

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.

MUNSTER

ANTRIM.—The coroner for Mid-Antrim Division, Mr. A. Caruth, Jr., held an inquest on Aug. 16 on the body of John McFall, farmer, whose death resulted from a driving accident which befell him at Carnlough on Aug. 3. He was returning home from the watering place, accompanied by a couple of friends. They were driving in a trap, and the horse turning the corner of the Ballymena road at Carnlough Bay too abruptly the conveyance capsized and the three were thrown on the road. Deceased was much injured and expired on Aug. 15. Dr. W. R. Davison, Ballymena, deposed that death resulted from internal injuries sustained at the time of the accident. Verdict accordingly.

On Aug. 13 the National bandroom in Charlevault was broken into and all the band instruments destroyed and some of them carried away. When the members of the band arrived they found the door open and all the instruments gone, except the bass drum which was found near the room, broken up. There is great excitement in the district since the cowardly act was committed and it is feared that it will cause a good deal of ill-feeling between the Nationalists and Orangemen.

A representative meeting of Emmet Centenary Association was held Aug. 14 in the Central Hall of the United National Club, Belfast. Mr. Byrne, president. The following League branches and commemoration clubs were represented: National, West Belfast, Wolfe Tone, Dr. Drennan, Samuel Neilson, James Hope, Joseph Devlin, Ballymacarrett, True Sons of Erin, Emmet Commemoration Insurgents, O'Connell, Mr. Anderson, Joseph Devlin Branch, Ballymacarrett, seconded by Mr. J. Tier, Samuel Neilson. It was unanimously resolved: "That we, the members of the Emmet Centenary Association, condemn in the strongest and most emphatic manner the action of Major Jameson, Colonel Nolan, Samuel Young, W. O'Doherty and Dr. Thompson, M. P.'s in attending the King's coronation, while the great majority of Ireland's representatives were meeting in Dublin as a protest against the misgovernment of Ireland, the existence of coercion and the system of jury packing that existed, whereby the representatives of the people were thrown into prison because they possessed the courage to fight against the landlords and graziers, who are driving the Irish people from their own soil and converting the fertile lands of Ireland into cattle ranches."

Saturday, Aug. 9, was a red-letter day to the people of the District of St. Mary's in the Hill, Belfast. Under the auspices of the Hill Dramatic Society an excursion to Ballycastle was arranged. The members and their friends, numbering 200, entrained at Mossley and after an enjoyable run through the beautiful scenery which the district affords the excursionists arrived in Ballycastle at 11.30 A. M. The party proceeded to visit the historic places of interest around this ancient town. Among them in the Catholic Church and churchyard, where lie the remains of the late Most Rev. Dr. McAllister. The grave of the patriot, Darragh, was also visited. The ancient abbey of Benbulbin, Margie was the chief attraction. These grand old ruins stand on the hillside, a reminder of the terrible persecutions our forefathers suffered for their faith. The abbey of Bon-na-Margie was founded in the Thirteenth century by the McQuillans of Dunluce for the Franciscan Order, under whose patronage it remained until the McDonnells arrived and made themselves masters of the Glens of Antrim, Dunluce Castle and Bon-na-Margie. After the friars were hunted from this ancient sanctuary in 1537, ruin and desolation fell upon it. Although it was the abode of holy men the abbey had a stormy past, being often the scene of terrible conflict, and throughout the centuries its possession was fought by the Irish, the English and the Scotch, by the McDonnells, the McQuillans and the O'Neils. In the year 1584 Sorley Boy McDonnell set fire to the monastery rather than allow the English to shelter there, but the sacred vessels, relics, etc., were carried off. Among the latter was a cross of St. Columbkille. The monastery was afterwards rebuilt by Sorley Boy. The last great religious ceremony held in it took place in 1639, when 500 Highlanders, refugees from the persecutions of the Covenanters, were confirmed by Dr. Beavan, Bishop of Down. During the ravages of the Cromwellian period the monks of the abbey were expelled and the site was used as a quarry.

CAVAN.—The funeral of Mr. Thomas Wallace, Cavan, took place on Aug. 21. Deceased was accidentally killed off a cart when returning from Shercock.

Much regret is expressed in Beltrahet at a serious accident which befell Mr. James Jordan, postmaster, on Aug. 11. While cycling from Ballyconnell to Derrylin he fell off his machine, fracturing his right leg.

The death of Mr. Patrick Lambe, N. T., took place recently at Moiville. Mr. Lambe, who was 45 years of age, was born at Glasleck, near Shercock. He was a professor for some years in the Queen's College, Galway, and the Irish College in Paris. He was principal teacher of Cullies, and Derakesh National Schools in Cavan, and of schools in Dublin and Claremorris, County Mayo. The news of his death came as a great surprise on all his friends about Shercock and Balleborough.

DERRY.—The Convent School conducted by the Sisters of Mercy in Artilly street, Derry, reopened on Aug. 18. The name of the school is inscribed in Irish, "Ard Sgoil na Maighdeoin Muires." The reputation of the Sisters as teachers in all the subjects on their programme is of the very highest. To their long list they have added a considerable time back added Irish, and their pupils in this have made the most progress of any in the city. Their practical sympathy with the cause of the Irish language is

amply evidenced by the Irish title of the school—the first of its kind in the diocese, or perhaps in Ireland. On Aug. 15 a citizen of Derry, and a supporter of the United Irish League in the person of Councillor Patrick Crampsey, died suddenly at the Diamond Derry. Deceased was a native of Carndonagh, Donegal, and on the founding of the Lang League became an ardent supporter of same. In the month of July, 1881, he was the means of founding a branch of the league in his native district, and so preserved with the movement that some short time afterward he was arrested as a suspect and imprisoned in Kilmalham jail. During his incarceration his health failed and he was liberated. Deceased then came to Derry and established a drapery business. About three years ago he was elected as a member of the Corporations for the West Ward.

DONEGAL.—Lady Day was indeed a gala day in Buncrana. Never in the history of the town was there such an assemblage as that seen on the morning and evening at the entertainments that went to make up an enjoyable fete, and one that considerably augmented the funds of the St. Eugene's Bazaar.

The fourth annual excursion under the auspices of the Fine Arts Club, Ballyshannon, came off on Aug. 15 when the numbers, and their friends, 500 in all traveled to Enniskillen. The day was unusually fine and a most enjoyable time was spent.

On Aug. 17 the remains of Mr. John McCartney, Castle street, Ballyshannon, were removed from his residence for interment in the family burying-place, Abbey Assaroo. On Thursday, although intending to celebrate Lady Day, he became sick, and, after receiving the consolations of Holy Mother Church at the hand of Rev. J. McNulty, he passed away at midnight on Friday. Deceased was a native of Ballyshannon, being born some 57 years ago in the Cloghan (now Bishop street). He was an ardent Nationalist from his youth, and in '67 took a prominent part. He again came to the front as soon as some work was necessary, and at once launched himself into the Land League movement, in which he was not only one of the most energetic workers, but one of the most eloquent speakers. Then the split came, but still Mr. McCartney maintained the principle that had marked him throughout, fidelity to his belief in politics. He was an active United Irish League. He was a devoted Catholic. The funeral was one of the largest passed to Abbey Assaroo for many years. The chief mourners were his sons, John and James McCartney. The coffin was borne to the grave on the shoulders of old friends of '67 and members of the United Irish League. Rev. J. Derrian, C. C., officiated at the interment.

DOWN.—St. Joseph's new Catholic church of Ballymartin, which by the efforts of the parish priest of St. Mary's Lower Mourne, Rev. R. J. Murphy, and his parishioners a last attains a proud position among the temples of Down and Connor was dedicated by the Most Rev. Dr. Henry.

The death of Mr. John O'Hare, of Mayo Bridge, Newry, on Aug. 15, has evoked the keenest regret in Newry and South Down. The deceased had been in failing health for considerable time. He was an ardent Nationalist, and during his long life rendered good service in the cause of Faith and Fatherland. A devout Catholic, he gave two sons and two daughters to religion; one son, late Rev. Hugh O'Hare, Laurencetown, died a few years ago and the other, the Rev. Frances O'Hare is in Derrymacash Lurgan. One of his daughters is a member of the Loreto Convent, Rathfarnham, and the other is in the Order of the Sacred Heart, London. Mr. O'Hare was a warm personal friend of the Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, Bishop of Dromore.

FERMANAGH.—A Catholic Bishop from the United States, who recently visited the fair town of Enniskillen, said he had never seen a provincial town with such charming recreation grounds. He was delighted with the Fort Hill.

The population of Fermanagh has decreased since 1881 by over 11 per centum. When the census was taken that year there were 84,379 inhabitants; in 1891, 74,170; in 1901, 65,430. Of the total population in 1901, 55.3 per cent. were Catholics, 35.2 per cent. Protestant Episcopalians, 2.0 per cent. Presbyterians, 7.2 per cent. Methodists, and 0.3 per cent. members of other religious denominations.

A convention of delegates, representing the branches of the United Irish League into North and South Fermanagh, was held in the Town hall, Enniskillen, Aug. 15. Rev. P. H. Maguire presided, and there were present—Mr. Joseph Devlin, M. P., Mr. Jeremiah Jordan, M. P., Rev. E. McMahon, Arney; Rev. T. J. Keenan, Belcoo. Delegates were in attendance from Enniskillen, Lisnaskea, Holywell, Toura, Mullaghduff, Tempo, Bellock, Boho, Kinawley, Brookeboro,

Derrygonnelly, Arney, Derrylin, Garrison, Florencecourt, Newtonbutler, and Killoco. The proceedings were private. Afterwards a monster demonstration was held on the Jail Court, the chair being occupied by Mr. J. Jordan, M. P., Mr. Devlin, M. P., delivered an eloquent speech, saying that the last time he had the honor of addressing a meeting of Fermanagh men was when, with his friend and their distinguished townsman, Mr. Jordan, they were in a contest against the forces of Orangism and retrogression, holding South Fermanagh faithfully as a Nationalist centre, and proclaiming their principles of Ireland for the Irish and the land of the people.

MONAGHAN.—The Farny branch of the Irish National Foresters, Carickmacross, held a meeting on August 10 in Foresters' Hall, New street, Brother A. P. Sinnott, chief ranger, presiding, assisted by Brothers T. Pettigrew, S. C. R.; T. Nolan, secretary; M. Shannon, treasurer; J. Garvey, assistant secretary; Brothers A. Murphy and L. Martin, woodwards; Brothers J. Finlay and M. Duffy, beadles. Also present Brothers M. Martins, D. Nolan, J. McNally, J. Downey, F. Malone, J. Crinlon, F. Connolly, P. Connolly and others. A resolution expressing regret at the death of Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, was adopted.

An agricultural college will soon be established in County Monaghan. The Rev. Brother Higgins, the principal of the Christian Brothers' Monaghan, has undertaken the responsibility of the organization. The Department of Agriculture is ready to give a grant of £3,000, and to advance a further sum, to ensure the success of the scheme, which would mean the creation of many similar establishments in Ireland. The idea is to give a thorough course of instruction in technical agriculture, to include the scientific cultivation of land, chemistry, physics, horticulture, manual training, in woodwork, properties of soil, farm implements, insect pests, fungous growths, structure of plants and animals, manures and their effects, poultry, bee-keeping and everything relating to agriculture which an up-to-date farmer ought to know. If the college be so organized that it will be possible for all farmers' sons to attend, it will have an enormous effect in improving the character of agriculture in Ireland.

TYRONE.—Sister Mary Veronica O'Brien, of Loreto Convent, Omagh, was professed on Aug. 15. Rt. Rev. Monsignor McNamee officiated, assisted by Rev. J. J. McGlade.

Several valuable out offices on the premises of Mr. John Joyce, Ballywholan, near Stewartstown, were destroyed by fire lately. Mr. Joyce, while on the roof of one fell in and, falling on some machinery, was seriously injured. Some animals in the burning houses were rescued at considerable risk.

MUNSTER

CLARE.—Right Rev. Dr. McCormack, Bishop of Galway, opened the Lisdoonvarna bazaar Aug. 18. The funds obtained will be used to make much-needed improvements in the church. It is expected that the required amount will be the result.

This is the report made recently by the Gaelic League organizer of the Irish language movement on the position of the national language in Ballyvaughan Parish: "Rev. P. Keran, P. P., manager of schools. Schoole—Tanore N. S., mixed; Mr. D. Kelleher and Mrs. Clancy, teachers, 98 on rolls; 40 at Irish at an extra two hours a week. Irish taught for past three years. Both teachers are good Irish speakers and anxious to create a love for land and language among the pupils. The prayers were not taught in Irish. I got a promise that it would be so for the future. Several of the pupils are good speakers of Irish and very bright; a bilingual system of education would suit them admirably. Joyce's History of Ireland taught. Mrs. Kelleher promised to teach Irish to all pupils. Corkscrew, N. S., mixed; Mrs. White, teacher; 60 on rolls; 20 at Irish an extra hour and a half a week. Teacher speaks Irish. Teacher seems anxious to push on the work. Her own children are making good progress at it, but I fear Irish is neglected in the home. Ballyvaughan M. N. S.—J. Nagle, teacher; 66 on rolls. Teacher is an Irish speaker, but nothing done to teach Irish in this school. Even the children have not the small prayers in Irish. Teacher promised to begin at Irish in a few weeks. Ballyvaughan F. N. S.—Miss O'Riordan and Mrs. Kerin, teachers; 75 on rolls. Nothing done for Irish here. Miss O'Riordan promised a knowledge of it so as to teach it. Most of the children in these schools hear Irish at home, but were ashamed to speak a word of it. Remarks—The present condition of Irish in this district is not satisfactory. From what I have heard I believe the parents are killing Irish, as I met no one that was not on the sure road to anglicization." Cahula's abseith Bire goadhalach air."

CORK.—The admiral, officers and several hundred of the crew on the Japanese warship in Cork harbor visited the city of Cork and the exhibition. They also visited the principal houses of business, taking a very practical view of all, not like the British warmen, who drink and make rows. The Mayor of Cork and a great number of citizens visited the admiral on the Japanese warship in Cork harbor on Aug. 22.

On Aug. 20 five hundred of the Catholic school children of the parish of Bandon had a very enjoyable excursion to the Cork Exhibition. The outing was organized by the Rev. Father O'Sullivan and Mr. P. Murphy, N. T.

Coercion Law.—A very largely attended meeting of the Kildorrey branch of the United Irish League was held on Aug. 17. Mr. Michael Walsh, president, occupied the chair.

Recent Deaths in Cork.—O'BRIEN—Aug. 21, at 32, Lower George street, Leonard O'Brien, bootmaker—DORRIGAN—On Aug. 21, at Mileend, Carriganav, Michael Dorgan, aged 56 years.—CURTIN—On Sunday, Aug. 17, at St. Margaret's Rock Chapel, Teresa Curtin, nee O'Sullivan, aged 22, at Lee View Hotel, Ringskiddy, Anna O'Sullivan, N. T., of Shanbally, eldest daughter of the late Patrick O'Sullivan, ship carpenter—OSHEA—At Main street, Middleton, on Aug. 20, James Francis O'Shea, CONNORS—On Aug. 20, at Ballydaniel, near Youghal, Thomas Thomas Connors, aged 52.—DALTON—On Aug. 20, at Daltonville, Douglas road, Benjamin Dalton, aged 45.—O'KELLY—On Aug. 19, at Sun Mount, Evergreen road, Cornelius Daniel O'Kelly—MURPHY—On Aug. 14, at Cork road, Fermoy, Frances Murphy, Cloughreavane, Castletownroche.—ROSE—At Gneese, Berlesce, Ellen, wife of Charles Rose, St. Paul, U. S.—EVERHARD—On Aug. 12, at the Danesford Industrial school, Upton, Brother Lawrence Danesford ETI, Brother Lawrence Everard, in the 69th year of his age and forty-first of his religious life.—O'CONNELL—On Aug. 7, at 54 Green street, Clonmel, Caroline Alberta (Bertie), daughter of the late Rev. O'Connell, aged 22.—BELCHER—Aug. 12, at 2 Victoria Terrace, St. Luke's, Martha Belcher, in her 86th year.

KERRY.—Right Rev. Dr. Coffey, Bishop of Kerry, Aug. 19 administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 500 children in the Church of Dingle.

The St. Brendan's Temperance association, Tralee, under the guidance of Rev. R. J. Brennan, Spiritual Director, held its annual outing on Aug. 17 to Banna Strand.

Mr. Patrick Murnane, Green View Terrace Tralee, died suddenly Aug. 14 deeply regretted. His remains were conveyed by rail to his native place, Tipperary.

Four hundred children were confirmed in Tralee, Aug. 20, by Rt. Rev. Dr. Coffey, Bishop of Kerry. The following teachers were present, and great credit is due them for the manner they have worked in the cause of religious instruction; Mrs. McElligott, Blandville; Miss H. McMahon, Listellick; Miss H. Lynch Droumstacker; Miss M. Hayes, Ballyseedy; Messrs. P. O'Sullivan, Blandville; D. McMahon, Listellick; T. O'Flaherty, Droumstacker; P. O'Sullivan, Strand street; R. O'Shea, Derryquay; William Edgeworth, Ballyseedy; John Walsh, Ballyroe; W. Colleary, Strand street.

LIMERICK.—Mr. Thomas Nevins, who recently purchased Mount Shannon, near Anacoity, the estate of the first Earl of Clare and his descendants, died Aug. 21. Though near his seventieth year he was out on horseback looking after the operations in connection with the hay crop. His whip fell and he stooped or dismounted to regain it. While doing so the coachman observed that he was unable to rise again. They raised Mr. Nevins up, but he grew worse and died in half an hour. He was in occupation of Mount Shannon for four years and made an offer a short time ago of taking the contract for the upkeep of the Limerick streets and thoroughfares to the Corporation, but which eventually was declined. A daughter of Mr. Nevins died at Mount Shannon a few months since, and his sudden death when he was in the best of health has caused a painful feeling in Mount Shannon.

Athlone was the scene of a great Gaelic gathering on Aug. 17 on the arrival of the members of St. Mary's Gaelic Class (Limerick). A grand open air concert was held in the Fair Green, in the presence of several thousand people. A spacious platform had been erected and here Irish music, song and dance were presented to an enthusiastic audience. On motion of Mr. J. J. Walsh (solicitor Athlone) the chair was taken by Rev. P. Forde, St. Peter's. The Rev. Chairman, in a stirring speech, called upon those present to give a hearty consent to the people of Limerick. The Irish entertainment, which the Limerick Gaelic Class were about to give them, was one of the first fruits of the efforts being made to produce everything they wanted themselves. They would not, in the future, go to London music halls for the "Dolly Grays" or to the blacks for their "Suwanne Rivers" (Laughter). At home with themselves there was plenty of material, if they only opened their eyes and looked out for it. Among those who contributed were: Mr. Loran, Limerick; Miss Anna Harrigan, Limerick; Miss Teresa Ealpin, Limerick, a tiny mite of 7 years, who danced several Irish jigs and reels in a clever and finished manner; Miss McNamara, Limerick and Mr. Peter McMahon, Limerick. Mr. John J. Walsh, solicitor, Athlone, sang stirring Irish songs. "Ireland Boy Hurrah" brought the proceedings to a close. The Limerick people were escorted to the train by a large crowd and given a most enthusiastic send-off. Irish songs being sung as the train steamed out.

TIPPERARY.—Miss Hannah Cashin, of Coolebeg, Clonbeg, died August 8, after a few weeks' illness. The esteem in which she was held was shown by the large cortege that followed the bier to the family burial place in Shanrahan churchyard.

Aug. 22 was the anniversary of the death of Charles J. Kickham, the beloved patriot, novelist and poet of Mullinahone. To mark the occasion his poems were collected by his niece Miss Cleary, of Chicago, U. S. A.,

with a view to their publication in book form. Although not by any means a voluminous writer in verse, Kickham won his way to the hearts of his country people by his spritric and touching poems.

WATERFORD.—Rev. P. O'Donnell of Modliff, has returned after spending a holiday.

Rev. Father Walsh, son of Mr. Nicholas Walsh, Farnane, has just ended a visit to his native land. He has returned to his mission in England to wait the call to his own diocese in the near future.

Miss Catherine Teale, Dungarven, and Mr. Michael Healey, of the Waterford Star staff, were married in the Cathedral, Waterford, Aug. 15.

LEINSTER

CARLOW.—On Aug. 15 the solemn ceremonies connected with the Forty Hours' Devotion were performed in the Bagnalstown Catholic Church with imposing ceremonies.

DUBLIN.—The Lord Mayor of Dublin August 21, held a court for the admission of Freeman in the City Hall. There were nine admitted.

The members of the Mount Argus Branch have secured suitable premises in "Zion House" on the Kimmage road, between Harold's Cross Park and Mount Argus.

A meeting was held on Aug. 21 in the Christian Brothers' schools, Kingstown, for the purpose of forming a branch of Cumann na-Caedheal.

KILKENNY.—In the Bridgeline Convent, Goresbridge, at the recent examination in schools, under the National Board, the Sisters presented twenty-two pupils in Gaelic (oral and written) all of whom passed.

The death of Nicholas Landy, Butlerstown, Windgap, father of the very Rev. Nicholas Landy, O. S. A., Dun garven, occurred lately. The deceased had reached the patriarchal age of 82.

KINGS.—Aliens get the good jobs in Ireland.—The King's County Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee has elected Miss Maister, of Bristol, Eng., instructor in domestic economy, at a salary of £80 a year, with traveling expenses.

KILDARE.—Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, visited Monasteraven, Aug. 20 and administered Confirmation to the children of Monasteraven, Nurney, Kildangan and Lackagh.

LONGFORD.—The death of Mrs. Catherine O'Donoghue, Drumara House, happened on Aug. 22, deeply mourned.

Cardinal Moran, accompanied by Dr. Hoare, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, paid a visit to the village of Ardagh on Aug. 20.

CONNACHT

LOUTH.—A meeting of the Catholics of St. Peter's parish, Drogheda, was held Aug. 20 to consider the desirability of marking the people's sense of admiration for the Rev. Jas. Maguire, for years curate of St. Peter's, on the occasion of his promotion to the pastorage of Louth.

MEATH.—A specially convened meeting of the North Meath Executive of the United Irish League, was held Aug. 15 in the Foresters' Hall, Navan.

On Aug. 17, under the auspices of the Trim Branch of the Gaelic League an open air entertainment was held in the castle grounds.

QUEEN'S.—A mission was given in the parish of Emo and Courtwood during two weeks and was brought to a happy close on Sunday, Aug. 17. The funeral of Mrs. Charlotte C. Coogan, of Old Leigh, Balleckmoyled, took place to Arles cemetery on Aug. 17. Attendance numerous.

WESTMEATH.—A convention of delegates of the United Irish League of the county Westmeath, was held at the Market House, Mullingar, Aug. 21, for the purpose of endorsing "in its entirety the policy outlined in the manifesto of the National Directory of the United Irish League."

WEXFORD.—Mr. Patrick McDonald of Motyebower, Carnew, died Aug. 11, deeply mourned.

The annual excursion of the children learning Irish in the schools of Ennisclorthy took place on Aug. 17 to Rosslea.

WICKLOW.—A public meeting was held on Aug. 17 in St. Patrick's Church Kildare under the presidency of Rev. Bernard O'Reilly, for the purpose of providing funds for the execution of necessary works in the parish.

A meeting of the Dwyer Memorial Committee was held recently at the committee rooms, Ballyinglass.

GALWAY.—News was received in Galway on Aug. 14 of the death of Col. James O'Hara, Lenaboy, who had been living in Dublin.

With regret we announce the death of Mr. John O'Donnell, merchant of Tuam, which occurred in Shop street on Aug. 19.

The first meeting of the Milltown branch of the Gaelic League was held in the reading room on Sunday, the 17th of August.

LEITRIM.—The remains of a young man named Doherty, of Cloonaff, near Hill street, were found in a pool near his home on Aug. 17.

The catalogue for the County Leitrim Agricultural Show, which the secretary of the committee has drafted and supplied to the members, is not final.