

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 Empire.

CONNAGHT

GALWAY.—Miss Kate Martin, Attyne, Dunmore, died Dec. 14, deeply regretted. The long funeral procession to the burial place in Boyanagh, Glennamaddy, was the practical testimony of many hearts to a truly edifying life.

At a meeting of the Canons of the Archdiocese, held in the afternoon of the funeral of the late Most Rev. Dr. McEvilly, at St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Very Rev. John Canon Barrett, Headford, Galway, was appointed Vicar-Capitula.

At Court of Petty Sessions in Ballinasloe on Dec. 8, James McCalla was charged with having embezzled the moneys of Lord Ashton, by whom he was employed as a steward. He was held for trial at the Galway Assizes, but was admitted to bail, himself in £300 and two sureties for the same amount.

The death of Rev. Brother Flood took place lately at Salt Hill Industrial School, Gaway.

LEITRIM.—The members of the Ballinamore Branch of the United Irish League have subscribed very largely to the Irish National Defense Fund.

On Dec. 12, 14 and 15 great demonstrations in support of the United Irish League were held at Manorhamilton, Newbridge, Clonacree.

On Dec. 11 a large and representative meeting was held in the schoolhouse, Castlebar, for the purpose of forming a branch of the U. I. League.

MAYO.—On Dec. 15 a most representative and enthusiastic meeting of the people of Balla district was held for the purpose of reorganizing the branch and starting a subscription in aid of the National Defense Fund.

ROSCOMMON.—A solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Catholic church on Dec. 14, and the Rev. Father O'Connell officiated.

The funeral of Mr. Patrick Purcell (Cloneen), took place on Dec. 13 from his residence, Cloneen House, at Clough Cemetery. The deceased was very popular, as was indicated by the large attendance at the graveside.

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LEINSTER

CARLOW.—Mr. Andrew Nolan of Barryhill, has been appointed agricultural instructor for County Wicklow. Mr. Nolan has presided for many years in Glasnevin.

Brother Collins, a member of St. James' Young Men's Society, Hootie, Liverpool, died Dec. 12. The esteem in which the deceased was held was evinced from the fact that 400 men in foot accompanied the body to its last resting place. The funeral on Sunday left deceased's residence, Bibby's Lane, Hootie, for Ford cemetery, preceded by 120 members of St. James' Young Men's Society.

DUBLIN.—Mr. John O'Connor, managing director of Clery & Co., O'Connell street, died Nov. 15, aged 46 years. He was a native of Bantry in County Cork. His wife had predeceased him only a few months ago.

On Dec. 18 Miss Nellie McDonald, 20 years, of 100 Lower Gardner street, Dublin, while seeing her sister off by the steamship Lord Inceagh, which left the Alexandra Basin, fell into the water between the boat and the quay. Two men jumped in and tried to rescue her but failed. She sank immediately and did not rise again.

The death of Rev. T. Mulqueen occurred in the private Mater Hospital, Eccles street, Dublin, Dec. 16. The deceased clergyman passed away in the 49th year of his age and the twenty-fourth of his ministry. Born in the county Limerick, Father Mulqueen completed his studies in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. He was curate at Bush, Balbriggan and Saggart, and for the past seventeen years ministered in the district of Coolock. Father Mulqueen was a most exemplary priest. Office and High Mass were held at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Clontarf, and afterwards the interment took place at Glasnevin cemetery.

Following a meeting of the Executive of the United Irish League, held Dec. 15, a deputation waited on Alderman Dowd to ask him if he considered the resolution forwarded by the executive asking him to retire in favor of

the present Lord Mayor, urging that a feeling existed in the city, owing to political developments, that he should defer his claim until some future occasion. After hearing their views he stated it was his intention to stand by the selection made by the Municipal Council, and seek election, relying on the support extended to him on his nomination.

The first meeting of the Provisional National Council of the Catholic Association of Ireland was held on Dec. 10, at 25 Rutland square, Dublin.

A new limited liability company of Gaelic Leaguers has been formed for carrying on the business of printing in connection with the Gaelic League movement and to print the Gaelic League journals, booklets, publications, etc. The money hitherto expended by the League in this way amounted to several hundreds in the year, and those who have promoted the new company found that this branch of the movement has become so extensive that it was absolutely essential to take hold of it in this way. They believe that as a result of the new arrangement the work will be performed better than hitherto while they are sanguine that the venture will be a successful one. The company is the first registered in Irish modern times. It is entitled An Clo Cluanna Limited.

KILDARE.—At the Convent of Mercy, Cape Town, South Africa were married Mr. John Raymond Gillespie, Johannesburg, son of late Dr. Gillespie, and Miss Annie Darby, daughter of the late Dr. Darby, of Walsby, Kildare.

At the Leitrim Assizes in Maryborough Dec. 18, Mary Watts was placed on the gallows for the murder of her uncle, Nicholas Keating of Aghy, who was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment.

On Dec. 11 a meeting of the Athy branch of the United Irish League was held in the Town Hall for the purpose of organizing a national defense fund and to make arrangements for the future working of the branch. Mr. J. Murphy, M. P. Kerry, attended and addressed the meeting on the momentous question alluded to.

KILKENNY.—The annual meeting of St. Canice's (Kilkenny) Branch of the United Irish League was held in its rooms, St. Canice's Place on Dec. 14.

The funeral of Mr. Patrick Purcell (Cloneen), took place on Dec. 13 from his residence, Cloneen House, at Clough Cemetery. The deceased was very popular, as was indicated by the large attendance at the graveside. He had passed the allotted span of one hundred and seventy-three years. He was a sterling Nationalist, and encouraged the local Association, and used to watch with interest the fortunes of the local teams throughout the country. In his younger days he was a fair boxer, and a total abstemious person, and kept to the last. He had a tremendous memory, and used to converse freely on matters he read fifty years ago. He was in good health until within a fortnight when he took the pneumonia and died on Dec. 10, at the residence of his father, John Purcell, at Clough Cemetery.

KING'S.—The members of the branches of the United Irish League in King's County have considered in the Irish Party and will continue to support the members in every way.

LONGFORD.—The remains of Mrs. McDonnell, of Feredale, near Longford, were found in the Royal Canal, Longford, on Dec. 15. The police are making inquiries, but there is no doubt that her death is a result of an accident. She was aged 60 years.

The death of the Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock, which took place in Ad Hallows College on Dec. 11 could not wholly have been unexpected. He had been "dead to the world" for the past seven years, having in 1894 retired from the See of Armagh and Conamanoise and withdrawn to the privacy of the great college, where he resided to found sixty years ago. A venerable dignitary was a few months close to his end. To the last he preserved his mental qualities, amazing those among whom he lived by his intellectual vigor and freshness. The remains were interred on Dec. 16, in the granite altar of St. Mel's Cathedral, presided at by Cardinal Logue, president of the council, and Requiem Mass which preceded the interment.

LOUTH.—Chaplain James Long, of the Cottage, Rathmullen, died Dec. 11, aged 70 years. The funeral to the new cemetery was very numerous.

On Dec. 15, Patrick Flynn, dealer, Nicholas street, Dundalk, started from home in usual health to attend the Camlough fair near Newry. In the train he complained of faintness, and by the time he reached Bessbrook station he was unable to proceed to the fair. Dr. Palmer was called in and did all he could for the sufferer, who expired, the cause of death being peritonitis.

On Dec. 8, in the Convent Chapel, Dungannon, the ceremony of profession took place. Cardinal Logue officiated, and a great number of ladies were in attendance. The young priestesses who took their final vows were Miss Grist, Bellurgan, Dundalk (in religion Sister M. Vincent); and Miss Collins, Dungannon (in religion Sister M. De Sales).

MEATH.—Sixty-five letters addressed

in Irish passed through the post office in Navan during one day lately. A good sign of the solid way that the language is being revived.

The Industrial Committee of St. Cornack's Branch of the Gaelic League held their meeting in the Town Hall, Trim, Dec. 7 when it was unanimously agreed that posters be got and distributed through the country urging the public to support Irish industries, also that circulars be given to the traders of the town to be given out to their customers. The committee are glad to announce that they will hold a concert and lecture upon Irish industries and that it will have the effect of waking some of the inhabitants who have been sleeping all the time the Gaelic League has been in existence in Trim.

QUEEN'S.—Mrs. Edward Kavanagh of Market street, Mountmellick, died Dec. 11, deeply mourned. The funeral was held on the Tuesday following at 11 o'clock. High Mass on Thursday both were numerously attended. Mrs. Kavanagh was the mother of Rev. Father Stanislaus O. F. Kavanagh, M. P. for the constituency of Drogheda. She died at her residence, 11, Market street, Drogheda, after a long period of illness, and was buried in the cemetery of the parish.

A special meeting of the Jubilee Committee was held in Kesh on Dec. 10 to investigate a large by-election against Patrick, a man an agent laborer for having at Kesh on Saturday, Nov. 1, last, used language inimical to Edward, Duke of Devonshire, to cause him to abstain from purchasing the farm land situated at Kesh, the property of the late Mr. William Henry, M. P. for the constituency of Drogheda.

The first issue of the Irish Nationalist, published by the Irish League, was held in the Town Hall, Drogheda, on Dec. 11, at 11 o'clock. The paper was very largely attended.

A special court under the Jubilee Act was held in Kesh on Dec. 10 to investigate a large by-election against Patrick, a man an agent laborer for having at Kesh on Saturday, Nov. 1, last, used language inimical to Edward, Duke of Devonshire, to cause him to abstain from purchasing the farm land situated at Kesh, the property of the late Mr. William Henry, M. P. for the constituency of Drogheda.

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MUNSTER

CLARE.—The members of the Cooraclare Branch of the United Irish League at a meeting passed these resolutions: That the best thanks are due to the Rev. M. B. Curry, our esteemed P. P., for the patriotic manner in which he announced from the altar the collection in aid of the Parliamentary fund. A resolution of confidence was passed in the Irish Parliamentary Party.

Dr. William Stamer Bank Place, Ennis, died Dec. 12, at the fine old age of 94 years, deeply mourned. The funeral took place on Sunday from the cathedral, whither the remains had been removed on Saturday evening. There was a Solemn Requiem High Mass at which the elevation of the Eucharist took place in the morning and the service left for Drumcliffe at 2 o'clock.

CORK.—Mr. Patrick Ahearne of Watergate street, Kanturk, died recently at the extraordinary age of 165 years. The funeral to Castlemauger was very largely attended.

Five hundred dollars in damage done by fire in the City of Cork, at the residence of Mr. J. J. O'Connell, was covered by the insurance company.

The funeral of Mr. J. J. O'Connell, who died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. J. J. O'Connell, at Kanturk, was held on Dec. 12, at 11 o'clock. High Mass on Thursday both were numerously attended.

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Mr. Peacocke, city engineer of Limerick, made an interesting discovery lately. The corporation has taken over a corporation in the Pennywell district, and while making excavations a cannon ball weighing 24 lbs was unearthed, and also, near at hand, the remains of a large animal, of the deer kind. The latter fell to pieces on being taken from the bed in which they had rested so long. It is of interest to note that at the particular place where the "finds" took place, a battery was planted by the English army during the siege of Limerick. A quantity of bones was also discovered in the vicinity.

Mrs. Denis Quinlan, of Cluggin, John, died at the home of her brother-in-law Mr. P. J. McGrath, on Dec. 10, deeply regretted. The funeral to Killiney on Friday was very numerously attended.

TIPPERARY.—Mr. Jeremiah Condon, of Clonmel, and Mr. P. J. Long, Nationalist, Clonmel, visited Mr. Powell, Midland Tribune, in Clonmel, and Mr. Powell was in good spirits. He halted cheerily with his visitors for a quarter of an hour. He takes his recreation with a light heart. He has finished his hard labor term, and his present ball sentence will expire on Jan. 12 when he regains his liberty. He was visited on Monday by Mrs. Powell, who traveled from Birr.

The death of Mr. F. H. O'Neill occurred at Lisronagh House, on Dec. 17, in the 82nd year of his age. Deceased belonged to an old and respected Irish family. He was an ardent Nationalist and took an active part in the movements of '48 and '67. His death severs another of the golden links that connected the present with the past history of the country.

A fine meeting of Nationalists was held in Drangan, Dec. 14, to found a branch of the United Irish League. The funeral of the late Mrs. Ellen Kinnane, of Ardillon, took place on Dec. 12 to Mount Brus, and was very largely attended. Deceased was aged 79 years. She was mother of Very Rev. Dean Kinane, Cashel, and of Very Rev. W. J. Kinane, Sologhead. Solemn High Mass was offered up in St. Michael's Church.

WATERFORD.—Mr. Thomas Hackett, O'Connell street, Dungarvan, died lately at the extraordinary age of 95 years, deeply mourned. He was father of Rev. Bernard Hackett, of St. John's College, Waterford City.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, the stores and stocks in the possession of P. F. Walsh, 11 Walsh and John O'Brien, in Tallow, were seized by officials from the Court of Bankruptcy. They are the defendants in the famous O'Keefe case of Tallow. O'Keefe obtained a verdict of twenty-five thousand dollars against these and some other defendants for alleged loss of business by alleged boycott, organized by the local members of the United Irish League.

The funeral of Mr. Thomas Hackett, Dungarvan, took place December 12. There was an immense number of people accompanied the remains to the family burial ground in the parish church.

KERRY.—Great success has attended the revival and progress of the Gaelic language in the East Kerry districts. The sons of the Provisional Convention Castleisland have adopted it as a subject of instruction for their children. Its adoption constitutes a prominent feature of the work of the society existing in the town of Castleisland, particularly the Young Ireland society. With such enthusiasm and public support it is only a matter of time when the national language will be universally spoken in those districts.

The O'Connell Memorial Church, Clonmel, which in its inception and progress has been so much before the public for twenty years, was opened for the service on the third Sunday in Advent. The prospect of erecting a church to the memory of O'Connell in the parish where he was born was realized by the late Canon Brosnan shortly after his appointment to Clonmel, and pursued by him up to his death, four years ago with all the fervor of an enthusiast. Of course much has yet to be done on the interior before the architectural gem can be seen in all its beauty. A marble altar has been ordered by the Canon, relying on the generosity of his people to enable him to discharge the liability incurred and for other necessities yet to be provided. Very Rev. Canon O'Riordan delivered an eloquent discourse in which he depicted the varying phases which marked the history of the work—the alterations of progress and the interruption of fears leading almost to despair, to be succeeded by assured hope, until matters were brought to their present condition.

LIMERICK.—Rev. Father Hallinan, P. P., Cappa, has been appointed parish priest, of Ardagh, in succession to the late Rev. John Sheehan. An agreement has been come to be

between Mrs. Barry, widow and children of the late Dr. Barry, of Limerick, and Francis Spaight & Sons, Limited. It is agreed that "the verdict and judgments had herein for the plaintiffs, with costs, do stand confirmed in every particular, save and except that the sum of \$1,000 awarded to the plaintiff, Kathleen Barry, be reduced to \$500, and judgment be amended according to a judgment for plaintiffs for \$2,500 and costs."

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A meeting of the members of the Crossmaglen Branch of the United Irish League was held in North street Dec. 7, Mr. J. Donaghy, Jr. presiding. The National Defense Fund was fixed to close on Dec. 21.

CAVAN.—Mr. James Clancy, of Main street, Ballyconnell, died Dec. 10, aged 67 years, deeply regretted. The death of Mr. Bernard Gaffney, Kilmacrott, Mountaugent, occurred on Dec. 5, aged 26 years. The funeral on Sunday, was very largely attended. Crowds of relatives and friends turned out to accompany the remains to Crossmaglen. The Very Rev. P. Lynch and Rev. M. E. Brady officiated at the interment.

On December 10 a meeting convened by Mr. Joseph P. Gannon was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan, to consider the formation of a co-operative society, with the object of "starting a hosiery factory in Cavan, and so provide remunerative employment for the girls of the town and country, and thus endeavor to stem the tide of emigration, which is steadily draining Ireland of its people."

DERRY.—On December 15 the Great Northern Railway terminus, Great Victoria street, Belfast, was the scene of a robbery of a daring character. Robert McKee, of Tubbermore, Derry, was proceeding through the premises to the platform when he was spoken to by two youths with whom he entered into conversation. Subsequently McKee invited them to a hotel and while there McKee's pocketbook was stolen. The pocketbook is said to have contained notes and cash to the value of £150.

DONEGAL.—At a meeting of the directors of the Donegal Railway, held Dec. 15, Mr. Dixon's tender for reconstruction of the railway from Donegal to Ballyshannon, sixteen miles, was accepted. The work will commence immediately.

The first business meeting of the Executive of West Donegal, was held in the courthouse Dungloe on Dec. 11. The Very Rev. Canon McFadden, P. P., Glenties, presided. He referred in eulogistic terms to the men who were being hounded to death in British dungeons for no cause except for the same crimes of which they were all guilty, that of loving Ireland. He specially mentioned the sufferings of P. A. McHugh, whom he had the honor of associating with in Derry jail, and said that no braver nor truer Irishman existed. So long as he was president of the Executive he would do his utmost endeavor to see that each branch of the constituency did its duty, and that each branch would be a strong and living branch.

DOWN.—Rev. A. Lowry and C. S. O'Hare, of Maybridge, lately forwarded \$50 to the trustees of the Irish Parliamentary fund. The money was subscribed by the Nationalists of the district.

On Dec. 14, in the cathedral, Newry, after 12 o'clock mass, celebrated by Rev. John Rooney, Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, presiding, the annual sermon in aid of the sick and dying poor was preached by the Rev. S. R. Nicoll, O. M. L., Inchicore, Dublin. A collection was taken up and a large amount was realized.

FERMANAGH.—Mr. Michael Maguire, of Kilbrack, near Derrylin, was found on the public road near Aghalane bridge in an unconscious condition Dec. 5. He was carried to a dwelling house near hand, where restoratives were administered, but he never became conscious, and died in a short time. He had attended the Belturbet fair the previous day.

A meeting of the tenants on the Ely estate was held at Belleek lately. Mr. George A. Atkinson, solicitor, was instructed to make an offer on their behalf to Judge Ross for the purchase of their holdings. The business left her by her late husband. She worked zealously to carry out the wishes of her deceased husband and in sending her two boys to receive Holy orders. By the decree of an alimony, Patrick, died just previous to his ordination, and the second boy, Edward, is undergoing his final course of study in that grand nursery of the Catholic priesthood, the Irish College, Salamanca, Spain. In her last illness she was attended by Very Rev. B. Canon Duffy, and Rev. J. Hackett, and she quietly passed away fortified by the rites of the church.

MONAGHAN.—Thomas Donnelly, an egg dealer, was choked by a crust of bread while partaking of refreshments in the American House, in this town. The body was removed to his residence in Cooroolagh, where Mr. Thomas Dugman, coroner, held an inquest. When the evidence was given he jury rendered a verdict to the effect that death was caused by an accident.

On December 14 a representative meeting of the Magheraferry Branch of the United Irish League was held in Magheraferry Catholic Hall for the purpose of reorganizing the local branch.

TYRONE.—James Broderick of Stonecubdagh, was missed from his home on December 10 and search having been made, his remains were found in a quarry hole near his home. It was exceedingly dark. The coroner's jury found a verdict of death by accident.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Bridget Boyle, of Main street, Fintona, which took place on Dec. 14, after a protracted illness. The deceased, who was one of the most respected ladies in Fintona, conducted with great skill the large and flourishing