

Demise of a Priest

The death took place recently at Portrush of the Rev. Bernard Nugent, P.P. of Lissan, County Tyrone. The venerable pastor had been a priest of the archdiocese of Armagh for over forty years, and had charge of the parish of Lissan for about twenty-two years.

WATERFORD—Priests Honored

The Holy Father, on the recommendation of the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, has conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity on the following three priests: Rev. Denis Whelan, Professor of Theology, St. John's College, Waterford; Rev. Michael Sheehan, M.A., D.Ph., Professor of Ancient Classics, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; and Rev. Patrick Beecher, M.A., Professor of Pastoral Theology, Sacred Eloquence and Elocution, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

WEXFORD—The Men of '98

A most imposing demonstration took place at Enniscorthy on Sunday, May 28, the occasion being the laying of the foundation stone of the memorial which it is proposed to erect to the insurgents who fell at the battle of Vinegar Hill. The day was the one hundred and seventh anniversary of the capture of the town by the gallant peasant soldiers, an event which preceded their defeat at Vinegar Hill. An immense concourse of people assembled in the town for the ceremony, special trains bringing crowds from different parts of Leinster and Munster. Before the foundation stone was laid a picturesque and impressive procession passed through the town, and proceeded in the direction of Vinegar Hill, and having passed close to the base, returned to the Market Square, where the memorial is to be erected. The procession was composed of branches of the Gaelic League, United Irish League, Gaelic Athletic Association, National Foresters, and other bodies. Numerous banners were borne, one being held aloft by relatives of Father John Murphy, who so valiantly led his brave Wexford men. Sir Thomas Esmonde brought a large contingent from Ballynastragh, and also two small cannon, carried in the procession mounted on gun carriages. A cannon ball used at the battle of Vinegar Hill was also carried by the Ballynastragh contingent. Several clergymen were present on the platform during the laying of the foundation stone, and at the meeting held subsequently. Sir Thomas Esmonde, M.P., performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, and said in the course of his speech that all knew and felt that the cause of '98 was gaining ground, slowly, perhaps, but surely and irrevocably nevertheless; and it was his firm belief that by the time the monument whose foundation stone they laid that day was neared to its completion a further and an important step would have been made along the road to liberty. Speeches were also made by Mr. Michael Davitt, Rev. Father Fitzhenry (Enniscorthy), and the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

GENERAL

Castle Methods

In the House of Commons on May 25, during the consideration of the estimates for the Civil Service, Mr. John Redmond exposed the methods adopted by the Castle officials to provoke disorder and pave the way for another Coercion Act. He said: Six or seven weeks ago, before anything of this kind became publicly mentioned in the papers, he was informed by those who had an opportunity of knowing that in view of the fact that Sir Antony MacDonnell had made a declaration that he would not administer coercion, a determination had been come to to force him out of Dublin Castle by forcing coercion upon certain parts of Ireland. Almost immediately descriptions of alleged outrages commenced to appear in the English press, among them the case of Mr. Persse, in County Galway. But this particular story, on being investigated by the police, was found to be an invention. Then there was a sensational account of alleged houghing and mutilation of cattle, a crime which should be denounced as horrible, shocking, unchristian, and detestable. This case was investigated, and it was found there was not a single case of a beast being houghed or mutilated. Then they had stories of incendiary fires. He must express his opinion that it was dastardly for people in that House or out of that House to take part in any conspiracy of this kind seeking to blacken the reputation of a people who so far as outrages and crime were concerned stood on a higher position than the people of either England or Scotland.

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People We Hear About

The Poet Laureate, of whom the public hears but little nowadays, has entered on his seventieth year.

It is a curious fact that the foundation of the 'Birmingham Daily Post' was chiefly due to John Frederick Feeney, a County Sligo man, while the 'Daily Post' of Liverpool was founded by Mr. Michael James Whitty, a Wexford man, both earnest practical Catholics.

The death of the Dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley reminds one (says the 'Manchester Guardian') of the curious variety of conviction that the last two generations of the house have exhibited in religious matters. Her husband was a Mahometan, Lady Carlisle, her daughter, is a Unitarian, and Monsignor Algernon Stanley a Catholic Bishop.

Dr. A. L. Kenny, of Melbourne, whose work as secretary of the second Australasian Catholic Congress has been gratefully recognised throughout the Commonwealth and New Zealand, is about to take an extended holiday trip round the world. He will leave Melbourne about the beginning of September, and will be absent for fully twelve months.

The new Speaker of the Legislative Council, the Hon. C. C. Bowen, was born in Milford, County Mayo, in 1830. His father, the late Mr. C. Bowen, was Speaker of the Canterbury Provincial Council for several years. The Hon. C. C. Bowen was educated at Rugby and Cambridge, and was amongst the original settlers in Canterbury, acting, until 1852, as secretary to Mr. Godley. He held the position of Resident Magistrate in Christchurch from 1864 to 1872, when he was called to the Legislative Council, but soon after resigned his seat and entered the House of Representatives as member for Kaiapoi, holding office as Minister of Justice and Commissioner of Stamps. During his tenure of office, he carried through the House in 1877 the Education Act, which made primary education free, secular, and compulsory.

Count Plunkett, M.R.I.A., F.S.A., a well known figure in Irish life, is a specialist in art, which he has studied since his boyhood in all the great art centres of the world. Born in Dublin in December, 1851, he was educated at Nice, Clongowes, and Dublin University, where he gained prizes in modern languages and distinction in oratory. He was called to the Bar in 1885, on his return to Ireland from a prolonged tour round the United States. Having studied literature under Professor Dowden, he has contributed to a score of Irish journals and magazines. In 1882-3, in union with some friends, he issued 'Hibernia,' a review that tried to find a common platform for Irishmen who desired the intellectual elevation of the people. He enlisted the services of veterans like Dr. Mahaffy, Dr. Joyce, Mr. Olden, and Miss Margaret Stokes, and younger writers such as Mr. N. Colgan, the Irish botanist, Mr. T. W. Lyster (of the National Library), and Mr. W. F. Bailey (the chief organiser of the Land Purchase scheme). Through that journal Count Plunkett introduced Miss Katherine Tynan and Miss Jane Barlow to the literary world.

The changes and complications during the last century in the Government of Spain (says the 'Catholic Times') have been such that many have but a very indistinct idea of how the present King's father succeeded to the throne. After the French cause in the Peninsula had been destroyed by Wellington, Napoleon signed a treaty re-establishing King Ferdinand in power. Ferdinand had no male heirs, and he left the Crown to the elder of his two daughters, Isabella, having persuaded the Cortes to renew its decisions of 1789 and 1812 abolishing the Salic law which excluded females from the throne. His brother, Don Carlos, took up arms in support of his claim, and a war, which lasted for seven years, followed between the Carlists and Cristinos. The young Queen was at last placed on the throne, but her reign was a round of national discontent, and she abdicated in 1868, when the Pronunciamiento, a document setting forth the nation's grievances, was issued. In the course of time it was decided to elect a King from among a number of foreign princes. The choice of the Prince of Hohenzollern, though he refused the offer when France sternly opposed him, led to the Franco-Prussian War. The brother of the King of Italy, Amadeo of Savoy, then received and accepted the offer, only to resign in two years. A republic succeeded, and this also lasted but a couple of years. In 1875, Alfonso, son of the exiled Isabella II., was induced to become King, and was crowned as Alfonso XII. He died in 1885 at the age of twenty-eight. Alfonso XIII., the present King, was born after his father's death, and was from his infancy delicate, but he was nursed into good health by his devoted mother, who was a most capable Regent.