

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.

At the weekly meeting of the Loughrea town commissioners, Mr. Thomas Smyth presiding, the following letter was read from the Rev. Father Nolan, dated from St. Joseph's the Abbey, Loughrea: "To the Chairman, Board of Commissioners—Gentlemen: I beg respectfully to submit to you that, in my opinion, it would be a desirable and suitable means of keeping fresh the memory of the men of '98, to have the names of the streets of this ancient town painted in Irish and in Irish characters on boards to be afterward fixed in conspicuous and suitable places throughout the town. I would also suggest that that one of the streets should be named after Peter Finnerty, a Loughrea man, who suffered pain, penalty and imprisonment in those evil days for love of Ireland. Peter Finnerty, according to John Philip Curran, was the only printer in Ireland who had the courage to speak for the people. Permit me to add that I have confidence enough in my fellow townsmen to lead me to believe that the above proposition shall not only be favorably received, but effectively carried out. I am, gentlemen, your faithful servant, Joseph Nolan, O. D. C."

Members of the Galway branch of the Irish league presented an address of welcome to Most Rev. Dr. Carr, archbishop of Melbourne.

We regret to announce the death of Dr. William McCormack, formerly of Spiddal, who died at 21 Upper Gardiner street. Dr. McCormack was only 28 years of age, and he had every prospect of a successful medical career. He was son of Mr. McCormack, J. P., Castlebar, and nephew of the Most Rev. Dr. McCormack, bishop of Galway.

LEITRIM.

John Dolan, chairman of the Manonahamilton board of Guardians has tendered his resignation of that office, to the great regret of all the members. The death of Miss Annie Butler, daughter of Michael Butler of Lisgarney, occurred recently at the age of 21 years. Father Burke officiated.

MAYO.

Extraordinary activity is being displayed in forming new branches of the United Irish League throughout Mayo. In Bangor Erris a meeting of 800 persons was addressed by John McHale, president of the league, and Mr. Hopkins, honorable secretary of the Townsharran branch. The chairman, Michael Murphy, said: "They must give the enemies of the people a touch of the old days of the Land League again." At Binghamstown an enthusiastic meeting was addressed by John O'Donnell and George Geoghegan of Binghamstown. A committee and officers were appointed and 150 cards of membership ordered. An important meeting was held in Claremorris for the purpose of establishing a branch of the league. Mr. Conor O'Kelly, a Nationalist of great local influence, presided.

At a meeting of the Ballina '98 Centenary Committee, held in the Ballina Town Hall on Sunday, the chairman, Mr. A. Muffney, announced that on the previous Friday a deputation waited on Rev. Dr. Conmy, Bishop of Killala, with a view to have High Mass and Requiem celebrated in the Cathedral during August for the repose of the souls of the dead martyrs of 1798. His Lordship expressed his willingness to comply.

ROSCOMMON.

The Bueenstown Customs Depot at the railway station was crowded with persons arrived from New York a few days ago. All were anxious to have their baggage examined as quickly as possible, so as to leave for their respective destinations. When all was complete, and the Custom House about to be locked, the officers saw a small boy seated at the end of the building. He was a bright-eyed lad of 9 years. He sat quite contented. He had some baggage near him, but clearly he was hardly able to care for himself. "Who are you waiting for, my boy?" asked one of the officers. "Uncle," was the reply. "And where is uncle?" "He is asked," "Don't know," the child answered. "When did you see him last?" "Never," was the reply. "And where did you come from?" "I brought some from California," and he pointed to his bag.

had traveled over sea and alone, from the other side of the American continent to Queenstown, where his uncle was to meet him, and while his simple history was being related the child's uncle appeared, and, with a sigh of heartfelt relief, clasped the lad to him, and he was nearly giving up finding him. By next train the lad and uncle were on their way to Roscommon.

Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin, has made the following changes: Rev. E. Hannan, C. C., from Newbridge to the Cathedral, Sligo; Rev. J. O'Keefe, C. C., from Ballygar to Newbridge; Rev. Father Belrne, newly ordained, to Ballygar; Rev. Father Carr, newly ordained, to Castleres; Rev. Father Power, newly ordained, to Elphin; Rev. Father Humphries, newly ordained, to Boyle; Rev. P. Filan, C. C., from St. John's to Crossna; Rev. M. Feely, C. C., from Tibohine to Derrane; Rev. Father Gallagher, C. C., from Boyle to Ballintubber.

SLIGO.

Members of the Tubbercurry Wolfe Tone '98 Club held a meeting last week, Mr. J. J. Lowry in the chair. Mr. Luke Armstrong proposed, and Mr. Weaver seconded the following resolution, which was unanimously passed: "Resolved, That every member of the club be eligible for election on the new committee." A nomination paper was also handed in by Mr. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Weaver, proposing every member of the club on the new committee.

Dr. McMunn of Ballymote died lately, aged 68 years. During thirty years he had been medical officer of the dispensary district.

Father O'Grady, Ballymote has been transferred to Bunninadden, to the regret of the people to whom he administered for some years.

At the early age of 18 years died Mr. John O'Connor of Whitegate, on July 21. Funeral to the Abbey, Ballymote, was numerously attended.

LEINSTER.

CARLOW.

Sunday being patron Sunday in St. Mullin's a remarkable demonstration in honor of the memory of the men of '98 was held. In the cemetery beside the green are buried many of those who fought and fell at the battle of Ross and other battlefields in Wexford and Carlow, and here is laid the remains of General Thomas Clancy, who at the age of 24 led the charge on the "Three Bullet Gate" at the battle of Ross. Part of the ceremonies consisted in visiting the graves containing the remains of those who fell for Ireland and reverentially joining with Rev. Father Norris, St. Mullin's, in reciting the de profundis. Fully 10,000 persons took part in the demonstration, while the New Ross and Graig bands played the "Dead March in Saul." After the prayers were recited a pike was planted at the head of each patriot martyr and a recital of the battles in which he took part. The grave of Bryan Na-Stroake was similarly visited, the shield planted at the head of the grave bearing the following inscription: "Bryan Na-Stroake, who had sabre cut in single combat a champion of King William's army at Aughrim, 12th July, 1691. R. I. P." At the conclusion of the religious portion of the celebration the assembly was addressed by Father Norris, and subsequently an able paper was read by Patrick O'Leary, Graig.

The ceremonies of Quarant '98 commenced on the Feast of the Purity of the Mother of God, and terminated on Tuesday in the parish church of St. Flac, Carlow-Graigue. Most Rev. Dr. Foley, bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, presided.

Sunday, July 24, a great demonstration in commemoration of the Battle of Carlow and the death of six hundred of the insurgents in May, 1798, took place in Carlow. The demonstration was held at the "Cropp's Grave," Carlow Graigue, just outside the town. Here the six hundred insurgents were buried in one great hole in the ground. Quite recently the patriotic people set to the work of giving the burial place of the '98 heroes a respectable appearance, and the space was inclosed by a fine granite wall and handsome wrought iron railings. The neglected grave of the insurgents was converted into a beautiful cemetery. The work was completed when the Rev. Father Byrne, the patriotic pastor of Carlow Graigue, in the presence of thousands, unveiled a splendid Celtic cross erected to commemorate the fate of the Carlow insurgents. On the motion of Mr. Patrick Brennan, seconded by Mr. Bolger, the Very Rev. George P. Byrne took the chair.

DUBLIN.

On Sunday, July 24, at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Gardiner street, Dublin, a first mass was celebrated by a newly ordained priest of the Jesuit Order. The celebrant was the Rev. William Kane, who was ordained on the previous day. He was a barrister-at-law, and for years acted as a legal commissioner in South Africa.

John Burke, vintner, Denzille street Dublin, died suddenly in Cloutarf baths last week.

The National Literary society of Ireland has once more elected unanimously Dr. George Sigerson as president. He is making efforts to have the valuable casts of Foley and Hogan found and restored to Ireland.

We regret to record the death of the City Sword Bearer of Dublin City, Mr. Richard Burke, which occurred recently at 9 Eblana terrace, North Circular road. Before he became Sword Bearer, Mr. Burke represented Merchants Quay Ward as councillor in the Corporation. He was about 50 years of age, and leaves a widow and large family. A strong feeling among the members of the Corporation in favor of conferring the vacant office on Mr. Robert Burke, eldest son of the deceased.

KILDARE.

Right Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, recently administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a great number of children. He was assisted by the Rev. T. Morris, Rev. H. Cullen and Rev. Father Gorry.

On July 21 Most Rev. Dr. Walsh visited Castledermot and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to about 150 children. On Friday he consecrated the three new beautiful marble altars, erected through the generosity of three parishioners. The ceremony, which is long and most impressive, commenced at 8 o'clock.

On Monday passed away Sister M. de Sales Crumpe of the Sisters of Mercy, Athy. She was in the 64th year of her age and the 38th of her religious profession. She was a native of the city of Dublin. On Wednesday Office and High Mass for the repose of her soul took place in the Convent Chapel. The Rev. W. Duggan, Athy, celebrant.

KILKENNY.

A man named Delany of Kilkenny city was engaged in raising sand in a pit on the lands of Mr. James Cahill, Kilkbricken, Callen, when the covering fell in, and he was crushed to death by several tons of earth and stones.

A co-operative society is being established in Ullingford.

The Monocula hurling team in the Leinster championship contest held in Jones' Road, Dublin, lately, defeated the Dublin Commercial by six goals and thirteen points, to one goal and four points.

A grand dramatic entertainment was given in Plowin in aid of the funds of the new church, by the pupils of the Presentation Convent, Carrick. The church, though finished on the exterior, is not yet suitable for divine services.

KINGS.

During a football match in Mountbolus, Hrr, last week, a young man named McIntire was fatally crushed. When the players separated he died in a few moments.

LOUTH.

A shunter named Johnston was killed on the Great Northern railway, at Drogheda, last week, while at duty.

St. Mary's Flax Spinning Factory in Drogheda has ceased working. Between 300 and 600 persons received employment in it, the great majority of whom belonged to St. Mary's Parish, on the County Meath side of the river Boyne. The proprietors are Messrs. Gradwell and Chadwick, names long and intimately connected with the trade and commerce of Drogheda. A large number of workers have already left for Belfast.

WEXFORD.

The Oulart '98 tournament was held last week and was a great success. Teams competed: Ballymurvin, Wexford, Young Ireland, Ballagh and Oulart.

At Mercy convent, Clonakilty, County Cork, last week died Sister Mary Alden Augustine Finn. Deceased is a Sister of Rev. T. V. Finn, New Ross. Two sisters living also embraced the religious life, and one of them is at Passage, county Cork, and the other at Dunmore, county Waterford.

July 19, at Baheandarrig, Ferns, died Martin Doyle, aged 72 years. On July 23, Summerville, Kilmore, Martin Day, aged 25 years. July 26, at Ballyvaloo house, Blackwater, Maggie Aloysius Murphy, aged 24 years.

WICKLOW.

Members of the Tinahely National Teachers association adopted this resolution: "That we protest against the new pension rules as being illegal, and a breach of contract entered into by us when we first joined the pension scheme, and we request the treasury, in all fairness and honesty, to withdraw these rules, so far as they relate to present teachers."

MUNSTER.

CLARE.

A new branch of the Gaelic league has been established in Kilmihil. Mr. Kennedy, petty sessions clerk of Carrigaholt, has been elected to like position in Killea.

Miss D. O'Brien, Cree South, aged 17 years, died recently, the sad result of an accidental burning.

The death of John Bourke, Kilmish, was received with feelings of profound regret. It took place at his residence, Moore street, on Sunday, July 10, after a lingering illness.

An accident of a most unusually painful character took place in Ennis lately, when a little child, the son of Michael O'Donohue, attendant in the Clare lunatic asylum, was bitten by a donkey. The little fellow, who is about three years of age, was playing near the donkey on the Causeway, when the brute snapped at young O'Donohue's face, and, catching his lower lip between his teeth, tore a portion of the flesh to the extent of an inch in length and a half an inch in depth completely out. The piece of flesh was found on the road and was brought to Dr. Faris, who stitched it in its place. The animal belonged to a man named Reybould, who is in the employment of D. Shanly, builder.

The devil's work goes bravely on in Clare. Evictions are being carried out in far West Clare, toward Loop Head, on the property of Mr. Westby and Mr. McDonnell, at a time unparalleled for distress and misery. Michael McMahon, one of the tenants on the Westby property, was evicted with his ten children and his wife, and after the eviction his house was pulled down by the emergency men. Mat Fennell of Kibballyowen, with ten in family, was also evicted, and his house wrecked, the windows and doors being pulled out and smashed. John McCarthy of Breaffa, on the same property, was also evicted. Michael Mooney of Kibballyowen settled. The tenants evicted have been in receipt of relief from Father Hayes, parish priest, Kibballyowen, and Father Vaughan, parish priest, Carrigaholt, during past seven months. Two families were evicted on Mr. McDonnell's property at Lisheen, near Carrigaholt. The first tenant evicted was Martin Collins, with a family of seven. After the evictions their houses were immediately pulled down, and the poor people were left on the roadside without food or shelter.

CORK.

Twelve cannons, raised from Dunwoley Bay through the enterprise of Mr. T. R. Holland and Mr. John Mulcany, two well known Cork corn merchants, were recently brought to the city, and are in their stores. In addition to the guns, numerous beads have been found, and it is said that in connection with the explosion of other wreckage, coins have been discovered, and a variety of valuable relics. These discoveries being made by Mr. Collins, the diver, at Dunwoley Bay, are full of romantic as well as historic interest. That they belonged to a wreck nearly three hundred years ago is undoubted, and it is remarkable how tradition preserves the story among the peasantry, who know very little history outside the parish in which they were born. The inhabitants of the lonely spot are isolated from the world, for the place is miles from a railway, and connection with the ocean traffic is only when a vessel is wrecked. But these people were able to inform the projectors of the present discovery with remarkable accuracy the spot where the treasure was found. Those who related the tradition could only speak Irish, and their description of the place where the pirate ship was wrecked was so accurate that the moment the diver descended he found the heap of cannon.

KERRY.

The potato blight has made its appearance in North Kerry skirting the Shannon, and extending from Ballylongford eastward to the boundary of the county. The other crops are excellent.

Alexander Fitzgerald, aged 19, was drowned while bathing at Ballyheligue. He was son of Mr. James Fitzgerald of Ballymillen, Tralee. In the establishment of Messrs. R. McOwen & Sons he was a stenographer and typewriter.

LIMERICK.

The biscuit factory of Mr. John Heaphy, St. Roche's street, Limerick, was lately destroyed by fire. The building was five stories in height.

Father W. Marrian, who has been curate in Castleconnel and Abane parishes for the past twelve years, has been promoted to the pastoral charge of Portroe. During the Land League he was imprisoned in famous Tullamore jail.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM.

Mr. John A. Williams of Larne died July 17 in Zanzibar, Africa, aged 35 years. He and his wife—a daughter of Mr. W. Newell, Belfast—sailed for there early in May for the benefit of his health. Mr. and Mrs. Williams had the happiness of being received into the Catholic church a short time before by the Very Rev. Matthew Davitt, S. J., rector of Congow's college, County Kildare. For three years prior to his conversion Mr. Williams contemplated this step, and on several occasions attended mass on Sunday in Larne Catholic church.

Dr. McAuley of Neillabrook, Randalstown, died on an English warship stationed at Wei-hai Wei, China, June 16 last.

The new church of the Holy Rosary, Ballynafagh, will be solemnly dedicated October 9 coming. Right Rev. Dr. Henry Bishop of Down and Connor, will officiate, and Right Rev. Dr. Maguire, Coadjutor Bishop of Glasgow, will preach. Archbishop Maguire's parents were Irish.

Orangemen of Belfast got stiff but well-deserved punishment for their rioting and robbing conduct lately. Chief Baron Pilleys at Belfast Assizes, sentenced two to five years' penal servitude each for leading public houses during the rioting at Belfast on June 6 and 7. One man was ordered two years' imprisonment, nineteen men were sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, and two to twelve months at hard labor for participating in the riots. All the prisoners were ordered to find bail for their good behavior for five years, or, in default, to suffer an additional six months' imprisonment. Several other cases were postponed to next assizes.

ARMAGH.

The funeral obsequies of Mr. James English Keady were held in St. Patrick's church, Keady. The funeral cortege was the largest seen for a long time. The deceased was held in great estimation by all his neighbors and friends, who came in great numbers to testify their respect for his memory.

The synod of the clergy of the archdiocese of Armagh was held last week in St. Patrick's Cathedral, under the presidency of Cardinal Logue. A votive mass (De Spiritu Sancto) was celebrated by the Cardinal Primate, assisted by Very Rev. Canon McNeese, Magherafelt, and Very Rev. Canon Geaney, Crossmaglen.

CAVAN.

Baron Farnham has been chosen as a representative peer for Ireland to sit in the House of Lords of the United Kingdom, in the room of James, Earl of Caledon, deceased. The new representative resides in Farnham, a beautiful place, a couple of miles from Cavan town. Farnham possesses 29,000 acres of the land robed from the ancient Irish chieftain O'Reilly.

DERRY.

James Fulton, aged 15 years, was drowned lately while bathing in the River Bann, Coleraine. Mr. John Crawford of the Bann Rowing Club made a gallant effort to save the dying boy.

Mr. Harry Cole, son of Mr. Henry Cole, Derry, died lately.

July 21 the initial celebration jubilee in connection with the establishment of the Sisters of Mercy in Derry took place. High mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop of Raphoe, and a discourse was delivered by Father Philip O'Doherty, a native of Derry, who received his first education at the Christian Brothers' School.

DONEGAL.

On July 21 the funeral took place of the late Mr. David Downey, East Port, Ballyshannon. Deceased has reached the patriarchal age of 87 years. He was one of the last links of the older inhabitants of Ballyshannon, and was much respected. The remains were borne by sympathizing friends to the church yard at Mullinasha, where the Rev. Canon Cochran officiated. The cortege was large and representative.

DOWN.

Right Rev. Dr. McGivern, Bishop of Down, during the past week administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large number of children in Ballybride, assisted by Very Rev. J. O'Brien, Rev. T. J. Rooney, and Rev. J. McAllister. The bishop delivered an instructive address. At the conclusion of the children, at the instance of Very Rev. Father O'Brien, pledged themselves to total abstinence until they had attained the age of 21.

Robert Taylor, postmaster at Scarva, popularly known as "the old man of Scarva," died lately. Taylor's age is problematical, the most modest estimate putting it at 119 years while others, apparently as well founded, go to show that he was upwards of 130. This is by far the greatest record, and with Taylor's death there passes away the most remarkable instance of longevity in this century. Up till the last deceased maintained wonderful vitality. He held the postmastership of Scarva to the last, and though naturally frail, was this spring in good health and spirits for all that.

The funeral of Mr. John Quinn, Ballymagee, Bangor, who died suddenly, took place on Monday. The deceased, who was an inspector in the employ of the Town Water Commissioners, was one of the oldest Catholic residents. On Sunday Rev. P. McKenna, P. P., made feeling references to his demise. He took an active interest in everything connected with his church, and was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the members of which sent a beautiful floral wreath.

FERRIMANAGH.

Five acres only are under flax this season in Brookborough District, and if the crop does not come out good flax will disappear from the list of agricultural industries in that part of Ferrimanagh.

MONAGHAN.

Members of the County Monaghan Tenants' Defense Association held a meeting in Mr. Patrick Kieran's hotel last week. H. G. Patterson presided and it was decided to hold a demonstration August 22.

TYRONE.

Dr. Given of Drumquin dispensary district, Omagh, was found dead in bed a few days ago.

The guardians of the Clogher Union have for the second time elected Miss Magill collector of rates for the Aughnacloy district. The local government board refused to sanction the appointment, on the ground that it would be difficult for a woman to distract for rates should the necessity of doing so arise. But the guardians do not see the force of the objection, and absolutely refuse to appoint any one else.

Mr. William Johnston's latest trouble is in connection with the Pomeroy Postoffice. The Duke of Norfolk, the postmaster general of England, has committed the unpardonable crime of appointing Mr. Girmes to the postoffice and as that gentleman was actively identified with the land league movement, and has interested himself in registration affairs, Mr. Johnston is indignant. "Ballykilbeg's" choice for the position was Mrs. Charles, relative of the late postmaster in Pomeroy and he threatens to bring the duke to book for his audacity in appointing any one else.

A Titled Country.

The decisive result of the war with Spain has proven that we are a united country and the result should warn us to be on our guard. Let us increase our army and navy and fortify our sea and lake coasts so that we may be prepared for any foreign foe. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

We believe the crowned heads of Europe, notwithstanding their neutral position in our war with Spain, would be only too glad to find an opportunity to combine and wipe out the great American Republic whose existence is a menace to their monarchial institutions. But let them come on! If a foreign potentate would dare land with an army on our shores we would drive the invaders into the sea.

During the late war it was pleasing to see people from the south manifesting such warm loyalty to the old flag.

The men who wore the gray are now as ready to march in defense of our common country as the men who wore the blue.

In the war with Spain a more intelligent, a braver or a more self-sacrificing soldier never before in the world's history met on the field of martial combat. The brave deeds of our army and navy will soon be recorded in history and become a common heritage of our country. We must remember that we are Americans.

Irish Names in the German Army.

A correspondent of a German-American Catholic paper says: "Irishmen in America will be astonished to learn that the number of German army and navy officers of Irish blood and with Irish names is quite considerable, as an issue of the official 'Militar-Rangliste' shows. I have counted three score of O'Grady's, McCarthys, O'Briens, O'Rourkes, Sullivans, O'Byrnes and McSweeney's among them. On inquiry, I learn that some of these men trace their pedigree back to some Irish ancestor who did soldier's service in Germany during the 'Thirty Years' War,' (1618-48); but that others had Irish forefathers who remained in Germany after the seven years and the Napoleonic wars. One retired general, O'Byrne, commanded the Saxon first regiment of guards during the Franco-German war of 1870. Another retired officer, Major O'Grady (reputed for his good cartographic work), has left the German service and entered that of Chili, with the rank of colonel."

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