

Mayo.—Fishery Inspectors, Sir Thomas Brady, Chairman; Mr. Hornsby, and Mr. Green held a public inquiry at Enniscrone recently as to the alleged injurious effects of steam trawling in Killala and Lacken Bays. No decision has been arrived at by the inspectors.

The Ballina Guardians were notified at last meeting that Lord Arran had evicted a tenant named Boyd, who with his wife and nine helpless children, had to live during the cold, wet weather, under the shelter of a boat. The evictor was present at the Board meeting when a most harrowing description of the hardship and misery of the family was given by Father Finnerty, but the tale stirred not one kindly feeling in the evictor's heart for the miserable people.

Father Greally, of Newport, has written to the *Freeman's Journal* the following emphatic contradiction of the reports appearing in the Dublin Tory Press of his interview with Mr. Balfour:—"I most emphatically contradict the statements attributed to me in some reports of interview with Mr. Balfour, namely,—"In his (Father Greally's) opinion there was no greater benefactor of Ireland than Mr. Balfour. He (Father Greally) thanked Mr. Balfour for his great speeches regarding Ireland." The entire report is inaccurate so far as concerns me. (Signed) P. GREALLY. Father Greally is President of the National League at Newport.

Queen's County.—Father Brennan presided at the Rathdowney National League meeting recently held. Arrangements were perfected for collecting the Tenants' Defence Fund through the parish. Complaint was made by Mrs. Bowe that grabbers were supplied in her locality.

Four members of the Durrow National League, owners of threshing machines, were called before the members of the branch at last meeting for having threshed for persons who were not members against a resolution passed some time ago. One was severely censured and the others' explanation was considered satisfactory, but it was determined that more effective measures would be taken next year to prevent a like occurrence. Father John Shortall presided and Father McGrath was present.

Sligo.—A great number of new members were enrolled at the last Soave National League meeting, and all were unanimous in expressing their determination to assist the fighting men of Tipperary in their struggle against Smith-Barry.

Tipperary.—Miss Sadlier of Tipperary has been confined in Limerick gaol for refusing to give evidence in Tipperary Coercion cases. It has been stated that nine tenants had privately redeemed their holdings in the old town.

There are two years rent now due to Smith-Barry in Tipperary, which, between law costs and expenses, is calculated to amount to fully £30,000. His income here formerly amounted to £12,000 per annum—right well paid.

John Kelly of Dublin, who has just concluded his term of imprisonment in Tullamore Gaol for assisting Tipperarymen in their struggle against landlordism, was greeted on his release per telegram from Tipperary as follows:—"To the original John Kelly, Hayes's Hotel, Tullamore. Welcome back to our crowd—Father Humphries, David Sheehy, Tom Condon, John O'Connor, John Redmond, William Redmond, James Dalton, Denis Kilbride, O'Brien Dalton, etc.

The revival of Clogheen cattle fair has been successful, and a good supply of stock and a brisk demand were prominent features in the last market. Among the sales effected were fifteen bullocks belonging to Mr. Grubb, Castlegrace, for £191 5s; six heifers sold by L. Fennell, Clogheen, for £11 each; M. Cashin and M. Coughlan, Shahraban, sold several head of cattle from £10 10s to £14 each; D. English, Coolatlough, sold several bullocks at £12 each; M. J. Cashin, Clogheen, sold a large number of ewes at 50s each; Mr. Gilbert, Shanbally Demesne, bought a large number of yearlings at prices varying from £5 to £7 10s each.

Tyrone.—Irvinestown horse fair which was recently established has proved a great success, and will, it is hoped, become a leading County fair.

A farm of twenty-two acres in Drummey townland, near Stewartstown, was recently purchased by Robert M. Songton for £190. The annual rent is only £12.

There is now in course of erection in the Market Square, Dungannon, where several dilapidated houses stood, a splendid building, which is intended for the post-office and estate business.

Westmeath.—The members of the Holy Family Confraternity, numbering 1,000, assembled in the college grounds, Mullingar, on a recent Sunday, and headed by their band marched in procession to the Cathedral, where, to the great edification of the inhabitants, they approached the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Father O'Reilly, Spiritual Director, celebrated Mass.

A meeting of the Mullingar Trades and Labour Union was held recently. There was a large attendance. P. Turmyr presided. Several matters in connection with the question of amalgamation were discussed, and some letters from different trades bodies in Dublin were read by the Secretary, Michael Murtagh. It is now generally acknowledged that the only weapon calculated to materially improve the condition of the toilers is "Unionism."

Wicklow.—Fifty men of the Royal Irish Constabulary have been drafted from County Wexford stations to Aiklow to preserve the peace on Sundays while the "out-door religious services" are being held by Rev. Mr. Hallows and his co-religionists. No collision has occurred between the police and the people, yet the state of the town is anything but tranquil.

Rev. H. T. D. Ryder has been chosen as the new Superior of the Oratory, Edgbaston, in succession to Cardinal Newman.

A new comet has been discovered. Its location is described as follows: Its right ascension is 33deg. and 16min. and its declination is 33deg. 37min. north. It is the comet "E" of 1890, and will be visible from the earth for several months, and will probably be visible to the naked eye before long. As it is now the nebula is visible.

PRESERVATION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

THE B. V. E. Growney, Ballycargy, Meath, publishes a strong appeal in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* for November, on behalf of the effort being made for the preservation of the Irish language, observing regretfully that the number of Irish who can write their native language passably, or who have the slightest knowledge of its literature, is shamefully small. Out of the thousands of schools in Ireland but forty-five encourage it; out of the tens of thousands of Irish boys and girls in those schools only 826 were examined in it last year. Only about three or four hundred people in Ireland have a respectable knowledge of the written language. The school teachers cannot be blamed, as Irish is forbidden to be taught to children until they have reached the fifth class. In all Ireland only 274 passed in Irish at the late intermediate examinations. Of these 234 came from the Christian Brothers' schools, leaving 40 to all the seminaries and colleges. In none of the Irish speaking counties is the vernacular recognised in the local colleges, except in two. Still there are more to-day than there have been for the last two centuries who can read and write Irish. According to the last census 800,000 people in Ireland can speak Irish and 60,000 no other language, while more than two millions in America speak it. Yet, he avers, if things do not change, it is certain that in another century the spoken language will have disappeared for ever, a conclusion which the above figures hardly warrant. Father Growney points attention to the strange anomaly that it is Protestants and foreigners who have devoted most attention to the most Catholic literature in the world—the ancient literature of Ireland—while among the Irish Catholic clergy there are very few Irish scholars. He counts eight or nine in the Regular Orders, the secular clergy being represented by Dr. McCarthy and one or two others. Yet the Bishop of Waterford noted that Irish children who were first taught their own language had a better knowledge of their religious duties than children sent to school where Irish is not recognised as worth teaching. Upon Irish Catholics, the writer contends, the study of Irish literature has a special claim. They rightly maintain that the faith they hold is identical with that taught by St. Patrick and his successors in opposition to Irish Protestants who try to persuade their co-religionists to the contrary. Cardinal Newman had experience of the value of arguments drawn from Irish ecclesiastical literature, which is so extensively and so thoroughly Catholic, and which throws a flood of light on the exact belief of the early Celtic Church. The majority of those who study that literature are non-Catholics and might not see, or might be tempted to slur over, points which favour the Catholic contention.—*Liverpool Catholic Times*.

GOD SAVE IRELAND.

(*Irish World*, November 29.)

THE spirit in which [the twenty-third anniversary of the judicial murder, known as the martyrdom of Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien in Manchester, was celebrated by the Irish race all the world over on the 23rd inst., showed clearly that the principle represented in the honouring of their memory is as dear as ever to the hearts of the Irish people. The shameless effrontery with which the English Government has been accustomed to employ the ingenuity of the law for the purpose of destroying the lives of Irish patriots, regardless of their guilt or innocence, was made patent to the whole world by the trial, verdict, and executions in this tragic and historic case. And so, also, has been presented in strong light the awe-inspiring majesty of Irish character in presence of the British scaffold and the blood-thirsty minions of oppression who surrounded it.

Five men were tried on the same indictments by the same court and jury, testified against by the same witnesses, declared guilty by the same inclusive verdict, and condemned to the same death penalty. After the verdict had been rendered the entire innocence of one of the condemned men was declared by intelligent and close observers of the trial to have been so clearly established as to arouse a widespread feeling against the whole farcical trial. The perjury of the suborned witnesses was made manifest by their absurd contradictions. The utter absence of any intention of causing death by the shot fired to break the lock of the prison van was clearly shown, but the cry for Irish blood had to be appeased.

Of the five men condemned to death for complicity in the rescue of Colonel Kelly, one was Thomas Maguire, a private in the marines, who never heard of Colonel Kelly's existence until his arrest. Another was Captain E. O'Meara Condon, an American citizen, who boldly avowed in Court his connection with the rescue and answered the jury's verdict of guilty with the historic prayer, "God Save Ireland!" which has since been made the National watchword, and the inspiring lines of T. D. Sullivan, commemorating the prayer of patriotic defiance, has been accepted everywhere as Ireland's National anthem. And yet, although the five were included in the one verdict of guilty and condemned by the one sentence, Maguire was pardoned for an offence of which he had no knowledge. Captain Condon was reprieved because he was an American citizen, and Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien, none of whom was armed at the time of the rescue, were sent to the gallows.

They met their fate with a gentle and touching heroism which imparted to their execution all the religious impressiveness of a martyrdom for the Faith in the earlier persecutions. "In the olden time," said General O'Beirne in his eloquent address at the memorial meeting in Chickering Hall last Sunday evening, "the word 'martyr' meant witness, and here in our martyrs we have their memories with us as living witnesses of the cause for which they died." So long as the Celtic race, which has triumphed over every assault or persecution in the past, will maintain its identity and be known as a factor in civilisation, so long will "The Manchester Martyrs" be honoured for their devotion to Ireland's cause and their dying prayer, "God Save Ireland," ring in the ears of their guilty executioners until in God's own time Justice, so long a mockery, shall have been avenged.