

There the Monsignor went through a course with great distinction. About nine years ago the Holy See recognised his splendid services to religion by appointing him as Domestic Prelate to his Holiness.

## GENERAL

### Proposed Redistribution

Great indignation has been excited in Ireland by the Redistribution proposals. The 'Freeman's Journal' says it cannot find any word to describe them properly but infamy. The Act of Union acknowledged the right of Ireland 'for ever' to have a hundred members in the Imperial Parliament in London. Under the redistribution scheme Cork will lose two seats, and the following other counties will one seat each: Armagh, Donegal, Fermanagh, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, King's County, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Queen's County, Tipperary, Tyrone, Waterford, Westmeath, and Wicklow. Belfast will be given one additional member. Galway, Newry, and Kilkenny will cease to exist as separate constituencies.

### Defeat of the Government

The defeat of the Government in the House of Commons towards the end of July was the cause of great rejoicing by the Irish party, who were mainly responsible for it. Writing on the subject the 'Catholic Times' says:—As a Parliamentary tactician Mr. Redmond has proved himself a leader of wonderful resource. When the Government were defeated last session on what they treated as a snap division the reverse occurred on an Irish vote and was due to a plan carefully pre-arranged by Mr. Redmond. It was Mr. Redmond who elicited from the Speaker the ruling which compelled the Premier to abandon the Redistribution Scheme for the session. Lastly, it was Mr. Redmond who procured such support for an attack on the administration of the Land Act by the Irish Executive that it ended in 199 votes being recorded against the Government, whilst there were only 196 for it. In the scene which ensued Mr. Redmond and the other Irish representatives naturally took the lead. Following their example, all the occupants of the crowded Opposition benches sprang to their feet. Cheers rang out wildly for five minutes, echoing from the roof and through the empty corridors without. Once more, after Sir Thomas Esmonde, the chief Nationalist whip, who, with Captain Denham, was acting as teller, had announced the figures, a hurricane of cheers swept the Chamber. Members shouted till they were hoarse, waved hats, papers, and handkerchiefs, and danced upon the cushioned seats. It was a moment of exultation due to the consciousness of victory owing to Mr. Redmond's generalship. As expected, Mr. Balfour has decided to remain in office, despite the defeat in the House of Commons upon what is now admitted on all sides not to have been a snap division. As to the intentions of the Irish Party, Mr. Redmond's incisive speech left no room for doubt. They considered that the Premier was acting unconstitutionally, and during the continuance in office of the present Government they would give and take no quarter, but would fight in small matters, as well as in large, day and night, as long as the session lasted. Mr. Balfour may be able to resist successfully, but the struggle will entail very severe party discipline. Mr. Long's position is even more unenviable than Mr. Balfour's. His Irish policy has been condemned by a majority of the House of Commons, and it is difficult to see how he can with dignity continue to hold the office of Irish Chief Secretary.

### How the Scheme is Worked

A sample of the way in which it is proposed to treat Ireland in the matter of representation may be gleaned from the fact that under the plot which is on foot, County Dublin, with a population of 157,000, will have two representatives, while seven British county constituencies, namely, Bute, Rutland, Radnor, Sutherland, Peebles, Berwick, and Flint, with a total population of 151,868, will return seven representatives. It is quite plain to anyone who studies the scheme that it has been devised to favor Great Britain to the furthest possible extent at the expense of Ireland. With the exception of the 'Daily Express' and 'Irish Times,' the metropolitan papers denounce the proposal in vigorous language. The last-named journal thinks that the reduction of the Irish representation does not go far enough, but, as is customary, it gives no reason for the views put forward so glibly. The 'Freeman's Journal' calls upon the country to make its voice heard, and this it is doing with no uncertain sound.

## People We Hear About

It is rumored that Mr. Labouchere will shortly retire from the editorship of 'Truth.'

The newly-married Lord Bute traces his descent right back in unbroken male line to King Robert II. of Scotland, the present generation being the seventeenth in succession to the Stuart King.

The Duke of Norfolk stands in very much the same relation to Sheffield that his cousin, the Marquis of Bute, does to Cardiff. They inherited these respective estates through female ancestry, the Duke coming by his vast property in South Yorkshire through descent from the granddaughter and heiress of George (Talbot), sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, the custodian for fourteen years of Mary Queen of Scots, at Sheffield Castle. The Earl was one of the judges who sat on the trial of the Queen, at whose execution he presided.

Lord Justice Mathew has entered on his 76th year. He is the senior Judge on the English Bench, and has the reputation of being the ablest. A man of modest manner, he never made the Bench a platform for the display either of witicism or pomposity. In commercial cases he is the special joy of litigants because of his faculty of getting to the heart of a case at once, without any unnecessary circumlocution or ceremony. An Irishman and a Catholic, Sir James is the nephew of the famous Father Mathew and the father-in-law of Mr. John Dillon, M.P.

Old I Luce, Mochrum, where Lord and Lady Bute spent their honeymoon, is well situated on the Wigtownshire uplands, between Luce Bay and Wigtown Bay. The surrounding country is wild and lonely, and consists of hills, moors, and lochs. Old Place, which was originally built during the latter part of the fifteenth century by Sir John Dunbar, was thoroughly and carefully restored by the late Lord Bute about twenty years ago, and it is now one of the best examples of a mediæval house in Great Britain. The windows command beautiful views over Mochrum Loch and Castle Loch, each of which contains several pretty islands.

Two hundred women writers met as comrades at dinner the other day (reports the London 'Tablet'), and three of their number were down on the programme for speeches—Mrs. Meynell (who presided over the pretty banquet, made gay with flowers and musical with the warble of feminine voices), Mrs. Katherine Tynan Hinkson, and Mrs. Craigie. The last note to be suggested by such a festival is a polemical one. Yet the fact that the three spokeswomen of the women writers happen all to be Catholics is something more than a lucky hit. It represents the very generally predominating activities of Catholic women in nearly all the departments of literature and journalism.

The literary executors of the late Cardinal Newman have entrusted to Mr. Wilfrid Ward the task of writing the Cardinal's biography. The selection is happy, since Mr. Wilfrid Ward's father, Mr. William George Ward, was one of the leaders of the Tractarian movement, who 'came over' with Newman. 'Mrs. Wilfrid Ward, too, is a daughter of Mr. J. R. Hope Scott, another college friend of Newman's. Among the cherished possessions of their library at Dorking is 'The Grammar of Assent,' inscribed 'to Wilfrid Ward, with the affectionate regards of John H. Cardinal Newman, 31st Jan., 1885.' As the author already of the life of Cardinal Wiseman, Mr. Ward is steeped in the history of the English Catholic revival of the 19th century.

Sir Timothy Carew O'Brien, who has recently been showing at Lords that his bat has not lost its cunning, enjoys a baronetcy which was conferred on his grandfather by Queen Victoria when she entered Dublin in 1819. The first Sir Timothy O'Brien was a prominent merchant of Dublin, and he was specially invited to accept the Lord Mayoralty in order to welcome the young Queen. As Lord Mayor he presented the keys of Dublin to Queen Victoria, who on that occasion described Dublin as 'the second city of my Empire'—a distinction now claimed by other cities. Sir Timothy C. O'Brien—who, by the way, is married to the sister of Mr. de Trafford, the noted Leicestershire cricketer—succeeded his uncle, Sir Patrick, in the baronetcy a little over ten years ago. Sir Patrick O'Brien is still well remembered by many members of the House of Commons, in which he sat continuously for King's County from 1852 to 1885. A Liberal like his father, he did not favor the Parnellite movement, and was in strong antagonism to Mr. Parnell's party during his last year in Parliament.

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