

Reinstated After 15 Years.—A man named Monaghan has been reinstated in his holding on the estate of Mr. J. H. Peyton, at Mount Daisy, from which he was evicted for non-payment of rent some 15 years ago. The reinstatement came as an agreeable surprise upon the people of the locality, where the hostile relations between the evicted tenant and landlord were well known. The landlord had no other alternative if he wanted to save the holding from ruin, nobody being venturesome enough to "grab" it.

ROSCOMMON.—Ballinasloe Fair.—The gap returns at Garbally Park showed an increase on Tuesday, October 5, of over 1000 on last year's sales. The number sold on the first day of the fair in '96 was 23,836; to-day 24,898 were sold, being an increase of 1062. These figures bear witness to the briskness of the trade done. In fact, nearly all the sheep in the fair, except those in the hands of dealers, were bought up at once, and there were not many left over for the second day. At the September fair for ewes there were over 16,000 sold. These figures are well up to the average of recent years, but they still represent a tremendous falling off as compared with the condition of affairs up to '79. The horse fair, from which much was expected, is not likely to prove a very successful one. The buyers are complaining that the quality of the hunters shown is not up to the mark and that it is impossible to get a five or six year old animal of good quality. This state of affairs is due largely to the difficulty of getting breeders to keep good quality horses for such a long period in the hope of getting an adequate price for them when they are five or six years old. Another reason for the absence of such animals from the fairs is the fact that of late years the buyers, to satisfy the great demand, are in the habit of picking them up privately at the owners' places. Amongst the buyers at present in Ballinasloe are Messrs. Widger, Waterford; Mr. T. Donovan, Cork; Mr. James Daly, Liffey Bank, Dublin; Messrs. Lawton, Carrigrohilly; Mr. Johnston, Belfast; Mr. Fox, Armagh; Mr. Delaney, Dublin; Mr. Oliver Dixon, Reading; Mr. Wm. Keeping, Reading; Mr. Deacon, Swindon; and others. There have been several purchases by Mr. Donovan, Messrs. Lawton, and others.

WEXFORD.—Windfall For a Wexford Farmer.—A cablegram from Portland, Oregon, to Messrs. W. J. O'Connor and Co., solicitors, Gorey, received on October 7, announces an unexpected windfall for a farmer named M'Donald, living at Kilrush, near Newtownbarry. Some time ago a letter was received

be ascertained in a rough way from the number of persons married who sign the marriage registers or certificate, and the advance shown is very satisfactory. In the birth statistics the proportion of illegitimate births is exceedingly small, and the Protestant parts of the country once more compare unfavourably with the Roman Catholic. So far as the ratio of illegitimate births is to be taken as a test of morality, Ireland is, with the exception of Greece, the most moral country in Europe. But while there is much in the report to which Irishmen may point with satisfaction, the emigration returns tell their usual story. In 1896 the natural increase of population was more than counterbalanced by the loss of those who emigrated, and of the latter no less than 83·7 per cent. were between 15 and 35 years old."

Mr. Michael Davitt: His Approaching Visit to America.—The *Irish American* says:—We are informed that Michael Davitt is about to pay a visit to the United States, and will pass through New York on his way to California, where are now sojourning his family, whom he desires to escort back to the Old Country, so that they may be there for the "Centenary of Ninety-eight." When Mr. Davitt was here some time ago an endeavour was made to have him deliver one or two addresses on the national question in Ireland; but at the time his previous arrangements would not permit of the delay that would have been necessary. It is hoped, however, that now he will be able to spare time enough, on his return trip, to give his countrymen here his views on the present status of the "Irish Question" on the other side. The best message Mr. Davitt can bring to his countrymen here will be that which will indicate to them that their fellow-countrymen at home have come to their senses and are no longer being divided into factions.

The Irish Egg Trade.—A valuable discussion is going on in the *Freeman* upon the importance of the Irish egg trade. If properly managed it can be made a great industry, and attention to but a few small points is necessary. Improved poultry means a great deal, improved packing and treatment of the eggs by local collectors and exporters means a great deal more. To have good eggs there must be more care in the first place on the part of the hen owner. It is now generally conceded that the nest in which the egg is laid has considerable influence on its future. Laid in a musty nest an egg will be musty. Laid in clean conditions it will be sweet and clean. Lifting the eggs immediately after laying and coating

THE MASSIVE PLATE

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Some of the prettiest designs that could be wished for are now shown for inspection, and the stock is sufficiently large to meet the wants of all intending purchasers. Prices always right.

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CORNER GEORGE AND ST. ANDREW STREETS.

J. M'KAY

by the Most. Rev. Dr. Browne, Lord Bishop of Ferns, from Joseph M'Carthy, of Portland, Oregon, asking for information respecting the relatives of Thomas M'Donald, who emigrated from Wexford half a century ago. Dr. Browne had the letter published in the Wexford papers, and in consequence the Messrs. O'Connor received instructions from M'Donald to write to Mr. M'Carthy. It appeared in further correspondence that Thomas M'Donald had died intestate, leaving a very extensive property, and that only very vague information could be procured concerning the heirs. A claim was put in on behalf of the Kilrush farmer, and proofs that he was a brother of the deceased were forwarded. After considerable delay M'Donald's claim has been substantiated, and he comes in for the entire assets of the deceased, which is believed when realised will run into very high figures. The fortunate one has not heard from his brother for over 40 years, and believed him to be dead long ago.

GENERAL.

A New Irish Baronetcy.—Three new baronetcies and two knightships were announced in last issue of the *Gazette*. The most interesting is that conferred upon Sir William McCormac, president of the Royal College of Surgeons. Sir William was born in Belfast in 1826. He had a distinguished academic career. He saw service during the Franco-German war as surgeon-in-chief of the Anglo-American Ambulance, and during the Turco-Servian war. Sir William is consulting surgeon to the French and Italian Hospitals and Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and examiner in surgery for the army, Indian and naval medical services. He acted as honorary secretary-general of the International Medical Congress in London, and for these services received the honour of knightship; he is also an officer of several foreign orders. Sir William McCormac is the author of "Work under the Red Cross," and numerous papers contributed to the medical journals.

The Registrar-General and Irish Morality.—Commenting on the recently-published vital statistics for Ireland, the Manchester *Guardian* says:—"Ireland appears in a distinctly favourable light in the report now issued by the Registrar-General of the marriages, births, and deaths registered in that country since 1896. People say a good deal, often by rote, of the improvidence of the Irish as a race. But so far as improvidence is shown by early marriage, one finds that Ireland has a much better record than either England or Scotland. The progress of elementary education may

them with some fatty substance, packing them closely and safely, and exporting them quickly, are all things which are easily done, and will give the Irish egg, which is comparatively near the markets, an easy superiority over that of the foreigner. The low prices obtainable for Irish eggs, according to Messrs Johnston and Shiel, of Liverpool, is attributable to the practice that the dealers and shippers have of storing the eggs for a considerable time before they put them on the market. The farmers themselves may keep them for two or three weeks, country dealers then hold them for about a month, usually packed in any kind of straw they can find, and by the time they have passed through the shipper's hands and are placed in the English market the bulk of the eggs are alleged to be oftentimes unmarketable. The storing and the inferior packing of the eggs form the burthen of the Liverpool merchants' complaint, and they point out that Continental produce always came to hand in excellent condition, well packed, and with consequently a much less percentage of breakage than the Irish article. They maintain nevertheless that if Irish eggs are sent fresh they will command the best price all the year round, and under the circumstances it would be well to hear the Irish side of the case from some competent authority.

THE CROPPIES' GRAVE.

There is a spot the herd will pass,
Nor taste its rank, luxuriant grass;
There is a mound that flower or sun
Can never tempt the child upon;
But on that mould have old men lain,
Bedewing it with tears like rain,
And young men, full of purpose brave,
Come there to bless the Croppies' Grave.

The Croppies' Grave—oh! love it well!
The spot where true men fighting fell;
Traitors to wrong, and might, and fraud,
But true to Ireland and to God—
Who dared the freeman's sword to draw
To vindicate the freeman's law—
And from the land they could not save
Took its last gift—the Croppies' Grave