

Death of a Priest

The death took place on November 28 at Bury, England, of the Very Rev. Dean Walsh. The deceased priest was a brother of Mr. Edmond-Walsh, Woodbine Cottage, Carrick-on-Suir. It is only a few months ago since the Dean was home in Ireland at the funeral of his mother. Deceased was a cousin of the Most Rev. Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale, Australia, and was connected with a number of well known County Waterford families. Dean Walsh spent nearly all his religious life in the English mission, and was a well known figure in Catholic circles on the other side of the Channel.

WICKLOW—Not Much Crime

The Winter Assizes for the Leinster Circuit were opened on December 4 in Wicklow by Mr. Justice Madden. His Lordship, addressing the Grand Jury, said he was glad to be able to inform them that their duties on the present occasion would not be of a heavy character. As they were aware, criminals would come before them from thirteen jurisdictions—from twelve counties and from the City of Waterford. The number of cases to be investigated was 31, or a little over two for each of those jurisdictions. He did not attach much importance to the fluctuation in the statistics periodically presented to the judges. He observed that, though in some of the counties concerned, there was a slight increase in the number of cases, in others that was counterbalanced by a decrease in the number of cases to go before the Grand Jury. Though the number of cases was about the same as that presented on the occasion of the last Assizes held in Waterford, what was to his mind a more important matter was that the cases were almost universally of an extremely light character. They represented the class of crime which must recur in any community so long as human nature remained what it was.

GENERAL

University Education

A cable message received last week stated that the Royal Commission recently set up to inquire into the position of Trinity College, Dublin, recommends the creation at Dublin of a college that will be acceptable to Catholics; also, in the event of the establishment of a new college at the University of Dublin, or at the Royal University, that there should be facilities for inter-collegiate co-operation between such college and Trinity College.

The Emigration Problem

Notwithstanding the work of the Anti-Emigration Society and other patriotic bodies (writes a Dublin correspondent), there has been no decrease in the number of people leaving our shores annually. This year over 35,000 emigrants left. Eight years ago, when the population was much larger, only 32,000 emigrated. The one and only solution of the emigration problem is to provide work for the unemployed. It is useless asking them to stay at home until this is done. A large percentage of those who emigrate have their passages paid by relatives in America who should know the state of the labor market in the United States where they reside and in the old land which they left, many of them quite recently. Is it possible that, knowing all the circumstances, they bring their friends from bad to worse? Referring to the question the other day, the Lord Mayor of Dublin said it was better for a man to emigrate to where he could get a living than stay at home in Ireland and starve, but it was their duty to endeavor to keep the people at home by providing employment for them in their own country. There were thousands of people starving in the city at the present time. Mr. Crozier, J.P., M.C., a Conservative, said that if emigration were to continue for the next twenty years as it had been going on in the past, Ireland would become a wilderness. He attributed the decrease to the fact that Ireland was not a manufacturing country, and agriculture did not pay because of foreign competition.

The Very Rev. T. Guilfoyle, of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat, whose health has been completely broken down by hard work, has left for an extended holiday.

At the end of the present month, after a brilliant and active career of 48 years in the New South Wales Police Service, Superintendent Martin Brennan will relinquish duty. His career has been one of exceptional ability, and perhaps with no exception do the police awards record a career of such intrepidity and activity as that borne by the popular and sturdy Superintendent.

People We Hear About

When Madame Melba first thought of entering the musical profession every obstacle was put in her way, and the first real encouragement offered her was when St. Francis' Catholic Church, in her native city of Melbourne, made her leader of its splendid choir.

The edition of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' now preparing will have the astronomical articles written in some cases, and in others corrected, by an eminent Catholic astronomer, Miss Agnes Clerke. This lady, it will be remembered, was one of the first two women members of the Astronomical Society, and was appointed on the official commission to observe the late eclipse in South Africa.

General Gordon, Commandant of the New South Wales' forces, is a brother of the new Rector of Stonyhurst College. Our Commandant (says the 'Catholic Press') is a native of Cadiz, and his brother is probably a Spaniard, too. Two of their uncles were Generals Prendergast, one fighting under the Carlist banner, and the other under the banner of Isabella the Catholic. Senor Marat, the recent Prime Minister of Spain, is a nephew of General Gordon and of Father Gordon, S.J., and their sister, Miss Gordon, had charge of the present King of Spain during his infancy.

Sir Antony MacDonnell, who has been in London for some days past (says the 'Monitor') has paid daily visits to his aged mother, at 53 Cornwall Gardens. Sir Antony's two nieces, the children of his deceased brother Maurice, live with their grandmother, and the little girls played and sang for their uncle after dinner. The venerable lady celebrated her birthday early in November, and among the presents which she received was a beautiful set of sables from her son and her daughter-in-law. Her two granddaughters are going to a boarding-school at Prince-thorpe early in the new year.

Lord Congleton, who died in the early part of November, was the head of the Parnell family in Ireland. The Congleton peerage was conferred in 1741 on the great Irish leader's grand-uncle, Sir Henry Brooke Parnell, who was an earnest advocate of popular rights in the Irish Parliament. The 'Freeman's Journal' points out that the Parnells were a great Parliamentary family. Mr. Parnell's mother once said, with evident pride, when her son was in the height of his fame, 'Charles ought to do well in Parliament; he belongs to an old Irish Parliamentary family.' With the exception of his father and grandfather, indeed, his ancestors were for four generations members of the Irish House of Commons.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, who is seventy-six, first reported Parliamentary speeches when the present House was only a year or so in use, and the Reporters' Gallery was a very poor thing in the matter of accommodation compared with what it is to-day. The speech was the first Budget oration by Mr. Gladstone, and as there was no representation for provincial papers in the Reporters' Gallery, Mr. McCarthy was accommodated with a table in the corridor behind the Strangers' Gallery. From this disadvantageous position, Mr. McCarthy and his two colleagues reported Mr. Gladstone's great Budget speech, and wrote up the oration the while Mr. Gladstone went home to drink 'soup and negus' with his friends.

In connection with Father Bernard Vaughan's visit to Oxford 'Varsity Life Illustrated' published a portrait of the strenuous Jesuit and a letterpress sketch, the writer of which says: 'Those who have had the privilege of attending the course of conferences which Father Vaughan has been delivering this term in Oxford will have realised for themselves what is the great characteristic of his style. He is essentially the practical preacher for the practical man. If he cultivates a dramatic style, it is not at the expense of soundness or lucidity of reasoning. His words bear the stamp throughout of that deep knowledge of human nature which can only be the outcome of wide experience with all sorts and conditions of men. And it is just this experience that gains for him the attention of all classes of the community. He can appreciate the point of view of rich and poor alike, and, understanding them, he can preach to them. A hard hitter in the pulpit or on the public platform, in private life he is the gentlest and most genial of men, commanding the respect and affection of many who, whether sharing in his beliefs or not, are proud to be included in the large circle of his friends.'