

chance now. Was there ever such nonsense heard? Out of the three Estates Commissioners appointed under the Land Act by the Lord Lieutenant two were Protestants. When Parliament rose in the month of August last there were twenty-one inspectors employed by the Estates Commissioners at salaries of £800 a year each, every man of them was a Protestant. No Protestant had a chance forsooth! What nonsense! The Castle had six great officers of State. Five were Protestants; one was a Catholic. There were sixteen Judges of the Superior Courts—thirteen of them were Protestants. The Judges of the County Courts numbered twenty-one—fifteen were Protestants. The Land Commissioners, the Local Government Board, and the Agricultural Department had a host of highly-paid officials—commissioners, inspectors, auditors—not a forth of these were Catholics. The three Commissioners of Public Works were Protestants. The resident magistrates and police officers were largely Protestant. The railway officers, banks, breweries, were largely manned by Protestants. The office of the Privy Councillor was almost exclusively Protestant. The Lords-Lieutenants of counties and cities and other offices of great importance were held almost exclusively by Protestants, while the predominance of Protestants in the magistracy was enormous. Mr. Russell, in concluding an eloquent speech, said that with the growth of education and with the rise in social status of those who had been long proscribed this state of things must cease.

WATERFORD.—A College of Domestic Economy

Speaking at the opening of the new Science College at the Ursuline Convent, the Bishop of Waterford (the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan) said that the Ursuline Nuns, in response to the general demand throughout the country, determined to establish a college of domestic economy, and they approached the Technical Department and asked for aid. They represented the practical difficulties that lay in the way of establishing such a college. They represented that our educational convents in this country were, contrary perhaps to what was sometimes thought, not wealthy bodies, and that if a college were to be established for domestic economy it could be only in the beginning by way of experiment and by assistance from the public department, which was constituted to provide for technical education. That was the first opportunity he had since the reply of this Department was received of expressing publicly his recognition of the readiness and the liberality with which the Department met the request of the nuns, and it was in consequence of that liberality that they are enabled today to see that school erected and about to be opened. Accordingly, after entering into details the Department practically said to the nuns of this convent, 'Go on and establish the school, a right good school in which nothing will be left undone to give the very best system of education that can be provided in any country for the class for whom you are establishing the school, and we shall take care that you shall not lose as long as it remains an experiment.' That was practically the condition of things which has given rise to the existence of that school. He had only to add, in reference to the Department, when it came to the resolution to aid the Technical College for domestic economy by establishing it, there the Department said very rightly, 'If we have the right to provide for the Catholics, we have the right to provide for the Protestants, and accordingly it was decided to establish two schools in Ireland, one in the North for Protestants, and another in the South for Catholics. It was to be hoped that those who cried so loudly in recent years in every part of the country for instruction of this kind would support the school now that it was established.

GENERAL

Agricultural Scholarships

As a result of the recent annual examination for scholarships in agriculture tenable at the Royal College of Science, Dublin, the following candidates have been awarded scholarships.—Edward S. Daly, Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, Dublin; Laing J. Fairbairn, Banteer, County Cork; John Lucey, Killinardish, County Cork; Patrick McGinnis, Carriekhue, County Derry; John Scully, Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin, Dublin; Wm. A. Talbot, do.; Thomas Ward, do. Each scholarship entitles the holder to free admission to the first year's course of instruction at the college, a maintenance allowance of one guinea per week while in attendance at the college, and third-class railway fare for one journey to and from the college in each session. A scholarship is tenable for one year, but if satisfactory progress is made by the holder it will be renewed for a second and even for a third year to enable the student to complete the agricultural course at the college.

People We Hear About

Lord Northcote, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, has just entered on his 49th year.

General Stoessel, the hero of the Port Arthur defence, has been variously described as a Swiss, a Hungarian, and a Jew, but he is now stated to be pure Russian, his grandfather being General Ivan Stoessel, who served against Napoleon in 1812. Nevertheless, the name betrays his German origin. He is no doubt a descendant of one of those numerous German or Swiss families which went to Russia in the time of Peter the Great.

A recent letter by the late Sir William Harcourt to a Catholic correspondent contains (says the London 'Tablet') a sentence which we are happy to put into print—'I assure you you are mistaken when you say of me that I "do not like Papists." Amongst my dearest and most valued friends are many of your communion, which represents so large a part of Christendom. Those whom I do not like are the persons who, professing to belong to the Protestant Church of England, take all its benefits, and are unfaithful to its creed.'

Lord Charles Beresford, who shepherded the Baltic Squadron after its inglorious attack on the English fishing fleet, is a Waterford man, and is 60 years of age. He has been a naval officer for 47 years, for he was only 13 when he entered as a cadet on board the Britannia. Lord Charles once sat in the Commons for his native county.

According to the 'Daily News,' Mr. Michael Davitt, whose recently-published work, 'The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland,' has had a large sale on both sides of the Atlantic, intends to complete as soon as possible a new volume dealing with the history of Fenianism as he knows it. Mr. Davitt joined the organisation when only a boy, and the consequence of his membership was the sentence of penal servitude, in which he thought out the scheme of the Land League. Apart from his own knowledge, says the 'Daily News,' Mr. Davitt has had the unique advantage of having access to all the papers bearing on the subject which were left by the late James Stephens, the founder and Head Centre of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, as the Fenian organisation was called, who was one of the most daring conspirators the world has ever known. Two peaceful revolutions were the immediate consequences of what Mr. Gladstone called 'the intensity of Fenianism'—one was the Land Act of 1870, and the other was the Disestablishment of the State Church in Ireland.

Mr. Townsend M'Dermott, the father of the Victorian Bar, who recently celebrated his 86th birth anniversary, was called to the Bar at Dublin when Daniel O'Connell was still practising. He is brimful of reminiscences of the Liberator, of Chief Justice Whiteside, of Napier, of Smith O'Brien, of Charles Gavan Duffy, and of other eminent men of the time. He was present at the trials of O'Connell, O'Brien, and Duffy, and was personally acquainted with all the great men mentioned. In 1851 Mr. M'Dermott came to Victoria, and soon secured a large practice. In one suit his brief was covered with 3000 guineas. During the greater part of his fifty years' career in that State he has been intimately associated with Ballarat, where he still resides, and, as he says himself, 'calmly awaits the end of a life which Providence has mercifully prolonged so long.' Mr. M'Dermott was at one time a leader in politics, and held office as Crown Solicitor. In the early and middle sixties he was one of the most prominent freetraders in the memorable struggle between freetrade and protection.

The 'Westminster Gazette' of September 28 has an interesting reference to William Vincent Wallace, the composer of 'Maritana' and a number of other popular operas. It quotes the incidents of his adventurous career from Mr. J. F. Hogan's 'History of the Irish in Australia.' A native of Waterford, young Wallace was organist of Thurles' Catholic Cathedral at 16, and at 21 was a musical celebrity in Dublin. In August, 1835, he emigrated to Australia, and became a sheep farmer in New South Wales, completely abandoning music for a year or two. But he was discovered and brought to Sydney by Governor Sir Richard Bourke. There he became a popular violinist and music teacher, and it was in Sydney he commenced the composition of his famous opera, 'Maritana.' But he was a restless genius, and he could never stay long in one place. He gave concerts in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, etc., was captured by rebel Maoris in New Zealand, went on a cruise in a whaler, and was one of three who escaped from a murderous massacre, survived a steamboat explosion in America, was mixed up in a Mexican revolution, and had numerous other strange experiences in India, China, and Japan.