

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—A Magnificent Peal of Bells.—A magnificent peal of 10 bells, weighing in all nearly seven tons, has been presented to St. Mary's Church, Star of the Sea, Whitehouse, by Mr. Philip Jordan, Jordanstown. The whole peal will be hung on massive steel girders. The tenor bell, which is the largest, will be hung so that it can be swung. On each of the 10 bells there is a suitable inscription, but the principal inscription is on the tenor bell. The beautiful tower, which is already such a conspicuous object on the Antrim side of Belfast Lough, is fast rising to a finish.

Laying the Memorial-Stone of a Training College.—The ceremony of laying the memorial-stone of St. Mary's new training college, Falls road, Belfast, was performed during the last week in October by the Most Rev. Dr. Henry. The building has so far progressed towards completion that his Lordship was able to announce that the college would be opened in second week of September next. The necessity for such an institution for the training of female National teachers (says the *Irish Weekly*) has long been apparent, and everything has been done to make the college an ideal one so far as the comfort of the pupils is concerned. The National Board has empowered his Lordship to admit to the college 80 Queen's scholars for one or two years according to circumstances. These will receive during their stay free board and education under the care of the Dominican Nuns. The pupils will be assisted for their examinations by highly qualified lay professors, male and female. In the course of a short address his Lordship referred to the necessity of a training college in the North of Ireland for female teachers, pointing out that three-fourths of the female teachers in this diocese were untrained, and the probability that at no distant date the Commissioners of National Education would refuse to sanction the appointment of untrained teachers, at least as principals of schools. The rapidity with which the new college has been raised is a proof of the solicitude of his Lordship in everything that concerns the training of the young.

ARMAGH.—A Fine Example of Intolerance.—The intolerant action of the Protestant majority of the governors of the Shiels Institute at Armagh (says the *Irish Weekly*) must not pass without comment. The Catholic gentlemen at the Board were three, and the Protestants nine. A new governor was to be elected, and a Catholic and a Protestant were put in nomination, with the inevitable result—three votes for the Catholic; nine for the Protestant. This is the second instance of a similar display of intolerance on the part of the Armagh governors of the institute during this year. It is highly creditable to them, and we trust it may be taken note of. If this system of persistent and rigid exclusion of Catholics from such boards in Ulster is to be persisted in, the time has come when the Catholic majorities in public bodies throughout the rest of Ireland should note the fact, and re-consider the generous and tolerant policy they have always pursued towards non-Catholics, a policy, by the way, for which the Protestant Press gives them very little credit.

CLARE.—A Valuable Collection.—An Ennis literary collector (Mr. James Hayes) is about to dispose of part of a very unique collection of portraits, franks, addresses, and secret political documents (which have remained unpublished), connected with the famous Clare election of 1828, when O'Connell defeated Vesey Fitzgerald. The fate of Catholic Emancipation turned upon the election.

CORK.—Proposed New Church at Mogeely.—There being a great necessity for a new Catholic church at Mogeely, near Middleton, suitable to the requirements of the people of the united parishes of Mogeely, Clonmault, and Dungourney, a large and influential meeting of the people of those parishes was held at Mogeely recently for the purpose of raising the necessary funds. A local generous donor has already granted a site for the proposed new edifice. The chair was taken by the Rev. M. Ahern, P.P., Castlemartyr. A working influential committee was appointed. A subscription list was opened and a sum of £700 was collected on the spot.

DOWN.—The County Infirmary and the Nuns.—At a recent meeting of the Committee of Management of the County Down Infirmary, a letter was read from the Rev. Joseph O'Kane, P.P., Kilcubbin, drawing attention to the fact that Sisters of Mercy, and nuns in general, are prohibited from visiting the sick and dying of their own religious denomination in that institution, and hoping the time has come to repeal a law that is insulting to the Catholics of the County Down, and to the good ladies of the community of nuns in Downpatrick in particular. The reform suggested by Father O'Kane was rejected on a division, Messrs. Henry Loughran, of Newry, and Matthew King, of Newcastle, Catholic representatives of the County Council on the committee, being the only members who supported it.

DUBLIN.—Donation to the Dublin Museum.—The herbarium of the late Lord de Tabley has been presented to the botanical department of the Dublin Museum by his sister, the Hon. Lady L.ighton. The herbarium mainly consists of British plants, and was of service to the late Lord de Tabley, who was the O'Byrne, in the preparation of his recently-published *Flora of Cheshire*. At a low estimate the collection contains 20,000 sheets of specimens. This gift is due to the recommendation of Sir William Thistlethorpe, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and formerly professor of botany in the Royal College of Science, Dublin, who states that the herbarium will be useful to active working botanists in Dublin.

Death of a Well-known Priest.—The Rev. Father Lynch, well known in Dublin, died at his residence, Belgrave-square, during the last week in October. The deceased clergyman had a rather varied career. Some 50 years ago Father Lynch became a member of the Cistercian Order at Mount Mellary; subsequently he became an abbot. He was the first chaplain of Glenoree Reformatory, and it may be said that he was practically the founder of that renowned institution. Some years ago Father Lynch became chaplain to a noble Catholic family in England; and at the death of its head he was allowed a pension and returned to Dublin, where he spent the remainder of his days.

GALWAY.—Religious Reception.—The beautiful chapel attached to the Convent of Mercy, Loughrea, County Longford, was recently the scene of the interesting ceremony of a religious reception. The young lady who was received was Miss Mary Larkin, eldest daughter of Mr. John Larkin, of Loughrea. There was Solemn High Mass at which the Most Rev. Dr. Healy, D.D., Lord Bishop of Clontarf, presided, and afterwards delivered a most eloquent address.

KILKENNY.—St. Kieran's College.—Speaking at the annual distribution of prizes to the successful pupils of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, the Bishop of Ossory, after referring to the great work which has been carried on in this college during the past 12 months, when for the first time St. Kieran's had been able to win exhibitions in the middle grade, said the best proof of the efficiency of study in the college during the past year was to be found in the very large number of students in proportion to the numbers who went in for examination, who secured passes in the Intermediate course—92 per cent.—a very respectable record for any college to show.

LIMERICK.—Death of a Priest in South Africa.—General regret was felt in the western part of the County Limerick when news was received of the death at Queenstown, South Africa, of the Rev. Patrick Bourke, who was born at Rathkeale on March 17, 1878. Bishop McSherry, who preached the panegyric, said the deceased was idolised by the people of St. Augustine's, Port Elizabeth, where he served for over a year. On one occasion whilst travelling by post cart he saved the lives of his fellow-passengers by rushing to the horses' heads on the brink of a precipice at the risk of his own life.

MAYO.—The Secretaryship of the County Council.—Mr. D. O'Kelly, brother of Mr. Conor O'Kelly, chairman of the Mayo County Council, has been elected secretary to the Council at a salary of £500 a year, out of which he is to pay for assistants.

MEATH.—A High Altar for the Kilmainham Wood Church.—A fine specimen of ecclesiastical art was recently produced by the firm of P. J. Neill and Co., Dublin, in the very handsome high altar, by the order of the Very Rev. P. Fitzsimons, P.P., in the newly-built church at Kilmainham Wood, County Meath, according to plans prepared by Mr. W. H. Byrne, architect. It is of Caen stone with shafts of selected onyx, and is executed in good style as to figure work and general ornamentation.

WEXFORD.—Proposed Presentation to a Priest.—The friends of the Very Rev. James F. Thompson, O.S.A., in New Ross, County Wexford, have decided on presenting him with an address and presentation on the occasion of his departure to Grantstown from New Ross, where he had spent over 25 years.

GENERAL.

The Evicted Tenants' Restoration Fund.—A committee, with his Eminence Cardinal Logue as chairman and Lord Plunket as vice-chairman, has been formed for the purpose of assisting the evicted tenants to get back on their holdings. The committee is composed of Nationalists and Unionists, landlords and tenants, who make a temperate appeal on behalf of these poor people. Their cause (says the *Irish Weekly*) has passed beyond the domain of politics. Ten years ago they were in the thick of a fight which was distinctly political. They were the wounded soldiers of a land war which has, to a large extent, thanks to reform, conceded to allay an agitation in which those honest, if misguided, men were pioneers. The angry feelings then aroused have died away. This appeal is issued principally to philanthropists. Their condition constitutes an evil, which is depicted in the manifesto issued with the sanction of his Eminence and Lord Plunket, and 'the endeavour,' as the promoters of this Restoration Fund wisely and properly state, 'to restore them to their homes, where these are still available, or to provide for them elsewhere in cases where their former homesteads have passed definitely into other hands, cannot now be regarded otherwise than as an effort of philanthropy.' This is only a portion of the task which the committee has undertaken with great public spirit. 'The houses of the restored tenants have in many cases to be rebuilt, and in almost all cases assistance in the stocking and cropping of their farms is essential in order to start them afresh on the path of industry. Without resources for these purposes the tenants when reinstated would have to face a struggle which for the majority of them must end in bankruptcy.' The committee have therefore resolved to appeal to the friends of peace and goodwill, irrespective of party distinction, 'for the means as well to restore holdings to, and where necessary rebuild homes for, the evicted tenants as to help them in cropping and stocking their farms at the start only.'

Mr. Davitt's Retirement.—The *Liverpool Courier*, a Conservative organ, says regarding Mr. Michael Davitt's retirement from Parliament:—We are bound to say that we regret Mr. Davitt's decision to retire. He is a man who can be ill spared from the House as an exponent of Irish policy and aspiration. He is a misguided politician, but honest and fearless, and also consistent in his opinions.