

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.

Great quantities of the beautiful green marble of Connemara are being shipped to Glasgow, Scotland some asst for shipment thence to the United States.

Mr. Lawrence Conroy of Ballinasloe Guardians, has been appointed town magistrate, which for thirty years was held by the late F. A. Harpur. He is a thorough Nationalist.

Mrs. Dunne of Bishop street, Tuam, died lately, after a short illness, deeply regretted. Interment was in Templemoyle, and on the way, at Abbeyknockmoy and Monivea, the cortege was increased by great numbers.

Among those recently called to their reward were the following well-known and esteemed residents of Galway: Mrs. Stephen Kelly, Shop street, Galway, interment in Bushpark; Mrs. P. Kearns, Abbeygate, and Mrs. Timothy Dempsey, clerk in Galway Distillery, interment in Cranaghwell cemetery.

On May 2 took place at the convent of Mercy, Dundalk, the ceremony of profession. Cardinal Logue officiated, assisted by the Rev. B. Donnellan, Adm., and Rev. Peter Flanagan, Dundalk. The young ladies professed were Miss Della Corless, in religion Sister Mary Ethna, daughter of Mr. Martin Corless, Kinvra, and niece of Mr. Thomas Corless, The Burlington, Dublin, and Miss Katie Flatley, in religion Sister Mary Lucy, daughter of Mr. William Flatley, Kinvra.

MAYO.

On Sunday, May 8, a great demonstration of the members of the United Irish League was held in Islandeady. The place is located between Castlebar and Westport. Inspiring speeches were delivered by Father William O'Connell, pastor, and William O'Brien.

With sincere regret we record the death of Miss Mary Ellen Coniffe, of Swinford, which occurred at the residence of her father, Mr. Walter Coniffe, of Swinford, on Swinford, on April 20, at the early age of 29 years.

On Sunday a representative meeting of the Nationalists of Killawala was held in the schoolroom for the purpose of forming a '98 club in the parish. Rev. Father Ford presided.

ROSCOMMON.

Rev. T. H. Commins, Roscommon, is collecting for the new church in Roscommon.

On April 25 passed away Mr. M. J. Thomas of Kiltoboe House, Loughglynn, at the age of 81. During his minority the great apostle of temperance was invited by him to Loughglynn and entertained. From the doorstep the thunder of Father Mathew's voice awoke the echoes, inspiring his audience with the best of all good resolutions—temperance. Again in 1882 the house and grounds were opened to the tenant farmers of Loughglynn to establish a branch of the National League. Bitterly opposed to violence from any side, and in any form, still he felt the evils that vitiated the lifeblood of the struggling people in whose midst he lived and died. In 1894 his doors were once more opened, for his fellow men, the evicted tenants of Loughglynn, were sheltered. Mr. M. J. Thomas was eldest and only surviving child of Henry P. Thomas, who took from the historic town of Castlebar his beautiful young bride to his Roscommon home, Catherine O'Connell, the lineal descendant of Rodanok O'Connell.

The tenants of the Boyle and Rookingham estates on the northern portion of the property waited on Major Murphy on Wednesday, May 4, and demanded a reduction of 30 per cent. They were directed to draw up a memorial to be presented to Judge Ross. The tenants are anxious to purchase their holdings.

SLIGO.

A meeting of the Ballyrush Branch of the Irish National Federation was held on Sunday, Mr. Michael Galvin, president, in the chair.

Died—April 24, at Carnay, James Roughton, surveyor, aged 70 years. April 25, at St. Vincent's hospital, Dublin, Elizabeth C. Keane, dearly beloved wife of Thomas F. Keane, William street, Sligo. April 30, at Ballyvaughan, Coltony, Timothy Kelly, aged 37, at Jarvis. April 27, at Jarvis. April 27, at Jarvis. April 27, at Jarvis. April 27, at Jarvis.

son of Patrick Hart, Collooney. April 30, Michael Quinn, Cloonacurrow, aged 79 years.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, lately made these changes in the diocese: Rev. T. Byrne, C. C., from Clonsilla to Hackestown; Rev. P. Campbell, C. C., from Hackestown to Stradbally; Rev. J. Dunne, C. C., from Kill to Clonsilla; Rev. J. Fogarty to Kill.

The quarterly meeting of Carlow National Teachers' association was held in Graigue national school. Present: P. Brennan, chairman; T. Lillis, D. Fenlon, R. Crotty, J. Kennedy, T. Nolan, J. Hennessy, J. O'Reilly, J. McMahon, and Misses Delaney and Deviney. The business was of a routine character.

DUBLIN.

The book prizes for Irish were recently awarded to pupils in St. Gabriel's National school, Aughrim street, Dublin. First prize, Michael Smallborne; second, Joseph Phelan; third, Joseph McKenna.

Recent deaths in Dublin.—Carolan—April 30, at 50 Dunnybrook road, Mary Carolan. Dunne—April 30, at 65 Walling street, Jane Dunne. Eustace—May 1, at 80 Townsend street, George Eustace. Travers—April 28, at No. 2 Frankfort terrace, Rathgar avenue, Rathgar, Anne Travers, aged 85 years. Miller—April 30, at 8 Lower Buckingham street, Mr. John Miller.

KILDARE.

The action of some of the Catholic and Protestant pupils of the Christian Brothers, Naas, in connection with the funeral of Mr. John Geoghegan, Clare, was thoughtful, and had, too, a touch of pathos in it. They attended the funeral and placed over the grave of the deceased—who is the father of one of their school fellows—a handsome and costly wreath, bearing the following inscription: "With deepest sympathy from James' companions, as a mark of respect to the memory of his dear father. R. I. P."

The death of Mr. Patrick Byrne, Kilmurphy, lately, was deeply and widely regretted. Grief was all the more poignant as his demise came so soon after those of his brothers, Rev. Daniel Byrne, P. P., Carlow-Graigue, and Mr. Thomas Byrne. Deceased was in Athy Tuesday previous to death.

The funeral of Mr. James Brennan, Barrow house, Athy, whose death occurred on Saturday, took place on Monday. At the high mass the Rev. P. Rowan was celebrant.

KILKENNY.

Ex-Head Constable Twiss died suddenly in Kilkenny recently.

Mr. Michael Tierney of Ballyhale died at the patriarchal age of 112 years. Mr. Tierney was in very good health up to a short time previous to his death.

The parishioners of Moonoola are to be congratulated on having as pastor Rev. Patrick Phelan, whose zeal for the spiritual and temporal welfare of his people is indefatigable. Let us hope he may be spared long to carry on the many good works now existing in the extensive district. The parish has given many distinguished priests to the Church, and many nuns to the religious orders, who are now in distant lands performing diligently their Master's business.

We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Matthew Hove of Ballycullen, Mullhamone. Deceased had reached the fine old age of 98 years and was a general favorite among all classes, and he was the oldest member of one of the best known and most popular families. He was of a most intelligent and genial disposition, and took a prominent part in all political and local public matters up to the last. Requiem office and high mass were celebrated for the repose of his soul at the parish church, Mullinahone.

KING'S.

At Annagh, Lorrha, died Mary Bourke, who had reached the extraordinary age of 103 years. She was the mother of four sons and one daughter. All her sons are long dead. The eldest was a soldier who was at the battle of Inkermann, and the only remembrance of him the poor old woman had was a lock of his hair sent to her by a comrade of his who escaped. Her daughter is still living, and is a grandmother. Up to 12 months ago she could walk with the aid of a stick, but since she was confined to the bed. She possessed her memory up to the day of her death. On Monday she was interred in Lorrha graveyard. She gave her son to fight England's battle, and he gave his life to

sustain England's glory and prestige on the battlefield, but mighty little did England care about either. This is the story of hundreds of thousands of Irish mothers and sons of Irish mothers. Mothers' hearts were broken, and the sons fought, bled and died for England, while the same England was brutally treating the Irish people. Thank God, a change has come, and few Irishmen now are in the army and navy of England; consequently her military glory is fading, and will soon be, as Balfour said of the Land League, "a thing of the past."

LONGFORD.

Mrs. Edgeworth of Edgeworthstown, who was lately elected a member of the Granard Board of Guardians, has already made her presence there felt for good in many ways. Affairs which men do not consider of great moment are to the keen eyes of a woman of the utmost importance in the running of institutions like Granard Union.

LOUTH.

Cardinal Logue officiated at the profession in the convent of Mercy, Duundalk, lately of Miss Della Corless, in religion Sister Mary Ethna, daughter of Mr. Martin Corless, Kinvra, and niece of Mr. Thomas Corless, the Burlington, Dublin; also Miss Kate Flatley, in religion Sister Mary Lucy, daughter of Mr. William Flatley, Kinvra.

MEATH.

Rev. Dr. Nulty, the venerable and revered Bishop of Meath, is now on his visitation of the diocese. He has been at Nobber and Kilbeg, and will continue during the next few weeks, including Moynalty, Carnaross, Athboy, Trim, Kilmegad, etc.

Father Casey, Kells, who was seriously injured by an accident a short time ago, continues to improve.

The premises in Main street, Maryborough, occupied by late Mr. O'Brien, victualler, were sold a few days ago for £475 to J. Tynan, the Heath.

A mission, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers, has been opened in the parish of Bohernmen. The mission will be continued for two weeks, and the zealous pastor of the parish, Father O'Reilly, hopes that his people will avail to the full of the spiritual blessings which may be obtained through attending the exercises.

QUEEN'S.

Rev. Sir Algernon Coote had Patrick and James Grehan, Michael Hayes and James Corcoran prosecuted for hunting game on Ballyfin mountain. The cases were tried at last Petty Sessions in Mountrath, and the magistrate acquitted the accused. However, three civil suits will be heard at coming Quarter Sessions for damages against the reverend landlord for the value of two greyhounds of the accused which were shot by his gamekeepers on that occasion. The lands off which these men were put were robbed from the Irish people in the early part of the seventeenth century by the original Coote.

WEXFORD.

A fortnight's retreat commenced in New Ross on Sunday, May 8, by two members of the Society of Jesus—Rev. Father Pottrell and Rev. Father Daly. It is a remarkable fact that the Jesuit Fathers have not given a mission or retreat in New Ross for the past half century. In 1848 six of the Fathers gave a most fruitful mission there. The people of New Ross are remarkable for the earnestness and piety displayed by them on such occasions.

A committee meeting of the Oulart Hill branch of the '98 Centenary association was held at Ballaghweene last week, Rev. P. Kenny, P. P., presiding. The treasurer said the amount already raised for the Memorial fund was over £40, and the committee expressed themselves pleased with the people of Oulart and Ballagh.

Died—At Sigginstown, Taumshane, on April 20, Mary Cassidy, aged 76 years.

WICKLOW.

The Nationalists of the county are making arrangements to celebrate the centenary of the heroic attempt of the gallant men of Wexford and Wicklow to shake off the galling yoke of England. It is feared that the American feature of the ceremonial will be missing because of the war with Spain.

Mr. P. J. Dardis, Longford, died recently at the patriarchal age of 111 years. The deceased was possessed of all his faculties up to the day of his death.

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

When the United States battleship Maine was blown up in Havana harbor, Cuba, Feb. 15, Martin Tuohy of Kildyest, who was on her, perished. At one time he was a member of the local temperance band.

This item was taken from a recent issue of a Limerick paper, and it proves what little margin of liberty Irish Ireland. It did not happen in Cuba under Spanish rule; if it had, the English papers would have yelled about Spanish tyranny until the world would know all about it; but as it occurred in Ireland and under Christian and freedom loving Great Britain, then all right. Here it is: "On Sunday last a large meeting representative of all classes in Clare was held at Clare Castle, under the chairmanship of Mr. William Cotter, chairman of the Board of Guardians, to protest against the eviction, under the harsh nature of Mr. James Lynch, P. L. G. Shortly after the meeting had concluded, and the people were dispersed to their respective homes, an occurrence so extraordinary as it was uncalculated for took place. Four respectable farmers, named John Margan, Doon, Michael Nihil, John Garvey, Patrick Haffernan, and a well known Poor Law Guardian, were going toward their homes, and when about midway on the road between Clare Castle and Dora they met two police constables who, without giving them the slightest explanation, stopped them and there and then proceeded to search them. The men, of course, resented this conduct, but all to no avail. The police continued to search pocket after pocket of the men's clothes and even their boots, but found nothing of an incriminating nature, and they were compelled to allow them to go on their journey. During the progress of the search large crowds of people who were walking along the road came up and gazed in wonder at the rather unique sight, thus inflicting the men to further indignity. The action of the police is universally condemned, and the parties in tend to take further steps in the matter."

A branch of the '98 Centenary association was founded in Crusheen, May 8, through the exertions of Father O'Mara.

CORK.

A conference of the priests of the Middleton Deanery was held at Middleton, May 2, in the new church of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Miss Eliza McAuliffe, daughter of Mr. John McAuliffe, Newtown, Shanrum, was lately professed in the Presentation convent, Clarence street, Cork. Right Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan officiated.

First Sunday in May a procession in honor of the Blessed Virgin was held in St. Finbar's West, and wended its way around the Lough. Heading it were children wearing white veils, and bearing bannerettes. These were followed by the children from St. Mary's of the Isle, then came the band of the Greenmount Industrial school playing sacred music. Very Rev. Canon Fleming had charge of this portion of the procession. The Women's Confraternity wore next in order, each member wearing the Confraternity medal and bannerettes being carried. Rev. Father Mintern, P. C. Callahan, James O'Leary and John Sullivan were the marshals of this section, following which were the members of the Male Confraternity, 800 strong, with banners. Rev. Father O'Leary being in charge, and marshaled by Messrs. Callahan, Scully and Lintan. At the rear of the procession marched four acolytes, carrying on a platform a statue of the Blessed Virgin, and immediately after walked the Rev. Father Nolan, bearing the Most Blessed Sacrament. Having arrived at the south side, the Blessed Sacrament was deposited on a temporary altar, hymns sung and benediction given by Rev. Father Nolan. The ceremony was singularly impressive. At this point all present kneeling and fervently joining in the prayer. After which the march was resumed, the processionalists separating at the church.

KERRY.

Luke O'Connor of Broens died on April 20, aged 29 years, widely and deeply regretted.

After a stay of scarcely seventeen months in Caberiveen, the Rev. W. J. Byrne, C. C., has been transferred to Listowel, carrying with him the best wishes of the people with whom he has just parted. He is succeeded by the Rev. Denis Brosnan.

William Burke of Spa Road, Tralee, died recently at the patriarchal age of 111 years. The deceased was possessed of all his faculties up to the day of his death.

WILL MR. ASTOR WIN?

An Interesting Question Raised by His Latest Surprising Bet.

William Waldorf Astor recently made a remarkable bet. The scene was the dining room of his London residence, and Mr. Astor had made several statements about the magnitude of California redwood trees. Several of his guests were not backward in remarking that such dimensions as mentioned by their host were most assuredly worthy of doubt so far as trees were concerned. Mr. Astor then, to prove his assertions regarding the forest giants, offered to wager that he could secure from the cross section slice of a California redwood tree a dining table large enough to seat and accommodate all of the twenty guests who were then assembled before him. The wager was accepted and the order for a perfect cut of one of the biggest trees was immediately cabled to America.

The tree was finally selected in California, and when hewn, barked and sawed up a cut from near the base was selected for shipment to London to test out Mr. Astor's statements. The huge piece of timber was sawed about three feet thick. It has a diameter of fourteen feet four inches. There is not the slightest blemish on the big timber, and if transported to London without accident it will surely amaze the English.

The Ononda Indians.

It is now about seventy-three years since the Ononda Indians settled in Wisconsin. They emigrated from the Mohawk Valley, New York. Their reservation is located in Brown and Outagamie Counties, forty-eight miles southwest of the agency, and two miles west of Green Bay. The reserve contains, by actual survey, sixty-five thousand, five hundred and forty acres. The Indians on this reservation are as far advanced in learning and civilization as the average white people of Wisconsin. They live in log, frame and brick houses, and obtain their living almost entirely by farming. They are now and always have been self-supporting. Their well-cultivated fields are evidence of industry and perseverance and self-reliance. There are two churches on the reservation—the Episcopal and Methodist. The membership in each is very large, and the moral standing of the members will compare favorably with that of their white brethren. The Episcopal church is a fine stone structure (120x60) and would do credit to the cities of Minneapolis and Milwaukee. All of the five day-schools are well attended, and the supervision of Professor Charles F. Pierce, is generally crowded to its utmost capacity. Besides the accommodations provided on the reservation, a great many go away from home to Carleton, Pa., Haskell, Kan. and other schools, showing a willingness to educate and keep in the front rank on the onward march of civilization.

Variations in the Race.

We continually hear of the Israelitish race. It is spoken of as the most homogeneous of races, and the most refractory. But it is strongly diverse. Anthropologists are accustomed to divide it into two parts well distinguished—the dolichocephalic and the brachycephalic. To the first type belong the Sepharimim Jews, the Spanish and Portuguese Jews, even the larger part of the Jews of Italy and Southern France. To the second belong the Ashkenazim Jews, that is to say, the Polish Russian and German Jews. In Africa Jews fled agricultural and nomadic Jews allied to the Kabyles and to the Harbers near Sett, from Queina and Biskra to the frontiers of Morocco. They travel in caravans to Timbuctoo, and some of their tribes the confines of the Sahara are black, as for instance the Daggatomis, as are also the Falachas Jews of Abyssinia. In India white Jews are found in Bombay, and black Jews in Cochim. As to the Jews in China, they are not only allied to the Chinese who surround them, but they have even adopted their customs and the religion of Confucius. It is well known that in Italy they speak Italian, as in France they speak French and in Germany German. A language is learned and spoken by two people which have no other point of contact.—The Month.

Bank Notes.

Curiously enough, the United States Government has its banknotes printed on a paper made by a private firm, the pulp being a mixture of linen, cotton, and silk, the silk threads coming into prominence after passing through the printing machine. There are some nine kinds of Bank of England notes, all of them printed on somewhat similar paper, but they are now always in two or three colors in Scotland. French notes are of paper that has hair in its pulp, the hairs coming out so strongly when photographed as to render any attempt at forgery of that line impossible. While some nations use colored inks, the only ink used by the United States is black, characterized as a wonderfully hard and dry preparation, and said to be manufactured in a special manner from naphtha smoke.

Betsy Ross.

Just now it is well to remember that the first flag bearing the stars and stripes was made in Philadelphia by Mistress Betsy Ross. All times of year people make pilgrimages to the grave of Betsy Ross, but just now there is additional interest. A new flag is raised every Decoration Day in honor of this woman, and at the entrance to the cemetery one of the oftentimes asked questions is, "Where shall I find the grave of Betsy Ross?" Ross is not the name on the stone; she married later a man of the name of Claypoie. Her home is still standing in the heart of Philadelphia.

HOW DISEASES SPREAD.

"Catching" Diseases of Plants Are Due to Parasites—Flowers May Be Protected.

A lecture on the spread of parasitic diseases among plants was delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, by Dr. Erwin F. Smith, of the United States Department of Agriculture. In substance his remarks were: "I shall for the most part neglect the well-known dissemination of parasites by wind and water, and deal chiefly with the methods which are to a larger extent within our control. Farmers, fruit growers, florists, and market gardeners are not frequently responsible for the spread of diseases. There are now so many who grow crops for market, and the competition is so close and the profits so small, that even the most experienced must stop every leak in his expenses. Therefore the avoidance of parasitic diseases is most important.

Most diseases which prevail extensively and are known as "catching" diseases are due to parasites. These plant parasites are plants or animals which have in some way lodged on or gained an entrance into the "host-plant" and there multiply to its detriment. Many of these organisms are exceedingly small, so as to be overlooked, and are well provided with means of reproduction. We speak of saprophytic and parasitic, the former being fungi which derive their nourishment from dead and decaying substances, and the latter nourished at the expense of other living organisms. The most of this address will be devoted to showing how certain parasites succeed in getting from one plant to another. It is commonly assumed that their reproductive bodies, floating through the air, lodge on the plants; but I am inclined to believe that often the chief danger to infection lies in other directions, for reason which I will now explain:

The gnawings, moths, and punctures of insects, though often injurious are by no means the whole of the injury which they do. Pear blight, it has been discovered that the germs of this disease were carried on the mouth parts of bees, which had visited blighted pear blossoms, that the bees passed from such flowers to healthy ones; and that subsequently the blight appeared on the latter. It was also shown that flowers covered with mosquito net remained free from blight, while the unprotected, insect-visited ones blighted freely. Apparently pear blight is disseminated only through the agency of insect visits. The organism exudes from the tree in the form of small sticky or gummy masses, and probably all the spring outbreaks of pear blight start from them as a result of insect visits, and not from the soil. Insect visitors of cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and squashes. This is due to a sticky white micro-organism which fills the water ducts of the plants and causes a sudden collapse of the plant. It is readily communicated by the striped cucumber beetle and by squash bugs. The insects carry the virulent sticky germs on their beaks and deposit them in the next plant bitten. Bacterial brown rot of the potato, tomato, and egg plant. The Department of Agriculture has recently published a bulletin on this subject. Insects feed on the diseased plants that are swarming with the parasite, and go to other plants which are bitten and subsequently become diseased. The disease may be known by the sudden wilt of the foliage, the stems becoming brown internally and shrivelling.

"When We Get Time."

How many of us resolve to do some particularly good or noble act "when we get time"? We rush on from day to day promising ourselves the fulfillment of honest intention, yet the time slips by and we never seem to find that opportunity for good that is always just a wee bit ahead of us in the future. "When I get time," says the young mother, "I will train Jamie to be more courteous." "When I get time," says the growing daughter, "I will relieve mother of some of her burdens." "When I get time," says the wife, "I will read and dream up devices to make myself more congenial to my husband." Also, so few of us find the time. Jamie goes on growing more and more unbearable every day, and when at last he has grown beyond the training limit, and his mother sorrowfully recognizes the fact that he is a boor whom nobody can tolerate, she wishes with all her heart that she had taken the time to mend his ways when the one moral stitch would have done more good than the nine taken when the hole in his manners was beyond repair.

The daughter hasn't the time to help her mother. She means well; she often grows as she sees the dear person working more and more feeble, but it is no use. The mother has exchanged time for eternity that she willizes, all she could have done if she had only taken a few minutes from the selfish routine of her own existence and applied them to lessening the labor in another's. So with the wife—she has n't the time to fix up, she hasn't the time to keep the husband naturally informed, and when he husband naturally wanders to fields more congenial she rebukes herself for not having stolen a few moments from her other home duties to give to the first and foremost exertions of her domestic life. We haven't the time to do so much that would not only benefit ourselves but others as well; yet we have the time to enter into fatten and more enterprises and schemes that, like boomerangs, return to injure us.

The American Beauty.

No one fond of flowers will begrudge the discoverer of that superb flower, "The American Beauty," the good fortune which followed his lucky find, for such it was. The man in charge of the small conservatory of the famous horticulturist, Barcroft, in Washington, has grown a cutting received from Germany, and Field, who then had charge of the White House conservatories, attracted by the size and coloring of the roses, purchased the bush for \$5, and at once began the sale of slips. In all, nearly \$5,000 was received for the cuttings, which commanded an enormous price at the time of the flower spread. This money was invested in real estate, which over ten years ago was worth \$50,000, and is now far more valuable.

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