

CLARE—A Brave Priest

A New Orleans paper pays a well deserved tribute to the zeal and self-sacrifice of a Clare priest during the recent outbreak of that terrible scourge, yellow fever in that city and surrounding district. It says: 'The little church at Barataria is being used as an emergency hospital, and the pastor, Rev. Father J. G. McKenna, has remained with his people, nursing them and caring for them in every way. He returned to the city for a day or two and told something of the situation there, although he would not be quoted. While the yellow fever had been all but stamped out in the neighborhood of Grand Isle, it has spread very rapidly in the settlement near Berthoud plantation. Dr. Shanley and other medical men have been doing splendid work among the afflicted people. Father McKenna, who is non-immune, is also assisting in the work, and is living in a small room in the rear of his church until conditions improve. He went from house to house with the physicians, bringing words of encouragement to the people and administering the rites of the Church to those who were in danger of death.' The Father McKenna referred to is well known in the diocese of Killaloe, where he labored from 1878 to 1886. In the early days of the Land League he took an active part in its work. He was born in O'Connellloe, overlooking Lough Derg, close to Killaloe, where other members of the family still reside. Father McKenna is a brother of Mr. J. A. McKenna, J.P., Chairman of the Patea Harbor Board, Taranaki.

CORK—Gaelic Training College

At a meeting of the committee of management of the Munster Training College for Gaelic teachers it was decided to offer a free scholarship at the college next year for competition amongst Gaelic speakers in each county in Munster.

DONEGAL—Appointed Engineer

Mr. James J. Hannigan, B.A., B.E., R.U.I., has been appointed engineer to the Congested Districts Board. Mr. Hannigan is a son of the late Mr. James Hannigan, Ballyholey, County Donegal, and a past student of St. Columb's College, Derry.

DOWN—Sale of an Estate

The tenants on portion of the Countess of Castlestewart's estate, near Coalisland, have just decided to purchase their holdings on terms which give a reduction of 4s in the £ on second term rents and 6s on first term. The sporting rights are retained by the landlady during her life and the life of Lady Close.

DUBLIN—Cardinal Moran's Views

The following cable message was received from his Eminence Cardinal Moran at the National Convention, which opened in Dublin on December 6. Australian Executive greets Convention. Fullest confidence Irish Party. Unity essential Home Rule. Victory certain. Whoever obstructs National Union, enemy. Celtic race pledge support.

The National Convention

The great Irish National Convention opened on December 6 in the Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin. The assemblage was quite the most distinguished and representative ever gathered in that historic chamber. Mr. John Redmond, M.P., presided, and amongst those on the platform were Messrs. Joseph Devlin, M.P., Michael Davitt, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., T. P. O'Connor, M.P.; and the Lord Mayor of Dublin. The hall was packed in every part, the galleries being filled by members of the general public. Speeches were delivered on the opening day by Messrs. John Redmond, John Dillon, Michael Davitt, T. P. O'Connor, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and other prominent public men. The first resolution, reiterating the demand for Home Rule, was carried unanimously. The next, approving of the policy of the National Directory and emphasising the necessity of unity and a pledge-bound party, was also agreed to.

KERRY—Death of a Religious

In the cemetery attached to the Presentation Convent, Listowel, on December 2, the remains of Sister Mary John, who had spent forty-six years in religion, were laid to rest. Deceased lady was a daughter of the late Mr. John Grant, Listowel, and a grand-daughter of the late Mr. Maurice Dalton, who was one of the first Catholics appointed to the magistracy after the relaxation of the penal laws.

People We Hear About

Sir Joseph Ward is to be entertained at a banquet by the leading citizens of Wellington prior to his departure for the Postal Conference at Rome. The banquet will take place on February 8.

Mrs. Thomas Addis Emmet, who was prominent in New York society for many years, died in December of heart disease, aged 76 years. Dr. Emmet, her surviving husband, is a great-grand-nephew of Robert Emmet.

According to a contemporary, the eldest daughter of the new Governor of Queensland is named Bridget Mary. His Excellency evidently doesn't favor names borrowed from the cheap romances of the 'London Reader.'

In giving an account of Archbishop Bourne's career as a celebrity at home, the 'World' says his Grace can never allude to the gentle care bestowed by his mother without the strength of his affection for her being plainly visible. She was the daughter of John Byrne, a Dublin merchant.

This is how Mr. Justin M'Carthy describes his 'maiden speech' in the House of Commons: 'Although I felt nervous, I just managed to get through what I had to say. And what a relief it was to me to sit down and feel that the trial was over! I felt I didn't care what anyone thought about me, I was so glad my task was done. But John Bright spoke on the same subject, and gave me a very kindly welcome to the House.'

Mr. James Bryce, who assumes the Chief Secretaryship of Ireland, is like Mr. Morley a literary man first and a politician next, but an ornament to both professions. He has been in the House for 25 years, and held office in the two last Liberal Administrations. His published works, which have gained for him a great reputation, include 'The Holy Roman Empire,' 'The American Constitution,' 'Studies in History and Jurisprudence,' and 'Studies in Contemporary Biography.'

Lord Charles Beresford is a staunch teetotaler. 'I am now sixty years old,' he said recently, 'and since I have entirely given up wine, spirits, and beer I find I can do as much work, or more, physically and mentally, than I could do when I was thirty. I am always well; always cheery; laugh at the downs of life equally with the ups, and always feel fit and in condition. If only some of the young men would try going without liquor for three months, I do not believe they would think liquor at all necessary again.'

The seventh Earl of Aberdeen, the new Irish Viceroy, will be remembered as the most popular Viceroy Ireland ever saw, though his short term under the Gladstone Government, in 1886, lasted only six months. He was born in 1847, and was Governor-General of Canada from 1893 to 1898. Lady Aberdeen is a daughter of the first Baron Tweedmouth. She was brought up among Catholics, and she and Lord Aberdeen had no difficulty in winning their confidence both in Canada and Ireland. When they left Dublin the whole city was in tears, and turned out to give them a national farewell.

The Marquis of Ripon, Lord Privy Seal, is the only Catholic in the new Liberal Ministry. He is president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in England. His conversion to the Catholic faith in 1874 caused a considerable stir, for he was at the time Grand Master of the Freemasons of England, and his resignation of the post was regarded with surprise and dismay by the lodges. The Marquis was received at the Oratory, Brompton, in 1880 he was appointed Viceroy of India, much to the chagrin of the Dissenters, who held a meeting of protest at Exeter Hall. His popularity in India was not a newspaper popularity. The people mourned his departure.

Apologies of the new King of Norway, not many crowns have been disposed of in the last thirty years in Europe—hence the interest taken in Norway's choice. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria is supposed to be anxious to add to the number of European Kings by rising to the ranks of full sovereignty. Indeed, his frequent visits of late to crowned heads and to the French President, are said to be connected with this project. It will be forty-three years next March since the crown of Greece was bestowed upon the King of Denmark's son George, the brother of Queen Alexandra, after it had been offered to other Princes. Rumor said that the late Earl of Derby might have had the crown, for the Greeks had a very high opinion of that nobleman's ability.