

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—Death of a Representative Catholic.—Mr Charles L. Nash, J.P., Greenacres, a member of one of the oldest Catholic families in Ulster, passed away on October 27, fortified by the rites of the Church, of which he was a devoted member.

Honouring the ex-Lord Mayor of Belfast.—The Royal University of Ireland has conferred the degree of LL.D. *honoris causa* on the Rt. Hon. W. J. Pirrie, ex-Lord Mayor of Belfast.

A New Altar for Ballybay Church.—A handsome altar dedicated to St. Joseph has been erected in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Ballybay. The table and benches are of highly-polished Sicilian marble, and rising from the centre is a massively-carved canopy of Caen stone, with Cork red marble pillars. A life-sized statue of St. Joseph occupies the space inside this canopy. The caps under the table are also of Caen stone, with Cork red marble pillars. The panels are elaborately carved, the centre one representing St. Joseph. The altar was executed by Mr Ryan Lowe, Dominick street, Dublin, and is a pleasing addition to this attractive parish church. The altar is the gift of Messrs Fee Bros., druggists and grocers, Ballybay.

A Protestant Newspaper on Street-preaching.—The *Irish Church News*, the organ of the Disestablished Church in Belfast, unburies itself in this fashion regarding street preachers:—'A few Sunday evenings ago we were in High street, Belfast, and at the Albert Memorial our progress was impeded by the presence of a semi-disorderly mob. Under the statue of Prince Albert, on the front of the clock tower, was a Union Jack, and under its folds was a little man, praying—or, as we heard it put by a man in the crowd, "instructing Almighty God." We wanted to hear what it was all about—and we question if it was worth the trouble—but one thing was borne in upon us, viz., that the laws of public meetings in this country are abused, and that the abuse is winked at by our local representatives of law and order. To our mind it is simply intolerable that a creature endowed only with the gifts of illimitable clap-trap, an unqualified quantity of impudence, backed up by an illiteracy which is probably the staple of his stock-in-trade, should be allowed so inflame the minds of others as ignorant as himself, without let or hindrance on the part of the powers that be.'

CORK.—The Duties of a Catholic Priest.—The Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, Bishop of Cork, writing to the local papers in reference to a libel action threatened against Dr. Keane, O.P., by an Opera Company for condemning from the altar as immodest and injurious to the morals of youth the pictorial posters announcing a coming play, says that whilst a priest is strictly forbidden by the Decrees of the Synod of Thurles and Maynooth to denounce individuals in the pulpit without the permission of the proper authority, there can be no doubt that it is the duty of a Catholic priest charged with preaching the Word of God to cry down scandals with all his strength, and even in the strongest words.

DONEGAL.—Annual Re-Union of Donegal Men in Glasgow.—The twenty-second annual Donegal Re-union was held on the evening of October 30, in the City Hall, Glasgow. Cardinal Logue presided, and had the support on the platform of the Bishop-Auxiliary of Glasgow, Mgr. Grady, Canon McBrearty, Canon Chisholm, Canon Morris, Councillor O'Hare. Messrs. Francis Henry, J.P., Edward Gallaher, J.P., Dr. P. A. Smith, J.P., etc. Mr. W. G. M'Madden (secretary) read the address of welcome to the Cardinal, who, in his reply, referred to the want of unity and co-operation among Irishmen.

DUBLIN.—Belleek Pottery Works.—In a recent issue of *Chambers' Journal* there is an interesting article contributed by Miss Mary Georges on the Belleek Pottery Works. Belleek ware, as everybody knows, is the most delicate and exquisite produced anywhere, and Belleek is in Ireland. Miss Georges traces the career of the great industry which has made Belleek famous all over the world, from its earliest beginnings to the present day. That career has not been always one of great success. There have been periods of doubt and difficulty; but at present, thanks to the energetic and enlightened management, it has been thoroughly established on a sound basis.

An Illicit Still in the City.—The city of Dublin is the last place one would expect to find an illicit still, yet only a few weeks ago the police discovered that a man named Brady was making whisky, figuratively speaking, under their very noses. The still was found in full working order at Brady's residence, Lower Gloucester street. The solicitor for the Excise authorities mentioned that the accused had been convicted in November, 1884, for having an illicit still at Beesborough Avenue, and was fined £100 or twelve months' imprisonment. On account of that conviction the prisoner could not now be let off lighter than by a similar penalty. Brady was fined £100, or in default twelve months' imprisonment.

Departure of a Priest for America.—Father J. S. Megannety, O.C.C., was presented with a handsome, illuminated address by St. Joseph's Altar Society and the Children of Mary's Sodality attached to the Carmelite Church, Dublin, on the eve of his departure for America.

KERRY.—An Unnecessary Innovation.—Lord Kenmare has refused to allow the Killarney Development Syndicate to place electric gondolas on the lakes of Killarney next season, as being an unnecessary interference with the existing boatmen's occupation.

LIMERICK.—An Old Tobacco Firm.—We are informed (says the *Irish Tobacco Trade Journal*) that Messrs Spillane tobacco manufacturers, Limerick, whose Limerick roll and 'Garry-owen' plug have obtained such world-renowned repute, are about to erect a new factory with frontage in Robert street and Denmark street. From what we hear, the factory, when equipped, promises to be a model one in every respect, and we heartily congratulate this old-established firm on their spirit of enterprise.

SLIGO.—A Successful Student.—Mr. Thomas Scanlan, a native of Sligo, and a former student of Sligo College, was successful in obtaining a scholarship prize of £15 offered for competition by St. Andrew's University recently. Mr. Scanlan, who is now a resident in Dundee, is a law student and well known for his interest in Catholic and Nationalist affairs in that city.

GENERAL.

Decrease in the Acreage Under Flax.—Recent statistics show a serious decrease in the acreage under flax—Ulster's staple industry. In 1864 there were 305,000 acres under flax, in 1889 this had fallen to 112,486, and in 1898 to 34,215 acres. This is a serious thing for farmers in the North.

A Peculiar Law.—By a curious provision in the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland, Irish peers are allowed to sit for British constituencies in the House of Commons, although they are ineligible for Irish constituencies. Thus, during the last generation Lord Palmerston and Lord Mayo, afterwards Governor-General of India, although Irish Peers, sat in the House of Commons as members for constituencies in Great Britain.

Death of a Well-known Lady.—Mrs. Blood, who died on Sunday morning (says the *Dublin Freeman* of October 21) at the age of 84, was a very handsome woman to the last. As a girl in Kildare she was very beautiful, with a beauty that was transmitted to her two daughters, of whom Lady Colin Campbell alone is left. Mrs. Blood was twice married—first to Mr. O'Beirne, who was a cousin of Lord Wolseley. He left her a widow of 19, and some years afterwards Mrs. O'Beirne (*née* Fergusson) married Mr. Edmond Maghlin Blood, the representative of the Bloods, who settled in Clare in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Mrs. Blood was also half-sister to the last Earl of Roscommon.

The London Irish Literary Society.—The Irish Literary Society in London intends to open the new year with a series of what might be called lectures on the century. They will be delivered in February, March, April, and May as follows:—'A Hundred Years of Irish Journalism,' 'A Hundred Years of Irish History,' 'A Hundred Years of Irish Song and Story,' 'A Hundred Years of Irish Wit and Humour'; and the respective lecturers will be Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Barry O'Brien, Mr. T. W. Rolleston, and Mr. R. Ashe-King. Among the new members who have recently joined the society are Lord Justice Henn Collins, the Hon. Cyril and Frank Russell, Mr. Arthur Houston, Q.C., Miss Susan Gavan Duffy, Sir James Matthew, Lord Edmond Fitzgerald, and the Rev. A. L. Lilley. The society is quite free from any political bias.

The Medical Profession in Past Ages.—Dr. More Madden delivered an interesting lecture at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin, recently, on the occasion of the opening of the medical session. Referring to the history of medical science in Ireland, he said that in distant ages when the lamp of medical knowledge was unkindled in most other countries, its light shone with comparative brilliancy in Ireland. Continuing, he said: All the various faculties of these Celtic Catholic universities, for such was the character of many of them, were for long ages crowded with students from every part of Europe, who in some of them were subjected to a course extending over a period far more protracted than even that of the modern medical student. From these institutions also were sent forth men such as Alcinus, the founder of the University of Pisa, Johannes Scotus, Erigena, who in the ninth century was regarded as the ablest writer of that age as well as the first professor of philosophy in Paris, and countless others, to diffuse the lights of learning and science as well as of faith to the ends of the earth. Nor did that long intellectual pre-eminence cease in medicine at least, until some little time after the ruthless destruction of the Irish Monastic Universities during the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, and even down to the middle part of the seventeenth century we find the far-extending fame of Irish medicine referred to by authorities of such eminence as Van Helmont. To the destruction of those Celtic Universities may, moreover, be dated the origin of the disabilities in the matter of higher education that for three centuries have pressed, and still press heavily on the majority of the Irish people, and on none more forcibly than on those of them belonging, as so many here do, to the medical profession. The latter during all these generations have been thus unfairly handicapped in the race of existence by the impossibility of securing, in accordance with their conscientious convictions, that full measure of academic training within the halls of a university which is so conducive to success in the higher walks of professional life or public employment, and which is accessible to their competers of every other persuasion. We may, however, rest well assured that in this, as in all other matters, justice, although long delayed, must, like that truth on which it is founded, eventually prevail. And therefore can we confidently anticipate that this last vestige of the dark shadows cast o'er our land by the successful intolerance of a by-gone age may for ever be swept away in the day-dawn of the twentieth century, which we trust will usher in the final and equitable adjustment of the Irish Catholic University question.

The Catholic Truth Society of Ireland.—The Catholic Truth Society of Ireland has been successfully launched. On Thursday, October 12 (says the *Dublin Freeman's Journal*), its