

Irish News

CORK.—An Historical 'Find'

An historical 'find' has just been made at Ballycotton Bay, County Cork, in the engines, pumps, and engine framework of the ill-fated steamship 'Sirius.' This was the pioneer steamer from the Old World to the New, having left Cork on April 5, 1838, arriving at New York on April 23, after a very adventurous passage, in which everything available had to be burned to enable her to reach her destination. After her Atlantic experiences she traded for several years between Cork and Liverpool, and eventually met her doom by foundering in a storm in Ballycotton Bay in 1847. The 'find' was made by a firm of salvage contractors at Queenstown.

Death of Lord Cork

Lord Cork, who died on June 22, was a warm friend of Mr. Gladstone and a consistent Radical throughout his life. He sat as Liberal member for the long disfranchised borough of Frome in the House of Commons, by the courtesy title of Viscount Dungarvan, from 1854 to 1856, when he succeeded to the Peerage, in his twenty-eighth year, on the death of his grandfather. He held minor posts in several Liberal Administrations, and was honorably distinguished on September 9, 1893, as one of the forty-one Peers who voted for the second reading of the Home Rule Bill in the House of Lords, and the only Irish Peer who went into the Aye Lobby in favor of the motion for the re-establishment of an Irish Parliament. Lord Cork was in some respects a link with the Parliament of Ireland. His grandfather, General Edward Boyle, eighth Earl of Cork, who was his immediate predecessor in the Peerage of his family, voted against the Union in the Irish House of Lords, and was the last surviving Peer who had sat in the Irish and the English House of Lords.

DERRY.—The Study of Music

At the distribution of prizes in St. Columb's College, Derry, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, after referring to the persistent refusal of the Government to grant a University for higher education and expressing an earnest hope that this grievance would soon be removed and a free field given for Irish talent, spoke at length on the study of music. He advised the boys to cultivate and practise it well. Nothing was more refining, and in future they would find it would while away many a lonely hour and dispel the gloom which overwork or anxiety frequently produced. It was the strains of David's harp that softened the heart of the misanthropic Saul and won him back to reason and gentleness. And many a heart had since then been softened by the magic power of song and many an Irish exile had melted to tears in the backwoods of America or the wilds of Australia as he heard again the sweet melodies that gladdened his youth in the green vales of holy Ireland. Let them study the music of their native land, and in doing so they were studying the sweetest, the loftiest, and the grandest productions of the musical world.

DUBLIN.—Claim for Damages Abandoned

At Dublin on June 27, before Mr. Justice Barton, in the case of Lord de Freyne against members of the United Irish League and others for alleged interference with his tenants, a consent was entered into abandoning the plaintiff's claim for damages, all parties to abide their own costs of the action up to the present.

A Well Deserved Appointment

The appointment is announced of Mr. M'Ardie, F.R.C.S., Professor of Surgery at the St. Cecilia School of Medicine, and Senior Surgeon at St. Vincent's Hospital, to the position of Surgeon to Maynooth College, in room of the late Surgeon Hayes. Surgeon M'Ardie is pre-eminent in his branch of the profession, and the high compliment involved in his selection for this distinguished position is essentially well deserved.

The Moore Memorial

The desire of the Irish people (says the 'Freeman's Journal') which finds an eloquent and touching expression in the recent communication to the press of the Moore Memorial committee, that the remains of the poet, who died 'far from the land,' should rest in Irish soil has been fulfilled in the case of many of Ireland's illustrious sons who breathed their last in other countries. The remains of O'Connell were brought from Genoa, of Terence Bellew MacManus from San Francisco, of Gavan Duffy from Nice, of Curran and Parnell from England, of Smith O'Brien from Wales for sepulture in Ireland, and many another instance, notably

that of Father O'Growney, might be cited as supporting noble precedents for the proposal to bring back to Ireland the remains of Thomas Moore for sepulture in the country that he loved and on which his genius has shed lustre.

Church Music

Speaking at the opening of a series of lectures on Catholic church music in the Belvidere College, the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, said that he had had an opportunity recently of speaking to the Holy Father on the subject, and when he ventured to suggest that in some places there might be difficulties in carrying out to the letter the words of the Holy Father's instructions, his Holiness answered him by saying that difficulties only existed to be surmounted. Many were perhaps unacquainted with the fundamental principles that guided the employment of music in the service of the church. The lectures would largely tend to inform their minds on this point. They were met under the patronage and approval of his Grace the Archbishop. In this country we had been deprived of the practice of the liturgy, and we did the next best thing possible to fulfil the laws of that liturgy. We produced a fictitious representation of it, and that explained what he called the anomaly of sacred music at Low Mass. He heard a distinguished prelate say lately that it reminded him of a military band at a flower show. The military band was very nice, but it had nothing to do with the flowers. The music accompanying the Low Mass was simply a diversion, which, to his mind, had no right to existence.

Catholic Truth Society

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Catholic Truth Society in University College, Dublin, on June 24. The report, which was read by Mr. Rochford, hon. sec., gave in detail an account of the work done during the last twelve months. The committee regretted having to record the loss of several members by death since the last general meeting—including Count Moore, Sir Percy Grace, Mr. Maher, and Very Rev. Canon Dillon, P.P.—all ardent friends of the Society. In conclusion the report referred with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction to the great mark of his favor that the Holy Father had bestowed upon the Society by enriching it with a grant of precious indulgences, plenary and partial. On the motion of his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, seconded by the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, the report was adopted. Both expressed regret that the excellent publication containing the official report of their recent successful conference did not meet with better support, and requested the members to use their influence to make the publication a success in future, because it would be a great pity if it had to be given up, as it must be, for financial reasons, if its circulation was not more widely diffused.

LIMERICK.—In Memory of Gerald Griffin

This year (says the 'Irish Weekly') marks the centenary of Gerald Griffin, poet, journalist, novelist, patriot, and Christian Brother. Cork City, where his zealous labors in the education of youth were brought to a close by the hand of death, has taken steps to secure that his memory shall not be allowed to pass unmarked, and now we learn that Limerick, the city that has the distinction of being his birthplace, is making arrangements to perpetuate his memory also. In the neighboring city of Cork the commemoration took the form of the establishment of memorial schools. A similar project is about to be carried out in Limerick, his native city, and the Centenary Commemoration committee have just issued an appeal for funds towards the erection of the memorial, one which, it is felt, would be most in consonance with his own sentiments, were it possible that he could have been consulted on the matter—namely, the erection of schools in his native parish of St. Mary's, in the old city that he loved, with the addition of a statue of Griffin, placed in a niche in the exterior front, which will face the ancient Cathedral of the city. These schools it is intended to build on the site of the old Courthouse, which, though it has suffered from the effects of time, is still in existence, in which took place over eighty years ago the memorable trial of Scanlan for an occurrence the incidents connected with which are immortalised in Griffin's novel of 'The Collegians,' as well as in the well-known play of the 'Colleen Bawn.' At that trial and in that Courthouse, it is said, Griffin, then a mere youth, was present as a journalist, and reported the case for a local newspaper.

MEATH.—Death of a Priest

The death of the Rev. Father Ballesty, Moynalty, occurred, after a brief illness, on June 22. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia brought on by a severe cold.

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