

hold out for better terms; but they wished to have the old dispute over, 'the Black Farm' closed, and to have their old neighbors, the Kellys, again restored to their home.

WESTMEATH—The Bishop's Resignation

The Westmeath Council has passed a resolution, joining with the other Councils and Boards in the county in respectfully urging on the Most Rev. Dr. Gaffney, Bishop of Meath, the vital necessity of reconsidering his resignation.

WEXFORD—The Position of the Irish Party

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., addressing a United Irish League meeting in the Town Hall, Wexford, said he thought the returns of the last few weeks sufficient to dissipate the hopes of their enemies that the Nationalist ranks would be broken. He rejected the proposal recently made in favor of a Conference of various sections in Irish political life, both on account of the manner in which the proposal was made, and also because he objected to the Irish question being submitted to the arbitrament of such an assembly. At the coming national convention several important issues would arise. Of these one of the chief was what should be the attitude of the Irish Party towards the Liberals if they got into power independently of the Irish vote, and what their attitude if the Liberals were dependent on the Irish vote? At any rate, the convention would plainly show that if the Liberal Party at the next election attempted to betray its pledges and betray Ireland it would have to deal with the organised and determined opposition of the people of Ireland.

GENERAL

Fontenoy Memorial Fund

Mr. Justin McCarthy, in sending a subscription to the Fontenoy Memorial Fund, says that though he has lived most of his life out of Ireland, he feels himself as closely associated with national memories as if he had never left his early home. Ireland owes it to herself to pay tribute to the memory of Fontenoy.

Grazing Ranches

When men are being sent to gaol by the dozen by packed special jurors of Galway for agitating for the redistribution of the grazing ranches (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), it is interesting to have the opinion of one of the very ablest of the Irish Judges on the subject. At the recent meeting of the Law Students' Debating Society Lord Justice Fitzgibbon declared: 'Our people were quick to learn if they were taken the right way. The first industry of Ireland must be, as it was, agriculture. The propagation of knowledge, teaching, and experience, instructing the people to make the most of the soil on which they live, was the first the necessary cure for the emigration, which all deplored. If the people could learn to live at home by making the land produce food for them a good thing would be done. It was a sorrowful thing to see grass farms everywhere as far as the eye could reach. If the land of Ireland were cultivated it would produce food enough for three times its present population.'

Where Boards Accumulate

A modern Goldsmith (says London 'Truth,') might write of Ireland, after its long spell of Conservative Government, as a land 'where Boards accumulate and men decay.' It Dublin is not a 'deserted' capital, its leading residential squares and streets are declining in social popularity. The Agricultural Board is now practically in possession of Merrion street, a fine thoroughfare leading from Merrion Square towards St. Stephen's Green. In this street the first Duke of Wellington's parents lived, and there the great man was born. The salaried officials swamp both town and country, increasing yearly, whilst the population decreases. Ireland has a strange past history, but its future one will beat the record, if things go on as at present. The great land departments will have no one to give the land to, the Boards will supply an army of teachers without pupils, the Members of Parliament will have no constituents, and yet no doubt the Irish question will still remain. The Irish themselves have their own opinion on the lasting nature of the Irish question. The people of Ireland have been given many things by England, but never those that they wanted. In fact, the country has always been ruled on the principles of the great Bumble towards those under his dominion. They do not ask for more Boards, and they get them, nor for Royal Commissions, and they get them. The things that they ask for, under the reasonable idea that they have the best knowledge of their own needs, are never given. Supposing the Bumble policy were reversed, might not the nature of the Irish question change too? It would at least be worth a trial.

People We Hear About

By the recent death of the Hon. Captain Kenny the life members of the Legislative Council have been reduced to nine in number (says the 'New Zealand Times'). They are the Hons. W. D. Baillie (appointed 1861), C. C. Bowen, Speaker (1891), C. J. Johnston (1891), G. M'Lean (1881), Sir Henry John Miller (1865), J. D. Ormond (1891), H. Scotland (1868), E. C. Stevens (1882), L. Walker (1885).

Archbishop Keane, who has done noble work as Rector of the Catholic University of Washington, tells of Cardinal Manning's last illness, that in his extreme weakness his Eminence's physicians urged him to take some stimulant. Calmly but almost sternly he refused. Then they gave him a drug that had a similar effect. Beckoning for his faithful attendant, Monsignor Johnson, he whispered: 'That drug has flushed my face and dimmed the clearness of my brain, and I will take no more of it.' And so, with unclouded mind and true to the League of the Cross, he passed to our Eternal Judge.

The death is announced of Lady Florence Dixie, the sister of the Rev. Lord Archibald Douglas. She had been an invalid for some years. 'In her youth she was fond of outdoor life, and was a magnificent horsewoman. She travelled widely in unknown parts of the world, spending days on horseback, and suffering great hardships. When Patagonia was even less known than it is now she was familiar with its wildest parts. In the Boer War of 1881 Lady Florence was a war-correspondent of the 'Morning Post.' Owing largely to her advocacy, Cetewayo, the captive king of Zululand, was restored to liberty.

Sir Henry Irving was not as rich as his admirers would have wished, this being due to his unbounded generosity. Some strange stories are told of him in this respect. It is said that on one occasion he was asked to perform at a benefit given for some poor actor who had broken down. 'I cannot go,' wrote Sir Henry, 'but I'll put him on the pay list at the Lyceum.' And on the pay list he was duly put, survived for over twelve years, and all that time drew £9 a week without ever having entered the theatre. Sir Henry spent enormous sums on the 'mise en scene' of his plays. For the few seconds spent by Marguerite in crossing the stage to enter the cathedral the church bells play, and for the chime of bells which thus played Sir Henry gave a thousand pounds.

Concerning Sir William Butler, the 'Westminster Gazette' tells, 'on excellent authority,' a capital story. During the stormy period of the 'Plan of Campaign,' when Sir William was living temporarily in Ireland, a force of police, under an officer to whom the gallant soldier was unknown, arrived at his house. The police officer informed Sir William that he was aware that an Irish M.P. for whom he had a warrant was in the building, and demanded that he should be given up forthwith. On being asked for the authority by which he made this demand on a stranger, the representative of 'the force' replied that he knew the 'wanted' M.P. was in the house, and that he meant to search it, even though he had no search-warrant. To which the famous soldier answered that whoever attempted to cross his threshold without due authority of law would do so at his peril. For answer the police-officer ordered his men to 'fall in,' and—marched away. The beauty of the situation was that the gentleman for whom the police were looking was actually in Sir William's house at the time.

Among the politicians retiring this year (says the 'Otago Daily Times') are some who have given many years of service to the country. Mr. J. W. Thomson, Clutha, who did not seek re-election, was returned for nine Parliaments, and gave his attendance at 30 sessions. Sir W. R. Russell, who was defeated for Hawke's Bay, was elected for nine Parliaments, and had attended 32 sessions. Mr. W. C. Buchanan, who has given place to Mr. Hornsby for Wairarapa, had seen seven Parliaments and served for 25 sessions. Mr. John Duthie, who was defeated by Mr. Izard for Wellington North, was elected for four Parliaments and attended 12 sessions. The Right Hon. R. J. Seddon has been elected for 10 Parliaments and has seen 31 sessions, the Hon. T. Y. Duncan nine Parliaments and 28 sessions, the Hon. Sir J. G. Ward and the Hon. J. Carroll seven Parliaments and 21 sessions, the Hon. W. Hall-Jones seven Parliaments and 18 sessions, the Hon. C. H. Mills six Parliaments and 17 sessions, and the Hon. Mr. M'Gowan six Parliaments and 14 sessions. The Hon. Sir W. J. Steward has the 'record,' having been elected for 10 Parliaments and served for 33 sessions. Sir William Steward and Mr. J. W. Thomson entered the House in 1871, Sir William Russell in 1876, Mr. Seddon in 1879, and Mr. Duncan and Mr. Buchanan in 1881.