

Church Building

Notwithstanding the fulminations of some distinguished political economists (writes a Dublin correspondent), the priests and people of Ireland continue to erect churches to the glory and honor of God wherever required throughout the land. Scarcely a week passes by but a new church is dedicated in some part of the country, or an old one which had been renovated and freed from debt consecrated to the service of the Almighty. On Sunday next (August 26) at Ballymahon, in the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, the Church of St. Matthew, a handsome building, which has just been completed, will be dedicated in the presence of what is certain to be a very large gathering, assembled from many parts. His Eminence Cardinal Logue will preside at the ceremonies. The new church is a credit to all concerned. For many miles around, with its graceful spire over one hundred feet high, it can be seen, pointing out to all whom it may concern that the good people of Ballymahon heed not the economists when the honor and glory of God is concerned.

The Root of the Mischief

Of all the people of Europe (says the London 'Daily News') the English and the Irish stand furthest removed the one from the other. Here is the root of all the mischief. A modern traveller in this interesting and fascinating land has described how everywhere the cities appeared as alien cities; and Ireland seemed to him more closely to resemble Spain than England. Indeed the spirit and temper of the Kerry farmer is more widely removed from that of the Lancashire mill hand than from that of the peasant of Andalusia. A profound gulf—in religion, in estimate of values in life, in individual and national ideal—separates the countries which have troubled each other through so many centuries. To-day we are at length realising that a contented, successful Ireland must mean a government of Ireland in accordance with Irish ideas. It must mean an administration accepted by the people themselves as national and not as alien. Ireland must develop her civilisation along her own ways. They will not be English ways. Many of their bedrock ideals will seem to us mere midsummer madness. We cannot conceive why a nation should so desire her own language instead of our language; why she should cling so persistently to her own creed despite all the efforts we have made to persuade her to abandon it; why she should hunger after her land though that land be but barren stones; why she should set so little value on the solid comfort which delights us, and exalt things which we think dreams and shadows. But we are learning—slowly, indeed, and only in the school of adversity, for we are impatient pupils—that this is her choice and not our choice. We cannot keep Ireland a part of the Empire but on conditions of respecting this freedom, and giving her that power of self-development for which she has fought so long.

Primary Education

The main object of the British authorities (says the 'Irish Weekly') would seem to be not the progress of education in this country, but its starvation, and how best to devise methods of harassing the unfortunate teacher. The education vote in Scotland amounts to £1,972,000, for Ireland only £1,393,000. We receive about 6s 5d per head of the population for elementary education, as against 7s 7d in England and Wales and 7s 10d in Scotland. There is no doubt it is high time that the teachers should take the advice of Mr. Dillon and strengthen their organisation, so that it may undertake an effective agitation which is certain to be backed up by all the force the Irish Teachers' Organisation can command.

The Fontenoy Memorial

In the course of a letter to Mr. Barry O'Brien, enclosing a subscription towards the Fontenoy Memorial Fund, Dr. M'Ardle, the eminent Dublin surgeon, says that he appreciates the danger which might arise if people were to brand as merely political great national and patriotic and historical incidents in our country's story. Trafalgar is not politics in England; nor did Great Britain rise up in her political wrath when Lord Rosebery, an ex-Prime Minister of England, unveiled a memorial to the great Scotch rebel, Wallace. History and nationality stand apart from politics. They represent what is common to the whole people.

People We Hear About

James McNally, who has just died in London, aged 109, had been for years past most tenderly cared for by the good nuns in whose charge he had been.

The late Sir Walter Buller left his collection of Maori curios, birds, etc., and pictures of New Zealand life to his sons in equal shares, requesting them to retain this collection in the family, but if they should not wish to do so, first to offer the collection as a whole at a fair valuation to the New Zealand Government, for the proposed National Maori Museum, and subject thereto that the first offer of the collection of birds should be made to the Hon. Walter Rothschild, 'who has in his museum at Tring the finest collection of New Zealand birds.'

The Emperor of China, who has just entered on his thirty-fifth year, has been nominal ruler of the Chinese Empire for upwards of thirty years, the actual sovereign being the Dowager-Empress. The leading events of his reign have been the Boxer riots, his extraordinary edicts which would have revolutionised China, and the war between his Empire and Japan. Poor Emperor; he is now only a cipher in his own court, though he has seemed to be susceptible to European ideas, and may be much more opinionated than we imagine.

On the 3rd of next month General Sir William Butler will be 68 years of age. Having reached the age limit last year, he retired from active service, after 47 years in the army of conspicuous public service, both administrative and in the field. The story of what at the time was practically his military martyrdom in South Africa is well known. He not only foresaw the fighting strength of the Boers, but also mistrusted the capitalists of South Africa and all their ways and works. Finding himself in hopeless antagonism to the policy of the Government and the High Commissioner, Sir William resigned. Before two years had elapsed his rehabilitation in the opinion of the public was grudgingly confirmed by the Government.

An anecdote which is characteristic of Irving's great generosity, as well as showing his quiet sense of humor: A widow of an old Lyceum servant applied to him for some sort of occupation about the theatre, whereby she might earn a living. Irving appealed to Loveday, his manager. 'There is absolutely no vacancy of any kind,' said Loveday. 'Can't you give her a job to look after the theatre cats? I think we've too many mice about, not to mention rats.' 'No,' said Loveday, 'there are two women already on that job.' 'Hum, ha, let me see,' said Irving, reflectively, then suddenly brightening up with an idea: 'Very well, then, give her the job of looking after the two women who are looking after the cats.' The widow was at once engaged on the permanent staff of the theatre.

On the 14th of next month the Right Rev. Dr. Murray, Bishop of Maitland, will celebrate the forty-first anniversary of his consecration. His Lordship was born in County Wicklow, on March 25, 1828, was ordained priest in 1851. He was consecrated Bishop of Maitland on November 14, 1865, and arrived in Australia towards the end of the following year. When Dr. Murray took possession of his See there were 20 churches in the diocese, 12 or 14 schools receiving State aid, and one religious community. There are now in the diocese 92 churches and chapels, 46 priests, nearly 240 religious, 16 superior and 33 primary schools, with 3600 pupils receiving Catholic education, and a Catholic population of 30,000.

One of the advance sheets of the Year Book for the current year, just issued, gives the occupations of the members of the present House of Representatives. It shows that farmers or runholders furnish more members than any other class of occupation. There are 21 of these in the present House. The occupations of the others are:—Barristers and solicitors, 9; journalists, 5; secretary to Y.M.C.A., 1; mining advocate, 1; interpreter, 1; lecturer, chemist, and insurance manager, 1 each; land brokers and estate agents, 3; director of financial company, 1; native agent, 1; grocer, booksellers, etc., 3; merchant, iron merchant and timber merchant, 1 each; storekeepers, 2; commission agents, etc., 3; tailor, shoemaker, and draper, 1 each. There are two members who come within the comprehensive designation of millowner and builder, engineer and mine manager; one railway employee, one blacksmith, one printer, and three contractors; whilst eight members come under the heading of Settlers, Gentlemen, etc.

The Right Rev. Dr. Higgins, Bishop of Ballarat, laid the foundation stone of a new convent at Casterton on Sunday, September 23.