

# 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.

#### CONNAGHT

**GALWAY.**—An outbreak of fire took place in the chapel of the Galway Workhouse Dec. 29. It originated in a crib in the chapel. Prompt measures were taken by the officials to prevent the spread of the fire, but before it could be checked some damage was done.

The death of Mr. Edward J. Lee, Union Councillor of Galwaytown, occurred Dec. 22, at his home in Main-guard street. The remains were removed to the Protestant Cemetery of St. Nicholas, where solemn high mass was celebrated on Wednesday, after which the coffin was conveyed to the hearse and was followed by a very large funeral cortege to the Moycullen Cemetery. Mr. Lee had been in the United States during several years.

The government proclaimed two United Irish League meetings in Monivea, on New Year's Day. Sergeant Coulson of Monivea, served a copy of the proclamation upon Mr. Thomas Higgins, chairman of the North Galway Executive, United Irish League, on Mr. McCann, secretary of the Monivea Branch, and on each member of the committee. After the issue of the proclamation a special meeting of the members of the Monivea Branch was held, Mr. Thomas Higgins presiding. There was a large attendance of members and it was decided to hold a midnight meeting on the top of Knockree hill.

**LEITRIM.**—On St. Stephen's Night the Catholic Church of St. Mary, Carrick-on-Shannon, was broken into by microants, who opened the collection box of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and took its contents, which amounted to a considerable sum.

The funeral of Mr. Francis I. Dolan, son of the late Mr. James Dolan, Five-mile-town, took place Jan. 2 from Sligo Hospital, to Carrickatemple Cemetery near Dromahaire. Deceased was aged only 34 years.

Mr. Alderman P. A. McHugh, M. P., the veteran Nationalist representative of North Leitrim in the British House of Commons, and coercion victim, on being liberated from Sligo prison on Dec. 28, went for rest to the home of his parents at Glenfarne. He was accompanied by Mrs. McHugh. To avoid any demonstration he slipped away quietly. Mr. McHugh never parades his patriotism; therefore the Irish people should not permit him to suffer in health or in finances.

**MAYO.**—The death of Mr. John Hennessy, Glencorrie, Headford, chairman of the Ballinrobe Board of Guardians, occurred Dec. 25. On Monday previous his trap was upset whilst he was driving from Ballinrobe, by which he sustained fatal injuries.

Mr. John J. Fitzmaurice presided at meeting of the members of the Ballinrobe Branch of the United Irish League, held Dec. 21, when this resolution was adopted unanimously. Proposed by J. Prently, seconded by P. Carney: "That we tender a hearty welcome to Dillon and Davitt after their mission to the United States." Collectors were appointed for the Parliamentary Defense Fund.

A large and enthusiastic public meeting was held in the chapel yard, Glensland lately, for the purpose of establishing a branch of the Gaelic League.

On Dec. 28 a monster meeting was held at Knock, six miles from Ballyhanna, for the purpose of unveiling a monument erected there to commemorate the memory of four brave Knock men who took an active part in that memorable fight for freedom which took place in 1798. The young thousands of men and women, young and old stood beside the beautiful and substantial monument, with the best proof of the gratitude of the present generation to those who fought and died for liberty. The names of the four heroes are Capt. Patrick Jordan, James O'Malley, Geoffrey Culliffe and Tom O'Malley.

**ROSCOMMON.**—Lord Duquesne, the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, has rented Rockingham House, Boyle, as a residence. The property is owned by the heirs of the late Col. King-Harmon. Miss Kate Keavany, Chapel street, Boyle, died Dec. 28, aged 23 years. She was a teacher, and became qualified at the Convent schools, Boyle. She was engaged in Athlone and Elphin, and some time ago was appointed to Kilbuck school, near Carrick-on-Shannon. The funeral to the cemetery of Asslyn was numerously attended.

**SLIGO.**—Among the numerous congratulatory messages received by Mr. B. P. McHugh, M. P., on his liberation from Sligo Prison, where he spent several months as a prisoner under the coercion law was the following: "Ten thousand welcomes home. If the new year brings us great and blessed changes for our country, it is you and men like you whose sufferings alone have made it possible."—William O'Brien.

There was a score of more from prominent Nationalists and others, all of which were in the same strain.

Mr. P. A. McHugh, M. P., was liberated from Sligo Jail on Dec. 28 on the completion of his two months' sentence without hard labor under the coercion act. It will be remembered that Mr. McHugh had put in three months' imprisonment for contempt of Court in connection with the same case. A large number of his friends went to the prison to welcome him on his liberation, but as the gentleman did not desire a demonstration he was released earlier than was expected and drove to his residence.

Mr. Francis I. Dolan, Sligo, died Dec. 31. For some time he had charge of Mr. Alderman Connelley's houses in High street. Born of one of the most respected families in County Leitrim, son of the late James Dolan, Carrion, Five-mile-bourne, and grand-nephew of Very Rev. Dr. Maguire, Manohamilton, deceased was educated at Manorhamilton Intermediate School after ward entering commercial life in Sligo. At 10 o'clock on Friday morning solemn requiem high mass was offered up in the Cathedral. Rev. Dr. Hurley celebrated.

#### MUNSTER

**CLARE.**—The death occurred, with great suddenness in Ennis Dec. 27, of Mr. John Miniken, of the Commissioners of National Education office Dublin. Mr. Miniken was the son of the late Mr. Albert Miniken, manager of the National Bank, and brother of the late Mr. Cecil Miniken solicitor. He was in Ennis to spend Christmas with his mother and sisters, and appeared in his usual health. His death at the age of 46 cast a deep gloom over the town and districts around it.

On Christmas Eve, Mr. Thomas White, former, Lackamore, Milltown Malbay, was looking after some cattle on his farm, and when he returned home sat on a chair and died. Deceased was widely known and most respectfully connected. The Very Rev. Father White, O. S. F., Guardian, Dublin, is a brother of the deceased.

**CORK.**—The death of Rev. Bro. D. J. Ryan took place at Our Lady's Mount, Cork, Dec. 23. The deceased brother had been in falling health and had to relinquish the arduous duties attaching to his position in the order. When the Christian Brothers took over their present college at St. Per's Place Rev. Brother Ryan was appointed Superior. His death is a loss to the order in Cork.

On Dec. 3 Coroner James Byrne held an inquest at Dromasave, near Cullen, touching the death of St. Stevens Day of Thomas Murphy, farmer. On Christmas Eve the deceased returned from Millstreet and on entering the house complained to his wife that he had slipped off a high fence when taking a short cut for home. He had a cut on the forehead. Later on he appeared worse, and Dr. Ryan, of Cullen, was summoned, when it was discovered that the deceased was developing concussion of the brain. Dr. Ryan did all that medical skill could suggest to save him, but on St. Stephen's morning succumbed. The cause was to the effect that deceased died from the effects of a wound caused by a fall or blow. A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was given.

A most enjoyable Skoruidacht was given by the members of St. Patrick's Branch of the Gaelic League in Cork city, Dec. 21, to celebrate the close of the first half of the session. All the people of the parish were invited, and so many responded that the hall was packed.

A Féis was held in Ballyvourney Hall Dec. 26, which was a most decided success, as all such have been in Ballyvourney since the patriotic people took part in the movement to revive the language of Ireland. To the energetic president of the branch, Dr. Lynch, most of the success of this year of previous, Felseanra in the parish is due, and the outline of the work the branch has done during the past year, as mentioned by him in his address prior to the Cuirm Seoi, gives an excellent picture of the practical and thorough spirit which animates his every effort on behalf of the language.

Recent Deaths in Cork.—**ROCHE.**—On Dec. 25, at Southern Hospital, Liverpool, Dr. John Nicholas Roche, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, son of John Roche, M. D., Fermoy.—**BERGIN.**—On Dec. 27, Westcourt, College Road, Sarah. **Bergin.**—**HENNISSY.**—On Dec. 27, at Banard, Ballinacraa, Middleton, William Hennessy.—**FIELDING.**—On Dec. 27, at Clouvanade, Kilbrittain, John Fielding.—**BOYLAN.**—On Dec. 29, at 32 Grattan Hill, John Boylan, aged 5 years.—**DUNDON.**—On Dec. 29, at 4 Wellington Terrace, John Dundon.—**GOOD.**—On Dec. 27, at 15 Cook street (suddenly), James Good.—**DUNLEA.**—On Dec. 28, at Ardueehey, William Dunlea.—**DALY.**—On Dec. 28, at Bottle Hill, Mourneabbey, Michael Daly.—**CROGAN.**—On Dec. 28, at 42 Bandon Road, Daniel Francis Cronin.—**M'CARTHY.**—On Dec. 30, at Gurtroche, Ballyholly Jeremiah MacCarthy, late of Moore & Co., Marlboro street.—**HORGAN.**—On Dec. 30, at 5 Kilnap Terrace, New Mallow Road, Margaret Horgan, daughter of Thomas Coughlan, victualler, and wife of David Horgan.—**BARRY.**—On Dec. 30, at 8 Strand Road, Clonsilla, John Joseph Barry.—**CRONIN**

#### MUNSTER

**CARLOW.**—Another very largely attended meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in the forthcoming great bazaar, which is being organized for the purpose of raising funds to pay large debts on the school, and to provide, if possible, some local industry in connection with the schools, was held on Dec. 28 in Bagnastown. The chair was occupied by the Very Rev. Monsignor Burke.

**DUBLIN.**—At a meeting of the Joint (Dublin) Executive of the United Irish League, held Dec. 29, it was decided to support the candidature of Mr. T. Harrington, M. P., for the Lord Mayoralty of Dublin for 1903. Mr. Harrington has already been two years in office.

The Clyde Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, Glasgow, on Dec. 30 launched a steel screw steamer for the City of Dublin Packing Company's service between Dublin and Liverpool. She is lighted throughout with electricity, and has electric fans in the dining saloon. Pity to have all this money spent out of Ireland, Ireland gets the ship named after a town in it but Scotland gets the many thousands of pounds sterling for building the vessel. Which country receives the more substantial benefit from the transaction.

On Dec. 30 Mr. Laurence Byrne, aged 27 years, horse dealer, of Mount Prospect, Miltown, died in the Royal Dublin hospital, Baggott street, from injuries received in the hunting field at Meadow Brook, Dundrum, three days before. It appears that Mr. Byrne went

with the Bray Harriers to Meadow Brook and having jumped a fence lost a stirrup iron, and was thrown off his horse. He was at once conveyed by his father, Mr. Daniel Byrne, and his brother Thomas to hospital, where he was found to have sustained a compound fracture of both bones of the right leg. He was attended by Dr. Killiard, house surgeon, and Dr. Moore visiting surgeon, but despite all that medical skill could do he died.

On Dec. 31 the remains of Mrs. Margaret Ryan, of Ardmore House, Inchicore, were removed for interment in the Golden Bridge Cemetery. The deceased lady was the widow of the late Mr. James Ryan, of Richmond Hill, Kilmalham, and sister of the late Mr. John Proctor, who was for several years one of the Township Commissioners of Kilmalham. The funeral was largely attended. The remains were received at the cemetery by the Very Rev. P. Fee, and the parochial clergy, who conducted the ceremonies at the grave.

**KILDARS.**—Among the recent deaths in Kildare were the following: Dec. 29 at Nicholstown Sarah Whelan, Office and High Mass at St. Michael's Athy. On Dec. 28, at 12 The Crescent, Botanic Road Dublin, Rose Mary Nolan, formerly of Castle House, Magency, aged 65 years. Dec. 27, at Poplar Square, Naas, Patrick Connell, aged 25 years.

**KILKENNY.**—Mr. Charles Hayden, Bishopstow, died Dec. 16, at the patriarchal age of 86 years. He was father of Mr. M. C. Hayden, (Callan) The funeral cortege extended the entire distance from Dungarvan to the cemetery in Tullaherim.

The death of Rev. Walter Walsh, P. P. Ballyhaie, took place Jan. 2 at Ballyhaie. He was formerly parish priest at Silverue. On Christmas night he was driving home when his horse became restive, and Father Walsh was thrown on the road and sustained serious injuries.

**KINGS.**—Patrick Birmingham of Ballybricken, aged 86 years, was found dead in his home on Christmas Day. The remains bore some signs of violence, and the authorities are making investigations as to how his death was caused.

On No. 12 died in Boston Mass, at the residence of her son, Michael O'Neill, of Fern Hill, Sandycott, County Dublin.

Messrs. David Sheehy and James Lynam, organizers for the United Irish League, Dec. 29 drove from Tullamore to Frankford, and addressed a very large meeting after last mass. The object of the meeting was the reorganization of the branch and the appointing of new officials.

**LONGFORD.**—The grand concert in aid of the Presbytery Fund was held in the schools of St. Joseph's Convent, of Mercy, Longford, Dec. 29. The attendance was very large. Rev. P. Dolan, Adm. is to be congratulated on the success which attended this concert organized by him.

The death of Mr. O'Neill Crowdrum, occurred Dec. 16. She was mother of Mr. James O'Neill, chairman of the Longford Board of Guardians. On Thursday the funeral took place to Drumlish cemetery. The cortege was representative.

**LOUTH.**—Mrs. Ellen Wright, of 26 King street, Drogheda died Dec. 28, deeply mourned. She was a daughter of late Mr. James Nugent.

A meeting of the United Irish League branches in North Louth was held Dec. 28, in the Town Hall, Dundalk, for the purpose of establishing a Divisional Executive of the United Irish League for the Parliamentary constituency, which is represented by Mr. T. M. Healy, M. P.

**MEATH.**—Mr. John Clarke, Kilmom Ashbourne, died Dec. 27. The funeral to Mount Town cemetery was numerous attended.

The ceremony of celebrating the first public mass in the new church of St. Patricks, Trim, took place on Christ mass morning at 7 a. m., the celebrant being the Very Rev. M. Woods. The edifice was filled. Many persons approached the altar rails for holy communion. Father Woods spoke in feeling terms about the severance of their communion with the old church.

**QUEEN'S.**—The death of Mr. Christopher Mooney, Treacoon, Portlanning, occurred Dec. 13, at the age of 84 years. The interment took place at Kilkenny Cemetery, the remains being accompanied by a large circle of friends and the general public, there being 125 cars at the funeral.

The quarterly meeting of the Leix Divisional of the United Irish League was held lately in the Town Hall, Maryborough. On the motion of Mr. Hanigan, seconded by Mr. P. Campion, it was resolved: "That we enter a solemn protest against the perversion of the charter of liberty, trial by jury, which in the hands of officers of the Crown in Ireland, has become a farce, and by the scandalous system of jury packing, as practiced in the case of Mr. Dennis Kilbridge. Mr. Kelly, Abbeyleix, called attention to the fact that various lettings of grazing lands are announced to be made in his district at an early date. He thought some action should be taken in the matter. It was decided to hold a public meeting at Abbeyleix on Sunday, Jan. 11, to condemn the eleven months' letting system. On the motion of Mr. P. Maher, R. D. C., seconded by Mr. Denis Delaney, it was resolved unanimously: "That we again put on record our condemnation of the eleven

months' system of taking land from which tenants have been evicted, or which have been taken from tenants by the landlords. In our opinion the system is resulting in the greatest injury to the country; and we call on all who love their country and who desire the welfare and prosperity of the people to abstain from and discountenance the system."

Mr. William J. Cummins, teacher in the National School, Rathdowney, died Jan. 3. He had been teacher in that district during six years, and was only 27 years of age. The funeral took place on Friday morning, leaving his residence at 9 o'clock for Ballybrophy railway station. Notwithstanding the hour and that the morning was very cold, many of his fellow townsmen turned out to pay their last respects to one whom they held in high esteem.

**WESTMEATH.**—Michael Wyse, Military Road, Mullingar, died recently, deeply regretted. Solemn requiem office and high mass were held in the Cathedral, after which the funeral, attended by a great many friends, left for the cemetery in Walshstown.

**WEXFORD.**—Very Rev. Canon Thomas Doyle, pastor of Ramsgrange, passed his 86th birthday on Dec. 21 in good health, and with his intellect as clear and judgment as correct as they were fifty years ago. In those days he was a terror to evildoers in the religious and political affairs of Ireland. He was a strenuous and unwavering supporter of the tenant's struggle to obtain justice from tyrannical and alien landlords.

One of the most shocking accidents that has occurred in South Wexford in forty years happened at Tinock, near Campile, eight miles from New Ross on the evening of St. Stephen's Day. The victim was a farmer and mill-owner named Thomas Quigley, aged 55 years. It would seem that he went to set the mill going. When working, his clothes got caught in the cog of the spur wheel, and instantly he was dragged in between the spur wheel and the crown wheel and killed. The deceased resided previously at Haggard, near Ramsgrange, and upon the death of his father-in-law sixteen years ago he was handed over charge of Tinock farm and mill, which he managed up to the time of his sad death.

The death occurred lately, at the age of 62 years, of Mr. John G. Keating, Ballinablack, Curracloe. The deceased, who was a brother of Mr. Nicholas Keating, Wexford, the late Rev. James Keating, Davidstown, and the late Rev. M. Keating, Cranford, was very popular among his neighbors. He did good service as a member of some of the public boards, and was a warm supporter of the Gaelic athletic revival. High mass and office were held at Screen, on Dec. 18. Rev. T. O'Connor, S. P. C., celebrant, and Rev. M. Byrne, Wexford, and Rev. T. Scallan, Ballymitt, chanters. Very Rev. Canon Cloney, Castlebridge, presided.

**WICKLOW.**—There were laid to rest at Glendalough, Dec. 29, the remains of one of the oldest and most respected residents of the city, late of Glendalough, Mr. John Richardson, proprietor of the Laxa Lodge. Mr. Richardson had reached the age of 80 years, and up to a few months ago enjoyed robust health. Many expressions of sympathy were conveyed to his friends in Dublin and elsewhere, who were unable to attend the obsequies. The prayers were recited at the grave by Rev. R. Fagin, Roundwood, P. M. Hogan, Glendalough, and Rev. M. Cashen, Garrisstown.

On Dec. 30 as the lifeboat in Arklow was returning to the harbor under practice under the supervision of Lieut. Maclean of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a very sad event occurred. When the boat had passed the bar one of the crew, John Dunne, Man's Lane, Arklow, was noticed to fall backward. The coxswain went to his assistance and efforts were made to revive him but he died. Dunne was 48 years of age and had a wife and family. He frequently went on wreck service. At the inquest a verdict of death from heart failure was rendered and the widow and family were recommended to the consideration of the Lifeboat Institution, as they were in very poor circumstances.

#### ULSTER

**ANTRIM.**—Information reached Belfast New Year's Day of a supposed murder near Toomebridge. Aaron Magill lived alone, and as he had not been seen for a few days, his house was entered and his dead body was found in the kitchen, bearing marks of violence.

The members of the Belfast Joseph Devlin Branch of the United Irish League held a meeting Dec. 28. Mr. Anderson occupied the chair. There was a large attendance.

**ARMAGH.**—The quarterly meeting of the members of the Bagginry Branch of the A. O. H. was held Dec. 13. Delegates were present from Ballynarry, Derrytagh South, Derrytrasna, Derrycoor and Lylo. Very satisfactory reports were handed in as to the flourishing condition of the order. A resolution was proposed and adopted: "That every member will do his utmost to advance the cause of Irish Nationality by working in harmony with the United Irish League, and assisting it by word and example."

On Dec. 28 the entertainment annually given by the Children of Mary to

the members of the society and their friends took place in the large school in the convent of Mercy, Edward street Lurgan. The school was filled by the members wearing the ribbon and medal of the society, as well as by a large number of clergy and laity from the town.

**CAVAN.**—Miss Katie McEnroe, of Drumiller, Kingscourt, died Dec. 19, aged 21 years, deeply mourned. Great numbers attended the funeral to the family burial place in Kingscourt.

A meeting of the East Cavan Executive of the United Irish League was held in the Town Hall, Cavan, Dec. 17. The chairman said the most important part of the business was the collection of the Defense Fund, and he hoped that everything possible had been done to make it a success. Since their last meeting a cloud appeared on the horizon, which, thank God, had passed away. It would be a matter of regret that any misunderstanding should exist between the Bishops and priests of Ireland and the Parliamentary Party, and he thought it was appropriate to pass a resolution of confidence in the party. The collection was then taken up.

**DERRY.**—The Derry Dramatic Club will give two performances in opera house on the nights of February 23 and 24. The proceeds will go to aid the Nazareth House Building Fund. The several successful performances given by the club last year in aid of the Bazaar Fund displayed the good spirit which animates its members.

**DONEGAL.**—The death of Rev. John McCullagh, pastor of Malpa, occurred Dec. 26, to the great regret of his parishioners. He was a native of Plumbridge, County Tyrone.

The people throughout Inishowen learned with regret of the death lately of Mr. P. J. Doherty, a well known and respected resident of Carrondagh, whose family has been connected with the business of that town for more than half a century. He conducted an extensive drapery and general business, and was a leading figure in all movements for the advantage of that town and district.

The St. John's Point fishermen are having a very successful herring fishing in Donegal Bay. The average take is from two to five thousand per boat. The herring are large and of fine quality.

**DOWN.**—The Erinagh Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held its quarterly meeting in the club house Downpatrick, Dec. 9. Brother John Black in the chair. Three new members were admitted. Brother Joseph Cahir, president, after explaining proceedings at meeting of district masters, held previous Sunday, said they were indebted to the Nationalists of Belfast for their splendid co-operation at Downpatrick demonstration on the anniversary of the Manchester martyrs and that such aid must be recognized.

On Dec. 12 the inhabitants of the Square, Portaferry, were alarmed by a loud report like the firing of a cannon and saw a volume of smoke about the Nugent Arms Hotel, at the corner of the Square and Hill street. It was evident that an explosion of a serious nature had occurred, and window glass was strewn for yards in front of the hotel. Mr. Parra had got a new plant for manufacturing acetylene gas at the rear of his premises to supply the hotel with light, and the contractor had left the plant in working order. Mr. Charles Park, the proprietor's son, accompanied by a boy named Moonan, set about finding an escape from some of the gas pipes under the floor, and in trying one of the pipes in a bed room over the hall an explosion took place, seriously injuring the boy Moonan and burning Park about the face and head.

**FERMANAGH.**—James Scanlan, who resided near Irvinestown, on the road to Ederney, was found dead on the mountain. It appears deceased who was 96 years of age, went on Dec. 27 to cut rods on the mountain, and not having returned at the usual hour, his family became alarmed, and a search was made with lanterns, but all to no avail. He was found on Monday morning, lying on his back, with his arms stretched out, his stick in one hand and a reaping hook in the other. He was partly covered with snow, from which fact it is believed he had fallen before the storm began. There was no tracks of any kind where the deceased was lying, and everything points to failure of the heart's action.

**MONAGHAN.**—A most enthusiastic meeting of the members of the Tyravnet Branch of the United Irish League was held Dec. 21, in the League room, Scotstown, Rev. J. Smyth, vice-president, in the chair.

**TYRONE.**—Father John McCullagh, pastor of Malin, County Donegal, died Dec. 29, deeply mourned. He was a native of Plumbridge district, it is said. As parish priest of Faughanvale, he was familiar to the citizens and made many friends in Derry. From Faughanvale (Eglington) he was transferred to the pastorate of Malin, where he ministered until the time of his death.

Mr. John Gorman, merchant, Main street, Cavan, died Dec. 21, after a long period of sickness. Deceased was a native of Tullyrush. He opened business in Cavan ten years ago and built up a prosperous trade. His death at the comparatively early age of 50 years, is mourned by the many friends. The funeral took place from the Cathedral, Cavan, on Tuesday, to Jullies cemetery, and was largely attended.