

lecturer said that in London women, and often young girls, were in the habit of drinking in public-houses, and he believed that insufficiency of food and sordid surroundings were the principal causes of excessive drinking. Father Cregan, who proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said he was very happy to say from long experience in Limerick that such a thing as women going into a public-house and standing in an open shop at a counter to take drink—what none but women of the lowest principles would be guilty of—was very rare. Public opinion in that respect was sound.

LOUTH—A Generous Benefactor

The late Mrs. Mary Ann Kelly, of Drogheda, left personal estate valued at £14,074 6s. Probate has been granted to the Right Rev. Mgr. Patrick Segrave, V.G., Mr. Michael McGovern, and Mr. John Greene, Drogheda. Among the charitable bequests are £200 for Masses, £300 to the Society for the Propagation of the Catholic Faith, £300 to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Drogheda; £1000 for placing a white marble high altar in St. Augustine's Church, Drogheda; £200 to the Presentation Convent, Drogheda; £200 to the Sisters of Charity, Drogheda; £100 to the Ladies' Association of Charity, Drogheda; £50 to the Convent of Mercy, Drogheda; and the residue of her estate to such charitable institution in Drogheda for the training of girls as Monsignor Segrave shall choose.

ROSCOMMON—Impressive Ceremony

On the Feast of the Assumption there took place at the ancient cemetery of Oran, in the County Roscommon, a singularly impressive ceremony. It was the exhumation and translation thence of the remains of four Franciscan Monks of the Regular Third Order of St. Francis to the cemetery of their Order, at Farragher Monastery, a few miles off. The remains were those of Rev. Brother Benedict Farmer, who died on January 28th, 1871; Rev. Brother Patrick Luttrell, April 21st, 1884; Rev. Brother Francis Owens, March 1st, 1885; and Rev. Brother Joseph Ward, April 7th, 1893.

An Appeal for Assistance

At a meeting of the Roscommon County Council a discussion took place on the failure of the potato crop, and a resolution was adopted calling on the Government to provide employment during the coming winter and spring for the laborers and small tenant farmers.

TIPPERARY—The University Question

Cardinal Logue, in acknowledging the resolution of the Cashel Urban Council on the University question, says that resolution proves that, whoever may capitulate to ascendancy, the Catholics of Cashel and of gallant Tipperary are not likely to haul down the flag and end a long fight by a shameful surrender.

WEXFORD—A Monument

A handsome monument of Irish marble which has been erected over the grave of the late Very Rev. Canon Doyle, Ramsgrave, County Wexford, was unveiled on Sunday, the 9th of September.

GENERAL

An English View

In the 'Evening Standard' there is a leading article entitled 'Old and New Ireland,' which after referring to the threatened famine goes on to say that Ireland is far too dependent on agriculture, seeing that nature has not made her a propitious country for farming. A people of bold fisherman and hardy boatmen, of merchants and traders and seafarers, that is, says the 'Standard,' what the Irish should be. The true business of Ireland is to be the bridge from the Old World to the New. It is thrust far out into the Atlantic as if for that express purpose, and if full advantage were taken of its situation the journey from some Canadian or Newfoundland, or even New England port might be accomplished by a modern steamer well under four days, and then with a train, ferry, or perhaps even a tunnel across or under the Irish Channel the journey to America will be shortened by a full four and twenty hours or more and nearly three days lopped off the passage of the open Atlantic, and Ireland will have annually the handling of tens of thousands of passengers and of hundreds of thousands of tons of merchandise making the fast transit between the East and West. It is a dream of the future, but it is nearer realisation than seemed possible a few years ago.

The Very Rev. M. Farrelly, V.F. (Kilmore), is reported to be very ill, his advanced age causing much anxiety.

People We Hear About

It was not generally known that Mrs. Riddell, the popular novelist, who died a few weeks ago at 72, was a native of Carrickfergus, Ireland. Her father, Mr. James Cowan, was High Sheriff of Antrim. She wrote an enormous quantity of fiction of the popular kind for the masses.

On August 17 (says the 'Pall Mall Gazette') the Emperor Francis Joseph was seventy-six, and in congratulating him Europe may congratulate herself. It was the custom to say that the most wonderful thing in this Sovereign's reign was that he continued to reign. The European outlook may not be, as it appears to the pessimist, very much that of 1848; but the disappearance of Franz Joseph would make things difficult. The Emperor may fitly rank as the G.O.M. of European monarchs. He came to the throne at the same age as did Queen Victoria, and has reigned for fifty-eight years, during which domestic and political troubles have showered thick upon him. In length of reign he is far ahead of any other European monarch. The King of Greece approaches him nearest with a record of forty-three years; and the King of the Belgians comes next with forty-one years. In English history his record has only been twice exceeded—by Queen Victoria and King George III.

In his 'A Varied Life,' Gen. Sir Thomas Edward Gordon tells this story:—His Majesty Alexander III. of Russia was playing whist out of his own dominions with an English Royalty as partner, and one of his equerries with a Scottish gentleman as opponents. His Majesty held a good hand, and towards the end of it said: 'We have the game—four by honors and the odd trick.' The Scot said: 'Please, your Majesty, let us play the hand out,' and when that was done he added 'Your Majesty made a revoke.' The equerry looked aghast at the boldness, and the Tsar said: 'I have never made a revoke in my life.' The Scot replied: 'Perhaps your Majesty was never told,' and proceeded to turn over the tricks, and show the revoke. The equerry was more aghast than ever, and the English Royalty smilingly said: 'Pardon my friend's bluntness.' The next day the Tsar, happening to meet the Scottish gentleman, said, with a laugh: 'I have been thinking over what you said yesterday about the revoke, and probably it is true that I was never told.'

It may interest our readers (says the 'Catholic Weekly') to know something of the day's work of his Eminence Cardinal Merry del Val, Secretary of State to his Holiness Pius X.:—His Eminence, after paying his early devotions, says Mass, at a quarter past seven in the morning. His 'thanksgiving' over, a cup of coffee and a mouthful of solid food constitute the princely breakfast. Then to the work in his office—in the Borgian apartments—until dinner time, which is supposed to be at two o'clock; but, owing to the continual pouring in of fresh business, the hour is often nearer to three p.m. But not even meal time brings leisure to the Secretary. Letters, telegrams, papers, etc., are constantly being handed in, some of which may need immediate attention. About four, his Eminence goes out for exercise, and probably for business too, in the shape of formal visits. After a hasty cup of tea at six o'clock he returns to his office, where he remains at work till nominally nine o'clock, when supper is served. Thus the proverb, 'Qui sentit honores sentiat et onera,' seems fully verified in the life of a Cardinal Secretary. The 'purple and fine linen,' which figures so prominently in the less intelligent conception of a Roman Cardinal, at all events, has its off-set in downright hard work of the most trying sort—that is to say, highly responsible brain work. There is no 'Eight-Hours' Day' for the Pope's Secretary. A far more trying accompaniment to his office must be the hostile criticism with which he is frequently assailed—the inevitable lot of one who has risen so rapidly to exalted dignity in the Church. Thus, for example, while in Italy his opponents charge him with being 'too Spanish' in his own land, Spain, on the contrary, those who seem to be preparing trouble for the Church there a la Combes, have recently accused his Eminence of disregard of Spanish interests. Clearly, you cannot please everybody! But if the Cardinal can but succeed in his endeavor faithfully to carry out the behests of his august Papal master, we fancy he will be quite content.

A journalist found in a hotel after hours in Grange pleaded that he was hunting up news, and produced his paper to prove it. The Bench held he had a lawful excuse for his presence in the hotel and dismissed the case.