

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Belfast Municipal Elections.—On Monday, September 20, a meeting of the supporters resident in St. Mary's Congregational District of the candidates selected by the Catholic Association for the Smithfield Ward of Belfast was held in St. Mary's Hall, under the Presidency of the Bishop of Down and Connor (the Most Rev. Dr. Henry). In the course of his speech, his lordship said: "I have no fear that the Catholics of Belfast, and I have no fear especially that the Catholics of this quarter of the city, will ever give countenance to the mischievous policy of denying the bishop and priests the right of intervening in municipal affairs. Had the bishop and priests not come forward in opposition to the Belfast Corporation Bill, I need hardly tell you that there would be no two wards for Catholics to quarrel about. There is no reason why the Catholics of Belfast should quarrel—there is every reason why they should unite, and especially unite in the selection of candidates for municipal honours. The Catholics fought the Town Council on Catholic and non-political lines. We fought and we won on non-political lines, and because we fought on non-political lines we were able to secure the co-operation and assistance and support of the Irish Parliamentary representatives of every section and shade, and it is a strong argument in favour of the wisdom of our policy that we secured by going on non-political lines the ablest advocacy of some of the brightest intellects of members of Parliament on the benches of the British House of Commons. As Catholics we obtained for the Catholics of Belfast exceptional legislation owing to the exceptional treatment as Catholics we had received from an exclusive Town Council. Now, I ask, are the Catholics of Belfast, numbering nearly 80,000, to rest satisfied with the delimitation of two wards, with a preponderating Catholic population, affording them an opportunity of squabbling amongst themselves? Is that the goal of the ambition of the Catholics of Belfast? Are there not other boards in the city—the Harbour Board, the Water Board, and the Poor Law Board, where the Catholic representation is nil or miserably inadequate? In our struggle for adequate Catholic representation on those Boards are we to discard the policy of union, which has been so far successful in obtaining our municipal rights? I will take the opportunity of saying that the gentlemen listening to me this evening from Smithfield Ward will be no party to the wreck and ruin of the Catholic cause. I am satisfied they will never give countenance to a wrong-headed policy of dissension and disunion among the Catholics of Belfast. Need I ask you to pay no attention to the false and reckless charges which are spread broadcast against me, and the gentlemen who, notwithstanding these charges, are standing by me to endeavour to obtain representation and employment for the Catholics of Belfast on the public boards of the city? The real issue is this: Are you going to put aside the advice and the guidance of the gentlemen, including your Bishop, who got for you the chance of representation in the Town Council, and are you going to put into their places a coterie of self-constituted guides, who, I may tell you, did all they possibly could to spoil and prevent your getting representation at all?"

CORK.—The Fermoy Guardians and the Sisters.—At the last meeting of the Fermoy Board of Guardians a letter was read from the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne:—"I beg to make application to your Board for permission of two additional Sisters of Mercy to live in the Workhouse Convent under the following circumstances and conditions: (1) The Sisters will not and cannot be a source of any additional expense to the Guardians, as they seek for neither salary or board at the expense of the rates. I merely ask that they be allowed to live in the same house with the other Sisters of Mercy. No additional accommodation is necessary. (2) The circumstances which lead me to make this request are the following: There died recently in Fermoy a lady, Mrs. Eliza Barry, who left the residue of her property for the purpose of establishing a community of Sisters of Mercy or of a similar Order of nuns to visit the sick and poor of Fermoy. The property left for this purpose is only about £35 annually. Now this is insufficient to establish an independent house, and is only in part sufficient to support two nuns. Hence I ask you to allow them to live in the same house as their Sisters in religion in the workhouse, and so make it possible for me to secure their services for the poor and sick of Fermoy. I need not point out to you that the attendance of the nuns on the poor and sick in their homes will be a blessing to them, and be in some measure a relief to the rates." The request was unanimously acceded to, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board.

DONEGAL.—The tap of the Orange Drum.—His Eminence Cardinal Logue on Saturday, September 18, delivered in Donegal an address upon Irish political affairs, which dealt in an illustrative manner with the treatment of the present Government towards Ireland. His Eminence pointed out that the Government came into office to kill Home Rule with kindness, but Home Rule is neither killed by kindness nor by any other method. The "kindness" has been remarkable only for its absence. As Cardinal Logue, in a phrase destined to be heard again and again, puts it, the tap of the Orange drum really rules the present administration. "No matter," says the Cardinal, "what measure is proposed for the welfare of the people and the good of the country, and taken up even in good faith with the best intentions in the world by the Members of the present Ministry, one tap of the Orange drum is sufficient to have the measure put in the background." Municipal reform, university reform, and land reform all have disappeared before the tap of the Orange drum. Will the fear of his Eminence that local government may undergo the same fate be also realised? We certainly will not place much faith (says the *Dublin Freeman*) in the professions of the Government in the matter until, if ever we see the Bill passed into law. Even as the measure has been outlined it is burdened with a disgraceful proposal to bribe the Irish land-

lords. The Irish are asked to pay a big price for what Scotland and England have received gratis. The Irish people will not pay the price, however, unless they get something like value for their money. Meanwhile the course to be pursued throughout the country ought to be sufficiently clear to everyone. As his Eminence well said, we want to be united. We want some of the spirit which Cardinal Logue spoke of so highly as existing among the members of the National Federation in Donegal. We want the application throughout the country of the antidote to the Orange drum—namely, the tap of the Nationalist drum. When the drums of a united country commence to roll the Orange tap will have very feeble effect indeed. As long as we are split and divided we will get nothing. When we bind ourselves together we can force any reforms we please from such Government as may be in office. This lesson is taught us by bitter experience. It ought not be necessary to enforce it again. Time of great promise for the country is slipping away, and if we neglect our duty until it is too late it will be only our own fault if misfortune of a national kind follow.

DUBLIN.—Celebrating the Centenary.—The executive committee of the '98 centenary committee at a meeting in Dublin, has decided on the following, amongst other details:—(1) That deputations should wait on each trade, with the object of procuring their participation in the demonstration; to consult with them as to banners and bannerettes associated with '98 and free from sectional politics to be borne in the procession; to recommend that any bannerettes or banners which may be now ordered may be of Irish fabric and workmanship; and also, where practicable, they should form '98 committees, and to obtain from them their suggestions in reference to decorations of their club rooms and other street decorations. That deputations should also wait on branches of the G.A.A., the courts of the Irish National and Ancient Order of Foresters for the same purposes, and also on Dublin rural bodies to secure the organisation of '98 committees and to obtain their suggestions on the same subjects; and also on bands, to secure that, in addition to their co-operation, the music to be played by them should be music written to words incidental to '98, and that no foreign music be played under any circumstances in the demonstrations; also to ascertain from the occupiers of historic houses, such as those in which Wolfe Tone was born and where he resided, Oliver Bond's House in Bridge street, Hamilton Rowan's house, and such-like places, whether they could be suitably decorated.

The Rackrenter's Hope.—The landlords have got the opportunity they were clamouring for (says the *Dublin Freeman*). The Land Commission is their Commission. The precise scope of the inquiry has been settled between them and a friendly Government behind the backs of the tenants. The tribunal has been framed in accordance with their wishes. One of the members of this tribunal, in which the tenants are invited to show confidence, is an avowed and extreme but at the same time a most able partisan of the landlord class. The tenants, on the other hand, are absolutely without representation on the tribunal. Their case must be tried on the issues raised, and before the Court appointed by their opponents. It is fair to assume that it was at their instance, as it is manifestly in their interest, that in violation of the precedents of previous Royal Commissions, such as the Cowper and the Bessborough Commissions, counsel have been invited to take part in the deliberations. The landlords are well aware, despite the whining about poverty, that their length of purse in any such conflict gives them an enormous advantage over the tenants.

Reception of a Nun.—On the 14th September, at the Dominican Convent, St. Hill, Blackrock, Miss Annie M. Stone, B.A. (an Religion Sister Mary Peter Gonzales), eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Stone, ex-1st class supervisor of Inland Revenue, Dublin, and sister of Dr. H. E. Stone, of Bloxwich, England, made her solemn profession, having received the black veil of the Order of St. Dominic. The Right Rev. Mgr. Plunket, P.P., V.G., Booterstown, officiated in the absence of his Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop Walsh. The following clergymen were present: Very Rev. Father Healy, president University College, Blackrock; Very Rev. Father Hyland, O.S.B., rector Merchant's Quay; Rev. Father Colahan, C.C., Booterstown; Rev. Father Gossin, C.C., Blackrock; and Rev. Father O'Connell, C.C., Cork. After the impressive ceremony in the beautiful chapel of the convent, at which all the nuns, novices, postulants, boarders, and day-pupils attended, the clergy and relatives present were hospitably entertained by the Rev. Prioress and the good nuns, whose lovely grounds were afterwards thrown open to the visitors.

GALWAY.—The New Cathedral at Loughrea.—On Wednesday, September 8, work was commenced on the new cathedral in Loughrea. It has been in contemplation fully sixty years. But now, thanks to the energy of Most Rev. Dr. Healy, the work will undoubtedly continue to a successful issue. The site selected is in Barrack street, almost on the bank of the picturesque Lough Rea, and close by is one of the solid ivy-grown towers. A large, long, spacious house, remarkable for nothing save its superbly hewn stone, stands right in the centre of the site; this structure was the famous "Monahan's Hotel," immortalised by Lever in "Charles O'Malley." Few places could be found so well laid out for a cathedral, and the people are proud of the beauty of the site. The work will give employment. Mr. Glynn, Dublin, has the contract for the building, and his tender alone was £13,000. The foundation stone will be laid on October 2.

Failure of the Potato.—The vast extent of country between Clifden and Slyne Head, known as Errismore, which generally supplied the local market with potatoes, will not yield this season as much as will keep alive the people of the immediate locality. It is openly stated that the digging of a meal of potatoes any way good is an entire day's work.

KILDARE.—Fatal Accident to a Priest.—A sad accident, resulting in the death of the Rev. Patrick Jones, P.P., of Blackditch, County Wicklow, took place on Sunday, September 19.