

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.

On Sunday, April 17, Mr. Frank Hugh O'Donnell lectured in the Court theatre, Galway. The brass band of the Young Ireland hall played patriotic airs. The lecture was divided into two parts, and in the interval songs were given. Mr. Madden gave "Who Fears to Speak of '98?" and Mr. Sullivan sang "Ireland a Nation." Mr. Glynn, of the local branch of the Gaelic League, in a speech delivered in Irish moved Mr. James Morris to the chair, and Mr. O'Sullivan having seconded the motion, the chairman introduced the lecturer, who did justice to the interesting subjects mentioned. The death of Mrs. Gilligan occurred at Ganway road, Loughrea, on April 11, aged 84 years. Deceased was mother of the late Mrs. Barrett, and mother-in-law of Mr. N. Barrett, deceased, who took an active part in the Land League movement.

The death of Mr. James Flynn, Dunkellin street, Loughrea, father of Mr. W. Flynn, Galway, and Mrs. O'Loughlin, Main street, Loughrea, occurred April 18 at the ripe old age of 93 years. Deceased was one of the oldest citizens in Loughrea, and was builder of the handsome apse in the Abbey Church. The interment took place in the Abbey cemetery. Many of deceased's friends and acquaintances following the remains to their last resting place. Rev. Father Nolan, assisted by the Rev. Father O'Donovan, assisted at the funeral services in the cemetery.

LEITRIM.

Mr. J. Keane presided at last meeting of the Father John Murphy '98 Club in Dargoon, when Mr. P. O'Hara proposed, and Mr. John Keane seconded, "That we, of Father John Murphy's '98 Club will not relax our exertions till the object for which he died has been achieved." Mr. H. Ferguson sang "Who Fears to Speak of '98?" and "God Save Ireland." The '98 Centenary Record was read by the secretary, P. Harte, who was highly complimented.

MAYO.

The funeral of Dr. Gallagher, Crossmolina, took place on Monday, April 18, after high mass in Parish Church. The death of Mr. Hugh Gallagher, Ballina, occurred on April 14, to the great regret of the people in the town and in the country districts. The firm which he represented has been in business over 130 years.

ROSCOMMON.

Roscommon Herald of April 23 said in its Tusk notes: "The number of young people emigrating is more than at any time for years. Among the many who left are two of our Tusk football team—James Tieran and Michael Devane—who, indeed, were the heart and soul of the club, and who will be long missed and remembered by the comrades they have left behind."

On April 21 the result of the voting as to whether Roscommon or Castlereagh should have the shows of the County Roscommon Agricultural Society permanently or otherwise—whether they should be held alternately in both towns. Altogether eighty voting papers were received. The scrutineers were M. Flanagan and O. White. Result: Castlereagh permanently, 61; Roscommon permanently, 0; alternately in Castlereagh and Roscommon, 7. There were ten spoiled votes for Castlereagh, and two for alternately.

A man named Fetherston, aged 70 years, of Cloonhard, near Castlereagh, was found dead in a bog near home, April 16.

SLIGO.

A meeting was held in Clifony, April 12, to establish a '98 Centenary club. The meeting was organized by Mr. Henry Brennan. Large contingents came from Clifony, Kinlough, Tullaghan, Ballinrillock, Glanade, Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Grange, Sligo, etc., bearing banners and accompanied by bands. A neat platform had been erected on an old Danish doon called Crevyvora Fort, in a field of Mr. Brennan's. A procession was formed and marched, headed by the Clifony and Kinlough bands, to the place of meeting. On the motion of Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr.

McSharry, the chair was taken by Mr. H. Brennan. The chairman said the object of the club was non-factional and to celebrate the memory of the dead, and meet their exiled brethren as a united nation. Resolutions were adopted pledging the meeting to aid in celebrating the centenary of '98; declaring for affiliation with the Dublin Executive; asking for union of the '98 Centenary committee and the United Irishmen Centennial association. Mr. Joseph McGovern, Lacoan, Glenties, died in Glasgow St. Patrick's farm, aged 22 years. His remains were conveyed to his parent's home, and from there were interred, as he requested, in his native place, where, as he stated, "you can all come and pray for me." His death was caused by contracting a cold while attending a morning mission in Glasgow.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The impressive ceremony of the reception of four young ladies as members of the community took place at St. Brigid's Convent, Tullow. Most Rev. Dr. Foley, bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, performed the ceremony of giving the white veil. Four of the young lady boarders attired in white—the Misses Nolan (Tullow), and the Misses Murphy (Cork)—attended on the newly received, while another, also dressed in white—Miss Kenny (Tullow)—bore the professional cross. This report omits the names of the young ladies who became members of the order.

On May 1 the ceremony of blessing Rathville cemetery will be performed by Most Rev. Dr. Foley. With the large and expensive improvements and alterations recently effected, with the grounds tastefully laid out and planted with evergreen shrubs, etc., the little "God's Acre," which will be scene of these religious celebrations will present a very beautiful appearance. It may be remarked that the cemetery is situated in "Patrick's Well," a townland that takes its name from an historic well where tradition has it that St. Patrick, in the course of his Apostolic mission (A. D. 450), baptized the Christian king of Hy-Kisselagh, his wife Mel, and their infant son Dathl.

DUBLIN.

The National bank has subscribed \$500 to the fund for the relief of the suffering people on west and south portions of the Irish coast, who are dying of hunger through their being misgoverned by the British Parliament.

The Mansion house fund in Dublin for the relief of the hunger-stricken people along the western seaboard of Ireland last week, reached \$20,000, and subscriptions were being received in great numbers.

The death of Rev. Thomas Kelly, S. J., of Dublin, occurred April 20, and caused deep and widespread regret. He was born in Dublin in 1829, and began his studies in the day school of the Jesuit order, Hardwicke street, subsequently going to Belvedere and Clongowes. At the age of 17 he entered the order. The scenes of his sacred ministry were many, and included Dole, Avignon, Jullabeg, Maynooth, Limerick and Rome. Being of rare ability as a scholar, a good priest and a thorough Irishman, his death is deeply deplored.

Recent deaths.—Gilligan—April 16, at 58 Florida place, N. C. road, Mary Gilligan, of Terenure. Healy—April 17, at 16 Botanic road, Glasnevin, Mrs. Elizabeth Healy. Ivory—April 18, at Woodbine, Bray, William Ivory, late of Delgany, aged 35 years. McDermott—At 33 Xavier avenue, North Strand, Joseph McDermott, M. J. L., late of Bray. Edgeworth—April 17, at 1 Dalymount terrace, Julia Edgeworth, widow of James Edgeworth, Keena, county Longford, and fourth daughter of the late Patrick McNally, Grange, Cappagh. Smith—April 17, at Cork street hospital, Patrick Christopher Smith of 3 Harty place and 12 Chelmsford road. Dolan—April 19, at 5 Royal Marine road, Kingstown, James Dolan, aged 75 years. Healy—April 19, at 28 Camden row, Mary Elizabeth Healy. Nicholson—April 13, at 28 Sandymount road, Medhoge, Joseph Nicholson, late manager of the National bank, Loughrea.

KILDARE.

Mrs. Treymayne, wife of Captain Treymayne, Naas, and daughter of Baron de Robeck, has become a convert to Catholicity, it is said.

KILKENNY.

The death of Dr. McCormack, J. P., Johnstown, lately, caused deep regret in and around the district where his

professional services were given unreservedly to the poor and needy.

Mr. Buggy of Kilkenny died recently. He was widely known and much esteemed by those who had business transactions with him.

KING'S.

In connection with the '98 Centenary, amateur theatrical performances were given in the Catholic Young Men's society's hall in Birr a few days ago. Mr. Jeremiah J. Fitzpatrick filled the role of Lanty O'Flaherty in the "The Rebel Chief, or the Boys of '98." In one of the fighting scenes a pistol missed fire and he lifted it to see what was amiss, when it exploded, tearing away the flesh and leaving the bone of the fingers bare.

William Shaughnessy, Edenderry, died April 12, aged 80 years, deeply regretted.

A young man named Byrne, Walshe Island, exhibited signs of violent religious mania, and has been placed in the insane asylum, Maryborough.

LONGFORD.

Mrs. Julia Edgeworth, late of Keena, who was a daughter of the late Patrick McNally, Grange, Cappagh, county Dublin, died at 1 Dalymount terrace, Dublin, April 17.

LOUTH.

Mr. George O'Hanlon Watters, 16 Clanbrassil street, Dundalk, died April 18, deeply regretted by his friends in Ireland, Australia and the United States. Interment was in St. Patrick's cemetery. Funeral numerously attended.

Cardinal Logue, on Sunday, April 17, laid the foundation stone of a new church in Tullyallen, quite close to the historic religious ruins of Mellifont. The cost of the building will be about \$30,000. The old structure was in a ruinous condition.

MEATH.

When Cardinal Logue, primate of Ireland, Sunday, April 17, had placed the foundation stone of the new church in Tullyallen, he gave benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the grand old ruins of the Cistercian monastery of Mellifont, wherein such a religious ceremony had not been performed during the past 350 years. Donogh McCorvill, or Carrol, Prince of Uriel, founded the monastery in 1412 for the Cistercian monks sent to Ireland by St. Bernard of Clairvaux. The Sacred Host was borne from Tullyallen, and on the long unused altar of the ruined church was placed once more for the veneration of the faithful children of Erin. The most profound emotion was displayed by all present on the historic occasion. When the monastery was confiscated there were 140 monks in the cloisters. A successful concert and variety entertainment was given in Rushwee chapel recently, for the purpose of raising funds to clear off a parochial debt.

QUEEN'S.

Mrs. Kate Farrell of Main street, Mountrath, died April 17, widely deplored. The funeral cortege to Rabeen was long and proved how esteemed the deceased was by her neighbors.

WESTMEATH.

The success which has followed the efforts of the Marist Brothers since this distinguished order was introduced in 1884 into the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise by the late venerated Dr. Woodlock, has resulted in the decision to start in Athlone a seminary with which will be associated a novitiate for aspirants. Contracts are about being entered into for the erection of large and commodious premises in the most central parts of the town adjacent to St. Mary's church.

John Leavy, Newdown, was killed last week by a train, near the town of Mullingar, at a place near O'Neill's bridge.

WEXFORD.

"Camptown Serenaders" gave a successful Christy minstrel entertainment in the Concert hall, Commonquay street, Wexford, lately.

The Bishop of Ferns has promoted Rev. Patrick O'Connor, Adm., Ennis-corthy, to the pastoral charge of Davidstown, in succession to the lamented Rev. James Keating.

WICKLOW.

On Sunday a deputation consisting of Messrs. Simmons and Rooney of the Central committee, Dublin, attended at Balinglass to form a branch of the '98 Centenary movement. A meeting was held in the Market square after second mass, when Mr. P. Byrne was moved to the chair. Mr. William Flinter proposed a resolution that a branch be formed in Balinglass. The motion was seconded by Mr. J. J. Heydon, and passed with acclamation.

Polly Walsh of Lackan, near Blessington, was evicted lately. She was permitted to remove her effects, consisting of three springing cows, a mare and yearling foal and a considerable quantity of hay, oats and potatoes.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

Martin and Michael Burke have been arrested on a charge of having shot at Michael Leyden, at Drimlaine; Leyden said he thought Martin was one of the men he saw running away. On such unsubstantial evidence as this the liberty of two men is taken away.

A meeting of the financial relations committee was held in Ennis lately, and was large and representative. Its chairman was Rt. Rev. Dr. McRedmond, Bishop of Killaloe, who has grasped the salient points of Ireland's case. A few minutes after 1 o'clock the lord bishop entered the court and took his seat on the bench in the Record court. Messrs. W. C. Reeves and Lord Mayo and Mr. Macnamara sat at his right.

CORK.

John Conroy, Cunoan lane, Fermoy, aged 17, died suddenly last week, from, it is supposed, smoking cigarettes excessively.

Mrs. Farrell of Frogmore house, an old and highly esteemed inhabitant of Youghal, and sister of the late Very Rev. Canon Mansfield, passed away on Easter Sunday.

Memories of the stirring times of the Plan of Campaign and the Coercion regime were awakened in the Mitchelstown district last week when Mr. William Herr, of Knocknagarry, passed to his reward. As a zealous and devoted lieutenant of John Mitchell, he rendered yeoman service in the agrarian movement, which caused the political world to "Remember Mitchelstown," and was an organizer of the midnight meeting at Knocknagarry, on Dec. 28, 1896, when William O'Brien, John O'Connor and Dr. Tanner opened the great campaign on the Mitchelstown estates, while mounted vedettes kept watch on the snow-bound roads on that wild winter's night for Captain Plunkett's police. In his own district of Killybeg established the Peter O'Neil Crowley National league, which rendered signal service to the Mitchelstown tenantry. The remains of the deceased were borne to their last resting place, followed by many of the "Old Guard," and the campaigners of '87, who will affectionately remember this devoted Nationalist, who acted a good man's part in the days of coercion, eviction and imprisonment.

Recent deaths in Cork.—Hartigan—At Gurrane, Daniel Hartigan, Sigeron—April 18, at 3 Clare street, Dublin, Hester, wife of George Sigeron, M. D. Foley—On April 16, at No. 1 Bandon road, Bridget Foley. Conroy—On April 15, Bryan Conroy, foreman at Flynn & Co., 66 George's street. Daly—At No. 1 Hill View place, St. Luke's, Mary Daly, aged 24 years. Attwood—Feb. 10, Mrs. Catherine Teresa De Lyons, Attwood, aged 64. Murphy—On April 17, at Victoria Cross, Michael Murphy, O'Hea—On April 18, at Lislesore, Ballyroe, John O'Hea, aged 84. O'Meara—On April 16, at 12 Rockboro' road, Cork, Kate, late Maurice O'Meara. Pascal—On April 19, at the Capuchin convent, Charlotte Quay, Rev. Father Pascal (Stapleton). Donovan—On April 18, at Pluckanes, Donoughmore, Hannah Donovan. Kearney—On April 18, Ellen Kearney, Burin. Howe—At 1 York street, Blackpool, Elsie Howe. O'Hea—On April 18, at Lissicremen, Barryroe, John O'Hea, aged 84.

Mr. Thomas Fuller, chairman of the Dunmanway Board of Guardians, died suddenly lately at his temporary residence, Grand Parade, Cork. The people throughout West Cork deeply deplore the loss of so good and useful a member of society.

The '98 Centenary demonstration in Mallow, Sunday, April 17, was a most successful business. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

KERRY.

A dance was being held on the public road, about a quarter of a mile from Kenmare, one day last week, and was attended by boys and girls. One of the dancers, named Nora Shea, was knocked down and trampled by a horse ridden by Eugene Cronin, and received injuries to her head and body that places her life in danger. Cronin was arrested. Both belong to respectable families and the accident is greatly regretted.

Miss Murphy of Mill street, county Cork, was lately professed in the

Order of Presentation Nuns in the convent, Killarney, taking the religious title of Sister Mary Gabriel Joseph.

LIMERICK.

It was expected on Mr. Stamer O'Grady, Dublin, succeeding to the estates of the late surgeon E. S. O'Grady, that he would restore the evicted tenants at Ballybehy, Abbeyfeale. All hopes of a settlement were abandoned when graziers were taken as usual on the evicted farms a few days ago. On Sunday people went on the evicted farms and drove the graziers off in all directions over the country, causing the wildest excitement. With the exception of those on the O'Grady estate, all the evicted tenants of Abbeyfeale parish have been reinstated, through the efforts of Rev. Father Casey, J. P.

The annual general meeting of the Ballingarry Clan-na-Gael hurling club was held on Sunday in Bardsfield literary society. Mr. Thomas Riedy read the annual report and statement of accounts, which showed the club to be in a flourishing condition. The election of officers by ballot resulted thus: John McCormack, captain; James Bourke, vice-captain; Thomas Riedy, secretary, and John Bourke, treasurer.

On Sunday a meeting of Lord Edward branch, '98 Centenary association, was held in Kilmallock. Mr. J. O'Donnell, chairman, presided.

TIPPERARY.

Rev. Father Kavanagh, author of the "History of the Rebellion of '98," lectured on that interesting subject in the Hall of Thurles college recently. Of course there is no need to mention how eloquently the subject was handled by one who understands it so thoroughly as the reverend author does. The discourse was under the auspices of the Thurles '98 club. The Rev. Father Dwyer, Adm., Thurles, presided, and there was a large and representative attendance. The other priests present included: Canon Arthur Ryan, Rev. Father Bannon, Rev. Father Hickey and Rev. Father Conery.

Misses Considine, daughters of Mr. Considine, Clogheen, head and assistant teachers at the senior girls' school, Great Grimsby, England, were recently presented with a handsome wash stand, ladies' companion, writing case, etc., by their pupils as an expression of esteem and respect.

WATERFORD.

On May 8 a mission will be commenced in Lismore parish and continue for three weeks. The priests of the parish are Fathers Spratt and Casey.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Sheehan, bishop of Waterford and Lismore, left on April 13 for Rome, accompanied by Very Rev. T. McGrath, Caerick on Sulr. They will be absent five weeks.

The Sydney Freeman's Journal of Feb. 26 reported a very interesting function at Uralla, when Father J. J. O'Neill was presented with an address and handsome gifts on his promotion to Tamworth. Dean O'Connor, in making the presentation, said when ten years ago he visited the great St. John's college, Waterford, he first met Father O'Neill, and in due course the young priest followed him to that Australian diocese. Father O'Neill replied in language appropriate to the function.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

John Winter, employed in the Braughauld mine, Ballycastle, was killed by a ponderous piece of rock while at work.

Mrs. Ling, well known in musical circles in Belfast, died recently.

ARMAGH.

Mr. John Dillon presided at the recent annual reunion of the natives of Armagh who reside in the west of Scotland and Glasgow.

CAVAN.

Seven thousand persons attended a great demonstration in Shercock in commemoration of the '98 rebellion. Many resolutions were adopted, among them being one demanding the release of the political prisoners.

DONEGAL.

Rt. Rev. Patrick O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, Litterkenny, Donegal, recently visited the Lower Rosses and confirmed 5,000 children, also a great many children on the Island of Arranmore. At Burtonport he laid the foundation of a new church, of which the pastor is Rev. Mgr. Walker.

DOWN.

The church of Loughbrickland was the scene of an interesting event on Easter Sunday. The occasion was the opening of an organ procured by the people.

FERMANAGH.

The Orangemen in Fermanagh are not a bit frightened at their prospects under the Local Government bill. Rev. Mr. Hanna, presiding at an L. O. L. social the other evening, pointed out that the church dis-establishment which was feared at the time as a terrible evil, worked out for good.

TYRONE.

During the entire day, Monday, April 11, Stewartstown was in a state of turmoil, by the aggressive action of the Orangemen, who anticipated that the entire national body in the monster demonstration at Mullaghmoyle would parade the town.

A CONVERT'S ENTHUSIASM.

Why he Will be Faithful to the Church of His Choice.

The Missionary says: In view of the common opinion of Protestants, that one of their number who becomes a Catholic does so under a delusion which in a few weeks or months will pass away, and that, especially, the contact with the Catholic Church and its people will do most of all to dispel his ideal but misplaced hopes, the following extract from a letter of a convert of two years to a Protestant friend—in response to a query, if he and his wife still found happiness in his new faith—may be interesting to those who linger at the door of the Church, hesitating to enter:

"One question you ask in your letter makes me wish for an angel's tongue to tell you how much we love our new faith, as you call it—new to us, but, as you know, the oldest of Christian faiths, the only steadfast one; new only when the Cross was new, but old as the Coliseum in which its martyrs died—when the darkened counsels of the Reformation shriveled the modern world, confused the souls of men, destroyed the unity of faith and, as it appears to-day, all faith itself. To say that we love the Catholic Church is to say only a part truth; for while the love is constantly growing and consuming all other loves, it only feebly contains the passion which the heart of God, revealed in His Church, excites the soul to express. We say we love the Church, but at the same time we feel a sense of shame to think that our love is not greater when we see the magnitude of the love of God which the Church is able to hold before the wondering eyes. If the soul should once give way to the intense attractions of a religious life as portrayed by the saints of the Church, it might be necessary to enter a religious order to realize it; but there is set before the soul such visions of union with God, and foretastes of heaven as make the best enjoyments of earth seem like a fading spark. Only the Catholic faith has cleared the air of my daily life so that I can see the true relation of things temporal and eternal. Only the Catholic faith has given me a knowledge of God which harmonizes both my reason and my heart. Only the Catholic faith can absorb the soul with divine delight, while it leaves it free to enjoy the innocent pleasure of the world in calmness and repose. Only the Catholic faith presents God and heaven so as to fascinate the eye of the soul—to increase the longing for detachment from earthly affections in order to foster the ever-growing love for the occupations of heaven. Heaven is no longer a vague place—a spiritual condition—but peopled with angels and saints that are our friends. They watch you day by day and work and pray to help you win your battle for salvation. The devout Catholic moves along the highway of life as a crowded thoroughfare; his companions are saints, his comrades are angels who aid his every stroke to win the prize of heaven. My pen could run without ceasing on this subject, yet when all was finished it would be using only a black crayon to paint a many-hued sunset. Who could describe the soul's delight in the Holy Eucharist? Saints have exerted their impassioned ardor to compass it; but as God is infinite, so is the joy of the Holy Eucharist infinite. And so I can say, if the soul gained alone this Bread of Angels in embracing the Catholic faith, it would out-measure every sacrifice that was made and reduce them to nothing.

"The Catholic faith is an ocean of refreshment. As stars fill the darkened heavens with light, so this shadowed life of sin is filled with heavenly light in the ministrations of the Catholic Church. Its altars are shrines of ecstasy, its sacramental festivals of sweetness, its services exalt the heart above the earth and refresh it with the breath of heaven. The whole world of the Catholic religion is a world of delight, and I can say that our happiness ever increases and will ever increase until, as we hope, it shall lose itself in the sight of Him whom now we see by faith as through a glass darkly, but then face to face."

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