all classes and creeds in the districts. She was a most exemplary and edifying Catholic. Miss Kennedy was the daughter of late Mr. Martin Kennedy. Her relatives and friends in the United States will learn of her death with unfeigned regret.

TYRONE.

On Friday the remains of Mr. Edward Boyle, of Omagh, were interred in the Killylogher churchyard. The remains were conveyed to the church, where requiem high mass was celebrated.

WESTMEATH.

The Board of Guardians in Mullingar is mainly composed of John D. Murtagh, Colonel Cooper, Colonel Malone, Major Gilbert Nugent, Major F. Hume Kelly, A. T. F. Briscoe, Henry M. Tuite, T. F. Levinge, Richard Reynolds, Cornelius Hannan, Dr. W. H. Middleton, Hugh O'Neill, James King, E. King, Messrs. L. Gavin, V. O. John Connell, J. Kenny, P. Killard, James Fox, F. Murtagh, P. Scally, G. J. Boyan, James Cleary, John Casey, P. L'Estrange, P. Killian, Owen Sullivan, James Flynn, Daniel Gavagan, Denis Shanahan, James Brennan, John Keenan, C. Dennon, P. Kearney and T. Meehan.

WEXFORD.

Mrs. Anne Doyle, formerly of Killan, died March 8, at the Cottage, New street, Enniscorthy, at the fine old age of 84 years. Interment in Rathmore. Funeral large and a representation of the districts.

Denis Dwyer, a balliff, who lived in the Shannon, Enniscorthy, has been lodged in the insane asylum. His mind gave way suddenly.

General regret was felt when the death of Mrs. Ellen Browne, Mayglass, mother of the bishop of Ferns, became known on Saturday. She had reached a ripe old age, being over 80 years. Mrs. Browne was a native of Foulbrane, near Kilmora, and was sister of the late Very Rev. Peter Canon Berry, P. P., Davidstown. Solemn office and mass of requiem was sung in Mayglass church, the Most Rev. Lord Bishop of Ferns presiding. After the sacred ceremonies the remains were interred in the old church at Mayglass. The last rites at the tomb were performed by the Most Rev. Lord Bishop of Ferns, her son, assisted by a number of clergymen.

WICKLOW.

Mr. William Kavanagh, J. C., Main street, Arklow, died March 5, in the 48th year of his age, deeply regretted.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

Miss Kate Kett, daughter of Mr. Simon Kett, Kilkee, was received into the Order of Mercy at the convent, Longford, county Longford on March 1. Great distress is reported as being experienced by the people of Carrige-holt and surrounding districts.

A numerously attended meeting in aid of the evicted tenants' fund was held in Queen's hotel, Ennis, March 9. Mr. Stephen Clancy presided.

With extreme regret we record the death of Mr. Patrick McInerney, Dyssart, Kilmora, one of the best known and most popular tenant farmers in Clara. He was 78 years of age. "Paddy McInerney," as his friends liked to call him; was a man of sterling worth. Several years ago, when the landlords held the seats on the Killrush Poor Law Board, Mr. McInerney was selected by the Land League to fight them in the interests of the popular class, and the result was a splendid victory and the subsequent eviction of the hangers-on of the landlords from the boardroom. The deceased while he held office proved a faithful servant of the ratepayers, and at his retirement there was much regret. In West Clare he was extremely popular and respected. The immense funeral cortege which accompanied his remains to Burrane churchyard in most inclement weather, was best testimony of the general esteem in which the people of West Clare held him.

CORK.

The first of the Centenary celebrations in Cork under the auspices of the '98 Centenary committee, took place March 6, when the 120th anniversary of the birthday of Robert Emmet was celebrated. From the point of display, enthusiasm and organization, the demonstration was a remarkable one. In all parts of the city there were illuminations. The procession was vast and representative and was a fitting tribute to the memory of the noble martyr. When the processionists had formed in Nelson's place the great extent of the assembly was realized, as the spacious square was completely taken up. One object of the event was to call upon the corporation to change the name of this locality to "Emmet Place," on the announcement of which by the Mayor, who addressed the people from the window of the Foresters' hall, there was a marked outburst of popular feeling.

A very harsh eviction was carried out at Carrigeens, near Leap, a few days ago, the tenant being Cornelius McCarthy, and the landlord an adjoining farmer named George Jennings, who held as a middleman on the estate of Mrs. and Col. Spraight

of Union hall. The Rev. Father Cunningham, Leap, was present, and when Sheriff's Officer Jagoo arrived the reverend gentleman for the second time, on behalf of the tenant, offered the entire debt and costs, and would give his guarantee that the rent would be punctually paid in future. The yearly rent when the place was taken thirteen years ago was £16, which the court reduced to £4. The evicted tenant is the father of four helpless orphans, and the period of redemption expired on the 25th of December last. There being an old woman ill in the house, the sheriff's officer did not evict but took up possession of the farm.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Daniel Collins, which occurred at Leitna, near Drimoleague, on Sunday. The deceased belonged to a family held in high esteem. The interment took place in the family burial ground at Drimoleague on Tuesday, and the large and representative attendance proved respect entertained for the deceased.

Skibbereen '98 Centenary committee consists of the following: M. T. Sheehy, E. D. Hogan, M. A. J. Murphy, Jerome O'Donovan, John O'Sullivan, Townsend street; E. O'Hea, D. D. Sheehan, P. Sheedy, solicitor; F. McCarthy, High street; J. Coghlan, J. J. Donegan, Dan McCarthy, L. O'Began, T. J. Fuller, solicitor; J. O'Shea, T. C.; M. Hill, B. Hill, M. Daly, D. O'Mahony, D. O'Driscoll and G. Wycherly.

Intelligence from Schull gives particulars of a sad shooting accident at Lisacacha. A national school teacher named Lehane, teacher of the Killomanne national school, was cleaning a gun in the house of Mrs. Hegarty, when it exploded, the shot striking a little girl of 8 years old, a daughter of Mrs. Hegarty, in the face, blowing away the nose and portion of the face. The accident caused a terrible shock to the family, and to Mr. Lehane, who is a most popular young man. He did not know the gun was charged. He was arrested as a mere formality, as he was soon after admitted to bail, and nobody feels more over the mishap than he. The girl still lives, though in a very weak condition.

On March 10 the obsequies of Sister Agatha (Cuhane) took place in the Gonaquity convent chapel. She was one of the oldest and venerated members of the community and was among those who came to Clonakilty convent when founded, over 40 years ago. The ceremonies commenced at 10:30 o'clock. Rev. J. Mulcahy, Timoleague, presided. Celebrant, Rev. M. O'Callaghan, Clonakilty; Rev. J. J. O'Hea, Rosscarbery, deacon; Rev. P. Hill, Kilmee, sub-deacon. Rev. J. O'Hea, Ardfield, master of ceremonies.

KERRY.

A report is current that the Atlantic and Lake Superior railway company is undecided as to which of the two ports—Tralee, in Ireland, or Plymouth, in England, will be the place of call for their steamers to run from Canada. Fathers Boylan and Tierney of the Redemptorist order are conducting a mission in St. John's, Tralee, for the benefit of the members of the Holy Family.

LIMERICK.

On March 8 died Mr. Thos. Kennedy at Ballybrigan, deeply regretted. At the early age of 21 years died Joseph P. Nash, of the Square, Newcastle West, on March 6. Interment was in Adare; funeral cortege long. The dead body of Mrs. Johanna Mulcahy, widow, of Killybeg, was found in Kilmallock recently. It appears she was evicted some time ago, and though the rent would have been paid for her, the landlord refused to accept it. She and her daughter traveled on foot from where they lived to the residence of the landlord—Lord Ashbrooke—in the hope of obtaining a settlement, but failed, and it was while traveling home she died.

TIPPERARY.

On March 2 died Margaret Brittain of Rathronan, Clonmel, sincerely regretted by her numerous friends. Interment was in Powerstown cemetery; funeral cortege long.

Mr. Michael Neville has started an Irish class in Ballyporeen, and says the centre is an admirable one, as the language is still vigorous at the foot of the Galtees.

WATERFORD.

Among the victims of the Maine disaster in Havana on the night of Feb. 15 last were James Flynn of Passage and Harry of Dongarvan.

With deep regret we chronicle the deaths of Mr. Henry Wyse, son of Mr. Michael Wyse, Castle street, Waterford, and Mr. Michael Casey, Ballybricken.

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