

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.—The parish priests of Clontarf met at Loughrea on March 26, for the purpose of selecting a successor to their late bishop, promoted to the Metropolitan See of Tuam. Most Rev. Dr. Healy presided. The following names were recommended: Rev. Father Bove, P. P. 7 votes; Very Rev. Father Gilmartin, Maynooth College, 9 votes; Rev. Father Cunningham, P. P. 4 votes; Very Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Maynooth College, 3 votes; Rev. Father O'Donovan, Adm., 1 vote.

At County Galway Assizes lately James McCullagh was charged with having defrauded Lord Ashdown, when in his employment as steward, of sums of money amounting to £650. After hearing the evidence, the jury found a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged.

The funeral of the late Mr. Thomas McHugh Caheristrane took place March 21, and was very largely attended. The immense cortege extending from his residence to the burial place at Donaghpatrick, two miles away. Telegrams and letters of sympathy with his family were received from the members of the Freeman staff, Dublin, P. Cullinane, J. McKinney, P. McGrath, Sergeant Morrissey, T. McMahon and J. Flynn, Dublin; P. J. Burke, Warrenpoint, County Down; T. Mitchell, De La Salle, Waterford, etc. Rev. J. Healey officiated at the interment.

LETRIM.—The new Bornaocia Hurling Club has adopted the name of An Craobh Rua, which in English is the Red Branch. This name has been adopted to encourage the study of the Irish language. It is expected that the new team will begin practice before the end of March, and during the summer the young people will find enjoyment in the old Irish game. It is now more than a decade since hurling was replaced by football in this parish, and now the old game is revived in Lettrim and Longford by the action of the Bornaocia hurlers. It is expected that their action will encourage other parishes to do likewise. The Hurling Club is controlled by the Bornaocia A. A. Committee, J. B. Han, president; J. McWeeney, treasurer; W. Bohan, secretary; J. Dunne, P. Devine, M. Cox, J. Feeney.

MAYO.—The local government board gave notice in the Dublin Gazette that at an examination of candidates for assistant county surveyors in Ireland, held on February 5 and 6, Mr. John J. O'Malley qualified. Mr. O'Malley was elected by the Mayo County Council as assistant county surveyor for West Mayo, subject to his passing the examination referred to.

ROSCOMMON.—The funeral of late Mr. Michael Noone, Jr., Rathmore, Roscommon, took place at Ballinridge cemetery, March 11, and was very numerously attended.

SLIGO.—On March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, Miss Maggie Lyons, Tobercurry, received the veil of a religious in the Convent for African Missions in Cork.

Messrs. Peter Crowley, Thomas Coleman and Bryan O'Hara were elected by the members of the Killoran branch of the United Irish League to represent them at the great National Convention in Dublin, April 14 and 15.

Munster

CLARE.—The members of the Lashshed, a branch of the United Irish League held a meeting on March 22, Mr. John O'Neill presiding. The announcement in the Clare Man that the Ennismun Board of Guardians rejected the tender of Mr. Thomas Glavin, the representative of the paper was condemned as unworthy of a National body. At the meeting a poster was read stating that the Clare Man had been seized on Saturday by the sheriff and taken under a judgment for £400 obtained by John McInerney, auctioneer, Ennismun. It came as a surprise to the people, who sympathize with the editor. His exclamation of "no surrender" should be followed by John Skehan, Lackanashanna, Mtd. recently, after a brief illness. The immense funeral cortege which followed the remains to its last resting place at Killadysert testified to the esteem in which deceased was held.

CORK.—The people in Kilworth Parish has subscribed \$530 to assist in liquidating the debt on the great Cathedral of St. Colman, at Cove, in the diocese of Cloyne.

The death of Mr. Robert Thompson, the well-known Irish piper, occurred in Cork on March 21. Mr. Thompson had been in delicate health for six years, but not until a fortnight ago was it thought necessary to have medical aid. Mr. Thompson gained notoriety as a piper by winning first prize against all comers at Fels Ceoil held in Dublin in 1897, and the following

year at Belfast he was successful in leading the list. As an all-round player of the pipes, and also a maker of "reeds," Mr. Thompson had few if any equals in this country, and consequently was in great demand at Irish entertainments in all parts of the south of Ireland, and his demise at a comparatively early age will be deeply regretted by his many friends. Father Daly administered the last rites of the church.

Recent Deaths in Cork.—NOONAN.—On March 25, at 155 Evergreen road, Cornelius Noonan. McGRATH.—On March 26, at Eastcliffe, Southern Road, Marcella McGrath. HAWES.—On March 25, at 16 Beach, Queens town, Willie Hawes, aged 10 1/2 years. FLYNN.—On March 26, at Boremans road, Margaret Henry, aged 28 years. DESMOND.—At Friar's Walk, on March 19, Catherine Desmond. OREGAN.—On March 25, at Condonetown, Watergrasshill, James O'Regan, aged 60 years. SMITH.—On March 18, at Castle Hotel, Blarney, George Smith FAHY.—At Barles town, on March 18, Annie Jago, daughter of the late John Malton, Kinsale. THOMPSON.—On March 21, at Kaiser's Hill, Cork, Robert Thompson, aged 52 years. FITZGERALD.—At Cork, on March 23, Billy Fitzgerald. WALSH.—On March 22, at Horse Hill, Ballinadee, David Walsh.

KERRY.—John O'Sullivan, Cahirciveen, when knocking down the walls of the sacristy of the old church, March 19, was crushed by a portion of the ceiling which collapsed. He was removed to the infirmary for treatment, but died on Saturday following.

On March 27 the town of Tralee was flooded by the Big River burst up through the streets and inundated dwelling houses and stores, doing great damage to goods and premises. In some houses the water rose to five feet. P. Carroll, of Mary street, when wading through the water in Bridge street, was swept off his feet and almost drowned. Trains service between Tralee and Limerick was suspended.

Other parts of Kerry suffered from the floods. On March 21, at Patrick Cliff road was proceeding to its crochery at Bricke with a horse, cart and milk about ten o'clock in the morning. He had to pass the road at Ballybane, submerged by the flood from the River Maine. Being well acquainted with the place, he thought it was fordable, but the horse got out of its depth, plunged to swim and overturned the cart. Clifford seized the uppermost wheel and kept his head above water while the horse extricated itself and swam out on land. In this position Clifford remained for four hours, although his attempts were made to reach the cart. A. A. Committee, J. B. Han, president; J. McWeeney, treasurer; W. Bohan, secretary; J. Dunne, P. Devine, M. Cox, J. Feeney.

LIMERICK.—The new pupil in the Kilnallik church was enrolled on St. Patrick's day in the presence of a large congregation. There was solemn high mass. Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer presided, assisted by Very Rev. John Caherick, Kilfinane, and the Very Rev. Andrew Murphy, president of Munchina College, Limerick. The celebrant was the Rev. William Higgins, S.M., dean, Rev. John O'Donoghue, Kilnallik, and subdeacon, Rev. W. Carroll, Maynooth. Rev. Timothy Reddy, master of ceremonies. After the first gospel Very Rev. Father MacNamara, C. S. C. R., rector, Limerick, preached a very impressive sermon.

The floods caused by the recent rains were the gravest known in Athyfeale district for fifty years. The Feale and its tributaries, the Ouldough and Ouldaghann, were swollen to points rarely exceeded. Several houses on the way to the railway were inundated, and the inmates obliged to leave a circumstance never before recorded, even in the highest floods. The Tralee train was blocked owing to the submergence of the line near its law, on the Kerry side of the Feale. The waters rushed over the roadway at Mounshand and the road bridge, while the roadway was rendered impassable. The flood filled up the entire valley of the Feale. A good deal of damage has been done by the destruction of road ways, and to what is a comparatively late date. A fall of snow succeeded the rain. The weather was a succession of showers and entirely unpropitious spring weather experienced. Farmers have seldom been so seriously handicapped in spring operations as they have been this year.

TIPPERARY.—According to the census the number of Irish-speaking persons in Tipperary county in 1861 was 37,911, of 10 1/2 per cent of the population, in 1881 24,906, or 11 1/2 per cent of the population, and in 1891 12,312, or 7 1/2 per cent of the population, and in 1901, 9,735, or 6 1/2 per cent of the population.

WATERFORD.—Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, bishop of Waterford and Lismore, presided at 12 o'clock mass at the Cathedral, Waterford, March 22. The celebrant of the mass was the Rev. T. O'Donoghue, chaplain to the Good Shepherd convent, the deacons at the throne being the Rev. W. O'Connell, and the Rev. P. Ward. After the first gospel the bishop preached an instructive sermon on the gospel of the day. "The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and

fishes." He also spoke on his recent visit to the Holy Father.

On St. Patrick's night a "Juverna" concert was held in Lismore, and it was the most successful entertainment ever before held in the town. Foremost among those who took a lively interest in the concert were: Rev. J. Kiernan, Rev. R. J. Casey, Rev. W. J. Bruce, Little; Professor Wright, LL. D.; Dr. E. B. Russell, J. E. Penrose, H. A. Sterne, L. M. Fitzgerald, Dr. P. R. Donnelly, J. Noonan, J. Crotty and James C. O'Brien. The money obtained will be presented to the Christian Brothers, to assist in founding a training college in Dublin for the order.

The children attending the Ursuline Convent, Waterford, had an entertainment on March 21. The parents of the children were invited and all were highly gratified with the program. Father Fitzgerald, a.m., was present, accompanied by Father Thomas, who was conducting a retreat at St. John's church. The program, which was truly Irish, began with "An Droichead," sung by the pupils of the fifth and sixth standards. Next was a double jig, danced by two sets of four. The following took part in the dance: First set, Mr. Murphy, M. Butler, B. Power and M. Hannigan; second set, M. Tully, K. Murphy, S. Whelan and E. Kurland. A prize for "The best traditional Irish song learned at home" was offered. The following competed: M. Malone, Julia Doherty, Clisde and Maggie Butler, S. Murky sang "Ban Gaelic Eireann Og," and M. Murphy rendered with taste and expression, "Caiteam na Glair." The next item was a four-hand reel, danced in two sets. 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