

since Ireland was called the Island of Saints, and first diffused the blessings of Faith, were the Irish people more zealous in church building than at present. In the prairies of America and Australia, in the busy hives of industry in the new Continent and nearer home, in Protestant England, splendid temples—worthy houses of God—were being raised up by the exiled children of the Irish race. They were told that this vast expenditure was not economic, that their religion was not an economic one. Well, in their adhesion to the Catholic Faith they believed that there was no expenditure more re-productive. Our Lord Himself had told them that a cup of water given in His name would not pass without its reward. What, then, would be the reward of those who built a church to His honor and glory?

TIPPERARY.—The Bishop of Killaloe.

At the final meeting of the Nenagh committee having charge of the testimonial to the Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe, it was decided to present a brougham and harness to his Lordship. At the conclusion of the meeting a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and also to Mr. Maloney for acting as hon. secretary. Mr. Maloney, in reply, said no thanks were due to him for anything he had done in connection with the testimonial to Dr. Fogarty. It was to him a labor of love, and he only hoped and prayed that Dr. Fogarty would be spared for many years to rule over the ancient diocese of St. Flanan.

TYRONE.—Death of a Priest.

The death is reported of the Rev. Thomas Markey, Moy, County Tyrone, which took place on October 15, and has created universal regret. Father Markey was noted for many good qualities, and was esteemed and respected amongst the people of the parish in which his lot was cast.

WEXFORD.—Too Much Bureaucracy.

At a public meeting in Enniscorthy Surgeon-General Evatt, who has been asked to report on the Poor Law Medical Service in Ireland, said the bureaucratic management of Irish affairs by Castic Boards was the weak point in Irish government.

GENERAL

Potato Blight

A cable message states that great distress prevails owing to the failure of the Irish potato crop on the west coast of Ireland, it being the worst since 1879.

Still They go

A Queenstown correspondent states that up to the end of September 27,000 adults left Queenstown for America, as against 21,000 for the corresponding period last year.

A Letter of Thanks.

The trustees of the Irish Parliamentary Fund (the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., and Mr. Stephen O'Mara) have sent a letter to the treasurer of the United Irish League of America acknowledging 'with a deep sense of gratitude' the first instalment of the £10,000 guaranteed by the League in America to the Parliamentary Fund.

Mr. Redmond's Views.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., interviewed on his arrival from America at Queenstown by the Press Association's correspondent, said he believed the entire land of Ireland would be sold to the tenants in between ten and fifteen years. Mr. Redmond had read little about the Irish Reform Association during his stay in America, and said he was not free to discuss the subject. He remarked, however, that the scheme generally afforded a proof of the progress of the Irish movement. He had formed no opinion as to what majority the Liberals would have in the next Parliament. All he hoped for was that it would be a small one. While in America he asked for only fifty thousand dollars, which were over-subscribed. The Irish in America had realised that the Irish cause was winning, and were determined to give the Irish Party whatever money they wanted. As long as there was unity at home financial support from America would be generously given. Regarding the Catholic University question, he was sanguine Ireland would ere long get her just demands in a Catholic University. Mr. Redmond spoke with sorrow of Sir William Harcourt's death, and praised Sir Wilfrid Laurier's whole-hearted sympathy throughout with the Irish movement. Referring to the united declaration of the various Governors of the United States in favor of a Home Rule Government for Ireland, Mr. Redmond said it was the most remarkable pronouncement of the time. His attention having been directed to the carrying on to Liverpool latterly of nearly all the American mail matter instead of landing it at Queenstown, Mr. Redmond said the Irish Parliamentary Party would take the matter up with the member for the division, Captain Donelan, and demand justice for the Irish route.

People We Hear About

Mr. Justin McCarthy, the veteran Irish Lovelast and writer, has just entered on his 75th year.

The Right Rev. Dr. Hsley, Bishop of Birmingham, who celebrated his episcopal silver jubilee on Sunday last, was born at Stalford on May 11, 1838. He was educated at Sedgley Park School, and afterwards at Oscott College. He was ordained priest June 29, 1861, and was consecrated Bishop of Fesse (Bishop-Auxiliary) in St. Chad's Cathedral by the Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, O.S.B., then Bishop of Birmingham, on December 4, 1879. On February 17, 1888, he was transferred to the See of Birmingham. Dr. Hsley holds the following public positions—Governor of the University of Birmingham, president of Diocesan Voluntary Schools' Association, hon. president of Birmingham Catholic Association, and president of the Catholic Art Society.

Lord North, who has just celebrated his 68th birthday, is the holder of a title which lay dormant for nearly forty years at the beginning of the past century, and was terminated in 1811 in favor of his mother. The present Lord North, who is a Catholic, is a Knight of Malta, and vice-president of that Sovereign Order in Great Britain. He has for some time had the interests in Britain of the Maltese Nobles, of whose assembly he is president, in his keeping, but the connection is purely social, and relates only to presentations at Court and so forth.

Alfonso XIII., Spain's youthful monarch, has chosen the beautiful Duchess Marie Antoinette of Mecklenburg-Schwerin to be his bride. He is eighteen and she is twenty. The Duchess, who was born in Venice, is naturally Latin in her sympathies, and met the King while he was travelling with his tutors in Italy and Austria. As a boy Alfonso learned to play football and billiards, and is a dashing horseman. He emulates the Kaiser in his devotion to military science, and at times shows a rare skill during the Spanish military manoeuvres. It is not stated when the marriage ceremony is to take place.

Judge Adams, the County Court Judge of Limerick, and a well-known storyteller in the National Liberal Club, is one of the wittiest of Irishmen, but occasionally in an encounter he comes out second best. Recently he was presiding at Quarter Sessions in Limerick. A juror asked the Judge to excuse him from serving on account of deafness. 'Were you in my court during my charge to the jury in the last case?' asked the Judge. 'Yes, your honor,' replied the juror. 'Did you hear it?' 'Yes, yer honor, I heard every word of it, but I couldn't make any sense of it.' The reply evoked a roar of laughter, in which Judge Adams heartily joined. But he did not excuse that juror.

The Princess of the Asturias, sister of the King of Spain, died on October 17. The Princess was the sister of the King of Spain, and from the day of her birth, September 11, 1880, until the birth of her brother, May 17, 1886, was the presumptive heiress of the throne. The birth of a boy altered the position of the Infanta Maria de las Mercedes Isabella Theresa Christina Alphonsina Hyacintha, for such was her name in full. The Princess was married February 14, 1901, to Prince de Bourbon, a relation who belonged to the branch of the family that formerly reigned in the Two Sicilies. Her husband was naturalised as a Spanish subject, held the rank of Infant of Spain, and was a general in the Spanish army.

The strained relations which have recently arisen between France and the Vatican have brought Cardinal Merry del Val into prominence. He is the Pope's Secretary of State, and in many cases is held to be responsible for his Holiness's action in regard to the withdrawal of the Bishops from France. The Cardinal's position at the Vatican (says the 'Review of Reviews') is one of the highest importance. Through his hands pass all the important affairs of state, and on his tact and judgment depends in great measure the friendly relations between the Holy See and the Catholic Powers of the world. At one time it was quite likely that we should have seen Cardinal Merry del Val in England. On the death of Cardinal Vaughan he was mentioned as being the probable successor to the Archbishopric of Westminster. The post of Secretary of State, succeeding Cardinal Rampolla, was considered, however, to give greater scope for his peculiar abilities, and very soon after his appointment he was raised to the rank of Prince of the Church. The Cardinal has served the Church in many lands—from Spain to Manitoba. His knowledge of countries is indeed wide, for, whilst his father was a Spanish nobleman, his mother was an Irish woman. Cardinal Merry del Val's education was received at Slough and Durham. He is a fluent conversationalist in five languages.