

Nott, of Bristol, for the carrying out of the harbor and foreshore protection works at a sum which, with 15 per cent. for contingencies, will be close on £30,000. The free grant given by the Government for these works is £22,000, which, together with the sum of £5000 subscribed locally by the interested public bodies, makes the sum available for the purpose £27,000.

GENERAL

A Distinguished Visitor

Mr. W. J. Bryan, who is likely to be Democratic candidate for the American Presidency, paid a visit to Ireland recently. He was accompanied by his wife. On arriving in Dublin he paid a visit to "Boss" Croker, who owns a magnificent residence at Stillorgan. After a motor drive through the Phoenix Park, Mr and Mrs Bryan left Dublin for Killarney.

A Visit to Paris

The Paris correspondent of the 'Times' writes:—A deputation of the promoters of the Irish International Exhibition recently visited Paris, and were received by the Minister of Commerce and other representatives of the French Government, who promised to give them every assistance in the object they had in view. Official sanction of this verbal promise has since been received. It is also hoped that the permission of the Minister of War will be obtained for the band of the Republican Guard to play at the Exhibition.

A Connection Severed

London's three-century old connection with Ireland in the capacity of landlord and tenant is now all but severed. 'In the reign of James I. a grant of land in the Plantation of Ulster was made to the Corporation of London and the City Companies with a view to colonisation. Of late years the guilds have been disposing of the estates, and now the Irish Society, which represents the Corporation, has followed suit, and sold its property to the tenants at what Sir George Faudel-Phillips describes as 'bed-rock prices.' The old Government House has been disposed of, the local staff has been pensioned off, and in future the business of the Society will be conducted in London alone.

Tobacco Culture

A correspondent, writing to the 'Freeman's Journal,' states he has just been over two of the principal places where tobacco is being grown this year, viz., the plots in Kilkenny and Wexford counties. Some eight acres are sown in Kilkenny, and twelve acres in the southern end of the County Wexford. The plots in the latter case are grown close together, and within a short distance of the drying and storing sheds near Tagooat, which were erected last year. The crops are looking very well—the sunshine and showery weather being just the kind of climate to bring on the young plants. At Wexford the plots are in charge of an expert, who has had some training at Randalstown, where Colonel Everard has over twenty acres in cultivation this year. Altogether, there are just eighty acres under cultivation in Ireland, and in every instance last year there was a profit made out of the plots.

Potato Blight

We are sorry (says the 'Freeman's Journal' of August 3) to be informed that the potato blight is showing itself among the fields and gardens in the counties of Wexford and Waterford. Along the sea coast more especially has the blight shown itself unmistakably in the withered stalks and decaying leaves, and, in some instances, the baneful smell that is given out by the decaying tubers. Where spraying has been resorted to the blight has not shown itself so markedly, and in many instances where a portion only of the field has been sprayed, and another part not, the former has escaped, while the latter has not. Potatoes—the ordinary growth—are now selling freely in the market towns at from 5d to 8d the stone weight, and are of superior quality. Indeed, all the crops are looking splendid in Wexford, Waterford, and Kilkenny, the light rainfalls merely freshening up the ground and not doing any serious injury, while the strong and hot sun is fast ripening the barley, oat, and wheat crops.

You wrap up your head in red flannel,
You snuffle and snort on your bed,
You plaster each pane and each panel,
In dread of a draught that is dead.
Nay. Cast all your wraps to the needy,
Such miseries never endure,
For Woods has a remedy speedy
In his Great Peppermint Cure.

People We Hear About

The Empress Eugenie, in a letter which she has written to a friend in America, says that only three times in her life did she wear a costume that cost her as much as forty guineas. 'Once it was her wedding dress, and another time it was the dress she wore at the baptism of the Prince Imperial.' Yet the wife of Napoleon III. was constantly blamed for the luxury of her Court, and for her personal extravagance.

In his Sydney speech Mr. Devlin paid a glowing tribute of praise to the late General Patrick A. Collins, of Boston (U.S.), as a splendid example of what an Irishman can become under free conditions. General Collins, who was Mayor of Boston three times, is to have a monument in Boston Park, as a companion memorial to that of another Irish patriot, John Boyle O'Reilly. Five sculptors have already prepared designs, three of which have already been submitted to the memorial committee.

Father Bernard Vaughan, whose pulpit denunciations of the 'smart set' are about to appear in book form, has already had a good deal of his eloquence put into print. His biggest book is one of 359 pages, embodying the ten addresses he delivered in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in reply to the then Protestant Bishop of that city, Dr. Moorhouse, on 'The Roman Claims.' Before he went to London Father Vaughan was for twenty years associated with the Jesuit Church of the Holy Name in Manchester.

The engagement of the young Lord Gerard to his cousin, Miss Gosselin, recalls the fact that her home, Blakesware, in Hertfordshire, has been immortalised by Charles Lamb under the name of Blakesmoor. Here, we learn from him, he spent many happy days of childhood. The modern mansion, built in the Jacobean style by the late Mrs. Gosselin, some twenty-five years ago, does not, however, occupy exactly the same site as the house made familiar to us by the pages of Elia. The Gosselins are not one of the old English Catholic families. Miss Gosselin's father, the late British Minister at Lisbon, was the first Catholic of his family, who originally came from Guernsey.

Westinghouse, a young inventor, was trying to interest capitalists in his automatic brake, the device which now plays so important a part in the operation of railroad trains. He wrote a letter to Cornelius Vanderbilt, president of the New York Railroad Company, carefully explaining the details of the invention. Very promptly his letter came back to him, endorsed in big, scrawling letters, in the hand of Commodore Vanderbilt: 'I have no time to waste on fools.' Afterwards, when the Pennsylvania Railroad had taken up the automatic brake and it was proved very successful, Commodore Vanderbilt sent young Westinghouse a request to call on him. The inventor returned the letter, endorsed on the bottom as follows: 'I have no time to waste on fools.'

Mr. Chas. E. Jerningham, whose contributions to 'Truth' over the title of 'Marmaduke' are the wittiest things of their kind to be found in the London press, is also a famed collector of bric-a-brac, chiefly glass and prints. He has just presented to the nation a rare collection of old prints of St. James's Park and the surrounding district, which was exhibited last year at the Westminster Town Hall. The King gratefully accepted the gift. The prints have now been hung in one of the rooms at Kensington Palace, which will be thrown open to the public. The King visited the collection recently, and was greatly interested by it, warmly complimenting Mr. Jerningham on his taste and public spirit. Mr. Jerningham (says the 'Freeman') has Irish blood in his veins on his mother's side, which may, perhaps, account for his very un-English type of wit as well as for his rare personal popularity.

Mr W. J. Bryan, in the course of his speech at the Irish Club, London, on July 28, when there was a brilliant reunion, at which Mr. John Redmond and Mr. T. P. O'Connor spoke, explains his pedigree in Gladstonian style. He said:—'I have the testimony of my father that we were of Irish extraction, although we don't know when our ancestors landed in America, or from what part of Ireland they came. I know that I am part Irish. My name helps me out in that. I am part English. My father's mother's name helps me out in that. I am part Scotch. My mother mother's name helps me out in that (laughter). But I am all American (applause). I think my wife not only has some of the blood of each of these countries, but, as she goes beyond me in nearly every other respect, so in this, she traces her ancestry to one more race than I do, and mixes a little German with Irish, English, and Scotch.'