

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 man residing at Knockash, four miles from Loughrea, possesses a very interesting '98 relic, which he became owner of under peculiar circumstances. Not very far from his residence rises a sharp hill, crowned by huge rocks. It was among those rocks that mass was celebrated in the "dark and evil days." A huge slab, resting on two upright boulders, served as an altar, and the blurred marks of human feet can be distinguished on a smooth rock where the priest stood while offering up the holy sacrifice. A deep hole scooped in a rock to the right of the altar served as a holy water font. Some few years ago a rabbit made a burrow under one of the rocks, and while scooping out the earth exposed, something bright to view. On inspection a farmer found the bright material to be nothing less than a silver candlestick, and on further investigation another candlestick was also discovered buried in the soil. They were evidently used on the altar of stone 100 years ago.

LEITRIM.

Mrs. Eliza Threlfall, Carrick on Shannon, died March 19, deeply regretted by her family and friends. Interment was in Killindren cemetery, county Roscommon. The funeral was numerously attended.

Terry McDonnell of Glencar, was found dead on the roadside, between Lurganboy and Manorbhamilton. He was at the fair and was returning when, it is believed, he became weak and fell on the road where he was discovered dead. Deceased was brought to Lurganboy and the police communitated with. The latter had the body removed to Mr. Boylan's public house, where an inquest was held. Deceased was a quiet, sober man, and leaves a wife and family of young children. His death is sincerely regretted.

MAYO.

The guardians of Claremorris Union are distributing 102 tons of seed potatoes and oats in the several districts. The applicants are so numerous that it is feared even this large supply will soon be exhausted. It is obvious that the extremely destitute condition of the people has forced them to buy up this fresh importation of seed rather than allow their land to go waste, which would result in starvation.

ROSCOMMON.

Mr. W. O'Connell, clerk of Boyle Union and returning officer, commenced the scrutiny of the votes for the contested divisions of the Boyle Union on Wednesday. The first division taken up was Tivnanagh, where the sitting guardian, Mr. James Quinn, Drum, Boyle, was opposed by Mr. Peter McDonagh, Kiltibrannagh. Mr. Quinn was however, elected by a majority of ten. In Rushfield division Mr. Daniel Priest of Knockree, Boyle, the sitting guardian, was opposed by Mr. Michael Lavie, Ballymore. Mr. Priest was victorious by one vote. In Kiltree division, Mr. Patrick Mallan, Boyle, was defeated by Mr. Bartley Casey Doon, Gurteen, by 66 votes. Mr. Thomas McGowan, Keadue, retains his seat for Lough Allen division by a majority of 40. Mr. Timothy Lynch, the previous guardian for Altavonian division, was beaten by a majority of 11 by Mr. Thomas Lynch, Antagowian. Mr. Thomas McGowan and Mr. James Lindsay, Boyle, were nominated for Keadue division, but Mr. McGowan withdrew on his being elected for Lough Allen.

SLIGO.

On Sunday an important Nationalist meeting was held at Ballyrush. The meeting was called for the purpose of establishing a branch of the National Federation, and was successful. The patriotic pastor of the district, Father Fallon, presided, and in a practical speech urged on the people the necessity of unity and combination. Mr. John O'Dowd, in the course of his address adverted to the '98 movement. He said Ireland's exiled children the whole world over would in this year of '98 be turning their thoughts and attention to motherland. Many would be coming as pilgrims this year to Ireland and the spectacle of a disunited people would not be calculated to inspire these exiles with anything like respect for Ireland or Ireland's cause. The Ballyrush band surrounded the speaker and accompanied Mr. O'Dowd to the station where he was met by a number of his supporters.

With regret we chronicle the death of Mrs. O'Grady, Mahannah, Gurteen mother of Rev. P. J. O'Grady, Collooney, which occurred at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. George Allen, Carraun cottage, Tubbercurry, on the 19th of March, at the age of 86 years. Deceased, who was noted for her amiable and retiring disposition, and her great charity towards the poor, had endeared herself to all who had the privilege of her acquaintance, and her death is extremely regretted by a large circle of sorrowing friends. A fact which was fully testified by the very large cortege which followed her remains to the family burial place at Gurteen. Solemn requiem mass was celebrated at the church of the Sacred Heart, Tubbercurry. Celebrant, Rev. D. Gallagher, Keash; deacon, Rev. M. C. Dempsey, Collooney; sub-deacon, Rev. J. McKeon, Charlestown; master of ceremonies, Rev. M. Keaveny, Charlestown.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The Carlow Graigue Memorial committee held a meeting on Sunday in the inclosed plot (where 700 united Irishmen lie buried) to fix a site for the Celtic cross, which will be erected before May 1, 1898.

Among those who died recently were Mr. S. W. Naughton, Carlow, and Miss Florence Clare Brady, Myshall. Her death occurred at Bagnalstown hospital, where, notwithstanding the fact that the deceased was the possessor of considerable fortune, she undertook the duties of nurse. From her childhood Miss Brady, who was only 38 years old, devoted herself to works of charity and benevolence, finding plentiful occupation in her native village and surrounding districts.

DUBLIN.

The Dominican Fathers of St. Saviour's, Dublin, purpose holding a bazaar to raise funds to build the additional south aisle to their church.

Recent deaths in Dublin.—Costello On Passion Sunday, at 4 Beaumont terrace, N. C. road, Michael Costello. Costelloe—At Belfast, Jeremiah Costelloe, late of 50 Harcourt street, Dublin. Fegan—March 27, at 9 Moore street, Mrs. Annie Fegan, aged 88 years, relict of the late Thomas Fegan, Ormond market. Finn—March 28, at the Meath hospital, the result of an accident, Patrick Finn, Fitzgerald—March 28, at the Hospice for the Dying, Haroldscross, Charles E. Fitzgerald, aged 21 years. Hartigan—March 27, at the Mater hospital, Martin Hartigan, aged 29 years, member of the Dublin Operative Farmers' society. Hughes—March 27, at 15 Upper Sackville street, Mrs. Mary Hughes Duffy—March 29, at 10 Redcow lane, Patrick Duffy, aged 76 years. Duffy March 30, at the Hospice for the Dying, Haroldscross, Christopher Duffy, Dunne—March 30, at 20 Upper Gloucester street, William Dunne, late of Box & Co. Doolin—March 28, at Loughlinstown Union, Margaret Doolin, aged 90 years, native of Shankill, county Dublin. Ennis—At Rutland house, Clontarf, Kathleen Rose Ennis, Barry—March 24, at 12 Mountjoy square, Richard Joseph Devoreux, only son of John E. Barry, jr., Summerhill, Wexford, aged 18 years. Maguire—March 28, at St. Teresa's Monastery, Mount Tallant, Haroldscross, Catharine Maguire, called in religion Mother Mary Joseph Angela of the Divine Infancy, in the 80th year of her age and the 61st of her religious profession. Hughes—March 30, at Beechwood terrace, Glasnevin, Margaret M. J. Hughes, late of Lower Summerhill, eldest daughter of the late James Kavanagh, Dorset street, city, and Downings, county Carlow. Stephenson—March 29, at 26 Upper Tyrone street, Samuel Stephenson, aged 62 years. Cahill—March 29, at Brook Lodge monastery, Ballygunin, Rev. Henry Cahill, P. P., Abbeyknockmoy.

KILDARE.

The Kildare branch of the '98 Centenary association held a great meeting lately. There was a deputation from Suncoft, consisting of N. Cullen, J. Byrne, P. Kane, to arrange about forming a branch in Suncoft, or to become members of the Kildare (Lord Edward) branch. Mr. T. J. Heffernan presided.

A football and hurling tournament was held in Athy on Sunday last under the auspices of the Athy Wolfe Tone Gaelic club. Two thousand persons witnessed the various games on a field at Bellview, kindly lent by Mr. Tierney. A team representing the Celtics (hurling) of Dublin, arrived at Athy. They were met at the station by Mr. Conlan, secretary of the Wolfe Tone's, and Mr. J. O'Connell, and conducted to Heffernan's hotel, where

they were hospitably entertained. The Wolfe Tone club did not turn up, although an invitation was sent. The first match played was that of the Athy Wolfe Tone's vs. the '98 Memorial club, Carlow, and after a very spirited game the score was declared by the referee Mr. John Oxford, Athy, as follows: Athy, 5 points; Carlow 4 points.

KILKENNY.

The election of five members on Callan Board of Guardians, to represent the division of Callan, came off last week. The successful candidates were Patrick Shelly, Phillip Lynch, Marks Grainger, Pat Doherty and Thomas Walsh. It was 26 years since there was a contest in the division.

KING'S.

The renewal of the mission which was given by the Redemptorist Fathers from Limerick in Edenderry in September and October last was opened on Sunday by Fathers McNamara and Lowhem. Father McNamara delivered a short discourse after second mass, pointing out the subject the missionaries had in view in coming to visit the parish again, and announcing the order in which the religious services would be conducted. In the evening after the rosary, Father Lowhem preached an eloquent and very impressive sermon. The ceremonies were brought to a close by benediction by the Rev. J. Gorman.

LONGFORD.

The death recently of Mr. A. Farrell, son of Mr. P. Farrell of Longford, which occurred in Dublin, was deeply regretted in the town. He was only 19 years of age. J. P. Farrell, M. P., and C. J. P. Farrell are brothers of the deceased.

LOUTH.

A sailor named Hopkins, native of Dundalk, was killed in Liverpool a few days ago by the explosion of a rocket. A wife and numerous family mourn his loss.

Mr. John Bally, coroner for Meath, held an inquest on Monday last at Drogheda on the body of a widow named Kate Doyle. The deceased occupied a laborer's cottage in connection with the Navan Union, and on Sunday evening some bullocks trespassed on a plot of ground. When driven off by her one charged full tilt upon the woman, and tossed her in the air. Then, as the poor creature lay upon the ground, the maddened beast gored her, and was joined by the entire herd. A man who happened to be passing by was attracted by the screams of the woman, hastened to her aid and drove away the animals. The woman died shortly afterward.

QUEEN'S.

A laborer named Edward Shea, of Quality Row, Maryborough, found checks valued for £180, and went to Kilkenny, it is said, to have them cashed, was arrested and placed in prison. They are stated to have been the property of a man named Herbert, agent to Lord de Vesel. Perhaps Shea was as much entitled to the money as Herbert or de Vesel, as it came from the toll of the farmers.

WESTMEATH.

The death is very widely regretted of Mr. William Hannin, Athlone, which occurred after a brief illness from pneumonia, at his residence, Conaught street. The deceased, who was 55 years of age, was a prominent Nationalist, and for the past twenty years actively identified with the National movement. He was highly popular with all classes of the community in Athlone, and was a member of the different public boards. The funeral was one of the largest seen in the town for some time past. The officiating clergymen were Right Rev. Monsignor Kelly, Rev. J. Byrne, Rev. W. Walker and Rev. M. Kane.

Mr. Andrew Moore, ex-chairman of the Athlone Board of Guardians, was the victim of a terrible assault arising out of a dispute about a meadow between himself and a neighboring farmer named Elvers. Mr. Moore is an extensive grazer, and has a great deal of land at Coosan. While visiting one of his farms he noticed that a wire palling had been erected by Elvers, and after some altercation proceeded to pull it down with his stick. While doing so Elvers, who was working about thirty yards away, it is alleged, rushed at him, knocked him down, and stabbed him in a frightful manner with a grape. Mr. Moore was brought in a half unconscious state to his residence in Church street, and attended by Dr. C. J. MacCormack, who considered his case very critical.

WEXFORD.

On Sunday one of the oldest inhabitants of Adamstown, Mr. Michael Furlong, died at the advanced age of 99 years. On being questioned about

his age he had a peculiar habit of "telling that he was 15 years old in "the big snow," which was in 1814. He was a man of remarkable vigor, enjoyed excellent health, and was in full possession of all his faculties up to the time of his death. Until about a week ago he was able to walk about the road and fields with no outer covering but a flannel waistcoat. In fact he looked as if he could easily live another decade. He probably was the oldest man who recorded his vote at the last contested election for South Wexford. On Thursday last funeral offices and high mass was held at Adamstown for the repose of his soul.

WICKLOW.

The fishing smack Exile was destroyed by fire in Arkelow harbor lately. She was owned by Hugh Byrne, T. C., and the captain, Patrick Murphy. She had on board provisions for three months, and a fine supply of nets. Total loss \$4,000.

The perfidy of England when dealt with those who resist her iniquitous laws is proverbial. When Michael Dwyer gave himself up it was on the explicit understanding that he could sail for America; instead they made him a prisoner and sent him to Botany Bay.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

With sincere regret we chronicle the death of Mrs. Mary Knox, widow of John Busted Knox, proprietor of the Clare Journal. Interment was in Damliffe cemetery; funeral cortege long.

Two moonlighting raids are reported. It is stated that a few nights ago the house of Anthony McGuane of Cloonlaheen, in the Miltown direction, was raided by a party of moonlighters. There were two revolver shots fired, the first while McGuane and his wife happened to be outside the house, and the second when they entered the dwelling. No injury was done. The alleged motive for the outrage is personal ill feelings. The house of Denis Daly, in the Feakle district, was fired into. One shot was discharged through the half door and two others struck the outer wall of the house. The motive assigned for the act is that Daly took grazing on an evicted farm in the neighborhood.

CORK.

There were two contested elections for Poor Law Guardians in Middleton Union, Ballintemple division. Mr. Bartholomew Power was opposed by Mr. William Morrison and in Inch division, M. E. P. Higgins was opposed by Mr. Michael Wall, Lahard. The result showed the voting for Mr. Power was 93, against 47 for Mr. Morrison; Mr. Higgins 70, against 57 for Mr. Wall.

The death of Sir John Arnott, Cork, occurred March 28, aged 84 years. He was a Scotchman, but had lived in Ireland 60 years. During his life he founded a big drapery business, Arnott's brewery, purchased the passage docks, and was deeply interested in the Cross-channel trade from Cork and the south of Ireland. He purchased the Irish Times, Dublin. He was also in the milling business, and was much in evidence on the stock exchanges.

A public meeting was held on Sunday in Roseberry, for the purpose of adopting measures to meet the exceptional distress that prevails in the district. The Very Rev. Peter Hill explained the purpose for which they had met, and mentioned several cases of great want that had come under his immediate notice. The Rev. Jeremiah O'Hea and Mr. Jeremiah Donovan also addressed the meeting. Resolutions were proposed and seconded and a committee appointed comprising clergymen of all denominations, the poor law guardians, and representative men from the town and different country districts. The Very Rev. P. Hill was appointed chairman; James O'Donovan, merchant, treasurer, and Rev. J. O'Hea, secretary. The secretary was instructed to communicate with the secretaries of the Mansion house fund, Dublin, Manchester and Liverpool.

Recent deaths in Cork.—Fitzgerald—March 28, at 8 Southern View, Douglas road, James Edward Fitzgerald. Down—On March 25, at Mentone place, Sunday's Well, Frederick J. Down. Madden—March 24, at Kiltowney, Buttevant, Margaret Madden. Barry—March 25, at Killeagh, Katie Barry. Greene—At 23 Warren's place, Catherine Greene. Allman—March 20, at 23 Quaker road, James Allman, national teacher. Byrne—On March 20, Elle Byrne, Langus. Connolly—On March 19, at 20 St. Fin Barre's place, Ellen Connolly. Cotter—March 19, at Tipperary, Jeremiah P. Cotter, aged 87 years. O'Brien—On March 15, at 12 Nicholas street, Michael

O'Brien, aged 71 years. Murley—On March 18, at Douglas road, Dan, son of Daniel Murley. Donovan—On March 14, at 40 Gardener's Hill, Julia Donovan. Sheehy—On March 14, at 62 Clarence street, city, Roger D. Sheehy. Leahy—On Tuesday morning at Kilmallock, Margaret Leahy. Priestly—On March 15, at West End, Mallow, Simon John Priestly. Fleming—At Graigs, Charleville, on March 12, Johanna, widow of the late David Fleming, aged 63 years. Quirke—On March 13, at Waterford, Michael J. Quirke, manager National bank, Kiltorgin, second son of John Quirke.

The annual convention of delegates from clubs affiliated to the Cork county board of the Gaelic Athletic association was held in the Temporary court house, Anglesa street, Cork. There was a very large attendance of delegates from the city and county, and very keen interest was taken in the proceedings. Each club was represented by two delegates. The members of the county board present were: M. Deering, president; William Wren, honorable treasurer; T. Dooley, honorable secretary; T. Staunton, D. O'Brien, M. O'Leary, W. Mahony, M. Bordan, W. Aherne, W. Barry, T. O'Callaghan, J. Leahy.

KERRY.

The sea fisheries in Southwest Kerry have not yielded very satisfactorily. The mackerel fishery has not been attended with good results anywhere. At Darrynane, Rinneen and a few other places in the Waterville district, a few hundreds of mackerel were had nightly by trammels and other nets. Beyond this nothing was done in this line along the coast. The haak, ling and cod fisheries have given poor yields, and in the line of seine fishing, nothing. Trawling has commenced, but the details of the fishing done show that not much has been accomplished, even on the best grounds.

A fire resulting in great loss of property occurred recently at the Hume Farm hotel, beautifully situated midway between the ancient ruins of Aghadoe and the Lower Lake and three miles from Killarney. The proprietor is Mr. James Courtney.

The month's mind for the late Very Rev. T. Sullivan, late administrator, Tralee, was held in St. John's church. Office began at 10.30, presided over by the Very Rev. John McDonnell.

LIMERICK.

Mr. Charles Carroll Dawson, son of Mr. C. Dawson, formerly Lord Mayor of Dublin, has been admitted a freeman of the city of Limerick.

Father James Hartigan, C. S. R., who was on the mission in Limerick for four years, left the Redemptorist convent during the week en route for Australia. Father Hartigan, a native of the county Limerick, was one of the most popular members of the order. For three of the four years of his mission in Limerick he had charge of the divinity students in the Redemptorist college.

The people of Bruff are determined to have the Christian Brothers back in the town to teach their children. A committee has been formed to receive subscriptions toward that end. Already a good sum has been donated. Mrs. W. Barry of Clontarf, near Killaloe, died on March 16, deeply regretted. Interment was in the old burial ground, Killaloe.

The remains of Father Cunway, P. P., Feenagh, were on Thursday conveyed from Feenagh church, where office and requiem high mass for the repose of his soul were celebrated, to Mount St. Laurence cemetery, Limerick.

TIPPERARY.

Mr. Patrick Ryan has been elected Poor Law Guardian for the Gort-Kelly division of Thurles union, defeating Edmund Kinane by 14 votes.

P. O'Meara, A. Callanan, James Manning and Rody Dwan were recently elected Poor Law Guardians for the Thurles division of the Thurles union.

James Hyland, Skeheewinsky and Thomas Hokey, of Lisfunchion, were candidates for the Coolagarranros division of Clogheen union. Hyland was elected.

Mr. P. Walsh has been elected Poor Law Guardian for the Kiltalooan division of the Clonmel union, and W. Dwyer, E. Murphy, P. Nugent, A. St. George, Benjamin Wright, John O'Donnell and W. T. Fayle were elected for the Clonmel division.

WATERFORD.

The interment of the late John Garvey of Johnstown, Waterford, took place last week in the cemetery, Ballygunner. The funeral was numerously attended.

The funeral of Mr. P. Heylin, of the Yellow road, Waterford, took place lately in Ballybricken cemetery; funeral cortege was long.

On March 13 the Rt. Rev. Abbot MacDonnell passed peacefully to his reward at an advanced age an Mountmellera abbey. The deceased, who was son of the late Mr. Matthew McDonnell, Westport, county Mayo, and brother of Miss McDonnell, Thonhill lodge, was a distinguished member of the Trapplet Order and spent many years of his exemplary career in the United States, where he attained the dignity of Abbot. Several requiem masses were celebrated for the repose of his soul in the Abbey church on the day of his death, and on the following day there was a solemn high mass, after which the interment took place.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

A highly successful meeting took place on Tuesday evening in St. Joseph's female school, Ballyhackamore, at which it was decided to establish a new branch of the Gaelic League, to be known as the "Bloomfield and Knock" branch. Mr. P. T. McGinley, vice-president of the Belfast Gaelic League, occupied the chair. On the motion of Mr. McGinley, seconded by Mr. Little, inspector of national schools, Rev. P. McCambridge, Ballymacarrett, was elected chairman.

St. Patrick's day was duly observed in Ballycastle, and the town full of visitors from the neighboring country districts. In the evening a largely attended concert took place in the National schools. The proceeds were in aid of the repair of schools.

ARMAGH.

A meeting of the Armagh Catholic local board of education was held in St. Patrick's college, Armagh, lately, Cardinal Logue presiding.

At the great demonstration held in Lurgan on St. Patrick's day in honor of the centenary of '98 contingents arrived from Armagh, Keady, Loughbrickland, Derryport, Derrytrasna. A brake containing the principal speakers and office bearers of the William Orr '98 club, Lurgan, and Lord Edward '98 club, Armagh, headed the procession.

CAVAN.

Rear Admiral of the British navy, Lord Charles Baresford, sued James McGuldrick for a sum of 8s., balance due for a turf bank at Mullintearin. Henry Crawford, bailiff, deposed that he let the bank to defendant at 10s. per year, and 1s. for a bog ticket, and of this he received two shillings. A decree was granted with 6s. costs.

DEBBY.

The early masses at St. Eugene's Cathedral, Long Tower, and St. Columba's, Waterside, Derry, St. Patrick's day, were attended by great congregations. Excursion trains on the Great Northern railway, the Belfast and Northern Counties line, and the Lough Swilly and Letterkenny railway conveyed numerous visitors who journeyed to the city to take part in the demonstration.

On St. Patrick's day was reopened St. Mary's church, Stranorlar, after undergoing improvements and embellishments. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell Bishop of Raphoe, preached an impressive sermon.

DOWN.

An interesting find was recently made in a garden of William and John Hunter's premises, at Craigeagorey board mill. A girl, Lizzie Pettlerew, was digging at the foot of a tree when she unearthed a jug containing 100 rifle bullets, each weighing fully one and one-half ounces. From their appearance and from the locality in which they were found, there is no doubt that they were intended for duty in the historic period of '98.

DOUBEGAL.

Canon McKenna Pettigo, Donegal, when acknowledging the receipt of the donation of Rt. Rev. Dr. Owens, bishop of Clogher, to fund for the relief of his poor parishioners, stated that notices of eviction were scattered like snowflakes on several estates and that unreasonable law costs were heaped upon the unfortunate tenants. He stated: "I have good reason for knowing that on one estate in this parish 24 ejectment processes were served on one day, with 10s. costs in every case, and if decreed, from £1 to 30s. I have it on good authority that some of the poor people sold their beds to make up the amount of the decree, including law costs. I have known the case of a very poor tenant holding a bad mountain farm—rent, £6 yearly—who paid £19 in one year, ending last year, and in September last was called on to pay £11, including £3 of costs and one year's rent (£6) due and ending April 1, 1897."