

Universal Church. Tell him from me that I bless him and his works, his family, and his parishioners, and to show my approbation, I hereby give the Apostolic Benediction. He then took his gold pen, and with his own hand (which he rarely did) wrote the following in Latin:—To our beloved son and to his works from our soul we impart the Apostolic Benediction.—Pius X. Pope.

TYRONE—Searching for an Heir

For some time past the Mayor of Wellesville, Ohio, U.S.A., has been searching for Irish heirs of one General James W. Reilly, an old veteran of the Civil War, who died a few years ago, leaving a fortune of over 200,000 dollars. General Reilly had practised as a lawyer at Wellesville for years before his death, and when he died it was discovered that he had no relatives in America. The mayor of the town communicated with several members of the Irish National Party, the mayors of Irish cities, and other prominent Irishmen, and since then the search for relatives in Ireland has been carried on, unceasingly, and many claimants have been mentioned. William Reilly, a well known resident in Dromore, County Tyrone, has the best chance of proving himself the nearest relative and direct heir.

WATERFORD—A New Convent of Mercy

On September 24 the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, opened a new Convent of Mercy in Waterford, and delivered an address regarding the admirable work done by the members of the Order.

GENERAL

Increase of Insanity

A Blue Book was published in September containing a special report on the alleged increase of insanity in Ireland, the inspectors of lunatics' summary of which states that the census statistics for a number of decades past show that while the population of Ireland has continued to decrease the number of registered insane has largely increased, and this has given rise to the widespread belief that an actual increase of occurring insanity has taken place in Ireland. Whether or not this belief is well founded it is impossible to state positively, as available statistics do not afford that precise information on which a definite conclusion can be based. Without venturing to affirm that there has been no increase of occurring insanity, notwithstanding the great numerical increase, we can only conclude that the very great increase which has taken place in the ratio of insanity to the population is largely due to the accumulation which is taking place in public asylums. The emigration of strong and healthy members of the community, amongst whom if they had remained at home the ratio of insanity would have been very small, not alone increases the ratio of insane left behind to the general population, but also lowers the general standard of mental and bodily health by eliminating many of the members of the community best fitted to survive and propagate the race.

Teachers' Grievances

Speaking at a largely attended meeting of National teachers in Ballaghaderin, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., said he had strong reasons for confidently believing that the present Government would without delay apply a remedy to the grievances of National teachers. He urged, however, that vigorous agitation should be started, and meetings like that held all over the country. He called for the sweeping away of the Boards that were now ruining Irish education. The Most Rev. Dr. Lyster presided, and Dr. Douglas Hyde, P. A. M'Hugh, M.P.; J. O'Dowd, M.P.; Canon O'Hara, and Father Keaveney, P.P., also addressed the meeting.

TO THE CLERGY.

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People We Hear About

Apropos of a grandson of Garibaldi entering the novitiate for the priesthood, the Paris Temps says that the old Garibaldi took immense pains that his children, amongst whom was Ricciotti, the father of the young man in question, should be educated in Rome by the Methodists. The young Ricciotti later on, when he had children of his own, and was leaving for South America, took equal pains to have them baptised Catholics before he left Italy.

Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., on the new General of the Jesuit Order.—Father Wernz is perhaps better acquainted with the Society as a whole than any other man in it. He is a tremendous worker, and he believes that true progress will be in the measure of real work. At my examination in theology 25 years ago he attacked me on the Divinity of Christ, and fired off a rapid succession of telling Latin syllogisms from German rationalists for me to take up and tear to pieces. I recollect what a good marksman he was, and how I got pelted with his shot.

Mr. Daniel O'Day, business associate of Mr. Rockefeller, whose death is announced from Paris, was born in Ireland sixty-two years ago, and went to the United States in infancy. In 1865 he went to the Pennsylvania oil regions, and became connected with the oil transportation business there, constructing in 1873-76 the pipelines which were afterwards consolidated with the United Pipe Line system. This was afterwards consolidated with other systems in the National Transit Company, of which Mr. O'Day became a vice-president. He was also president of the North-Western Ohio Natural Gas Company and of the People's Bank of Buffalo. His body will be conveyed to the United States for burial.

The Pall Mall Gazette says: Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, who has escaped from shipwreck on the Zuyder Zee, betrayed one side of his versatile character the moment he got safely on shore. He is a skilled photographer, and carried his camera with him, whereby he was enabled to take a "snapshot" of the wreck. Dr. Walsh has found time, amidst a strenuous performance of spiritual duties, to master more than the mysteries of the camera. He is an expert shorthand writer; he has written a grammar of Gregorian music; he has toured the Continent on his bicycle, and far from regarding the motor-car as an invention of the devil, he was one of its early patrons, and rode in one to witness the Gordon-Bennett Cup Race, which was run partly in his own archdiocese.

Sir Thomas Grattan Esmonde, Bart., M.P., celebrated his forty-fourth birthday on September 20. The indefatigable whip of the Irish Party is a great grandson of Henry Grattan. He might have been Lord Esmonde, Baron of Limerick, says the Evening Standard. Sir Lawrence Esmonde obtained large grants of confiscated land in Ireland in the reign of James I., and was created Lord Esmonde. During a military expedition into Connaught he married a fair daughter of O'Flaherty. The bride was a Catholic, the bridegroom a Protestant. A son was born to them, but Lady Esmonde, fearing that the boy was to be brought up a Protestant, fled with him into hiding. Her husband then took action and repudiated his marriage as being between a Protestant and a Catholic, and married again. He had no further issue, and on his death-bed he left his estates to his only son. The peerage could not descend, but the son was made a baronet.

Lord Gerard, whose marriage to Miss Gosselin at the Brompton Oratory the other day made a brilliant interlude in the dull season, is the grandson of the first peer. Sir Robert Gerard, who was called to the Upper House in 1876, was the only Catholic commoner raised to the Peerage by Lord Beaconsfield. The late Lord Derby is reported to have said that he did not think it likely that the third baronet in the realm would accept of a nineteenth-century barony. Mr. Gladstone's creations of Catholic peers during the preceding Administration were numerous. Besides giving Lord Ripon his marquise, he recommended Lords Acton, Howard de Glossop, and Emly for their respective honors. In the first years of Queen Victoria's accession there was a remarkable revival of ancient peerages claimed by Catholics. The baronies of Camoys, Braye, Beaumont, and Vaux of Harrowden were recalled into existence. The aggregate number of years in which these four titles were in abeyance amounted to 1175. Up to George III. no abeyance, save one, had been terminated which had lasted for more than thirty years.

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