

COUNTY NEWS

DERRY—Serious illness of the Bishop

When the last mail left Home the Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop of Derry, was seriously ill, and his condition caused grave anxiety throughout the diocese.

Demise of a Priest

On January 12 the death occurred of the Rev. John O'Kane, P.P., Cullagh, Inishowen. The deceased clergyman, who had been ill for a considerable time, was a prominent figure in the early days of the Land League in County Derry, and was a vigorous advocate of National rights.

DUBLIN—Spoils to the Victors

A remarkable article on the distribution of offices in the local Government Board is being circulated (says the 'Freeman's Journal'). It analyses the salary list and the composition of the staffs from the denominational point of view, and a remarkable revelation results. There are forty-seven nominated officers. Thirty-four of them are Protestant, drawing salaries amounting to £22,225 a year, while only thirteen are Catholic, drawing £7,550 a year. It might be said that there are not enough Catholics qualified for a fair share of the posts. But when we turn to the offices to be obtained by competition, we discover that out of sixty-eight competitive posts, Catholics hold forty-three and Protestants twenty-five; but even there the majority of the best paid posts are held by the latter. 'Looking broadly at the constitution of the whole staff, we see,' says the article, 'what a difference there is between the fortunes of Catholics in those positions procurable by favor and those procurable by examination. In the nominated positions we see that Catholics are to Protestants as 13 to 34; in the higher positions of the competitive staff they are as 15 to 14. These figures tell their own tale.'

GALWAY—A Memorial

On January 20 a beautiful Celtic Cross, which has been erected over the grave of the late Mr. Matthew Harris, in Ballinasloe, was unveiled by Mr. John Dillon, M.P.

KILDARE—Death of a Priest

The death is reported of the Rev. P. Bolger, pastor of Caragh, who passed away on January 12, after a prolonged illness. Father Bolger labored in many parishes of the Diocese of Kildare, and everywhere he made many friends and won the admiration of all for his sterling piety, zeal, and devotion to his priestly duties.

MAYO—Proposed Transatlantic Service

A deputation of persons interested in the promotion of a Transatlantic service between Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Blacksod Bay and the construction of the necessary linking-up railways in Mayo and Sligo has waited on the Lord Mayor of Dublin and laid before him the details of the scheme. They calculate that a Transatlantic passage can be done with the fastest boats in three and a half days, and that the distance from Blacksod to London can be covered in fourteen hours.

MONAGHAN—Extensive Fire

One of the most extensive fires that have taken place in Monaghan for a considerable time, occurred on the morning of January 15 in the premises of Messrs. Johnston and Co., drapers. The assistants and others who resided on the premises were rescued with considerable difficulty.

TIPPERARY—The Rights of Christianity

The Archbishop of Cashel, in a letter to the Cashel Urban Council, thanking them for a resolution protesting against the persecution in France, says the Holy Father is fighting not only for the maintenance of the Divine Constitution of the Church, but for the rights of their common Christianity.

WATERFORD—Christian Brothers' Schools

The Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan presided on January 10 at a large and representative meeting of the citizens of Waterford, held to devise means for clearing off the debt on Mount Sion schools. In the course of an able address his Lordship said no Waterford man need be reminded of the obligation under which the city was to the Christian Brothers, or how much of its material prosperity for over one hundred years was due to them. The work undertaken by the Christian Brothers was distinctly and indispensably necessary, as the greater portion of Mount Sion building was actually unsafe. It was resolved to hold a bazaar to liquidate the debt, £6000.

People We Hear About

Mr. M. Donohoe, the Paris correspondent of the London 'Daily Chronicle,' whose article in that paper on the Channel Tunnel attracted such attention, is an Irishman and a Catholic. He was born in Galway in 1869, and educated at the National and Marist Brothers' Schools. He is the man who ran down De Rougemont, and is famous as a war correspondent.

The Duke of Norfolk, who entered on his sixtieth year a few weeks ago, has, ever since he was a youth, taken a warm interest in Catholic affairs. He was a close friend not only of Cardinal Newman, under whom he received his education at the Oratory School, Birmingham, but also of Cardinal Manning. In a letter commending the 'Arundel Ilymus,' compiled by the Duke and Mr. C. T. Gatty, the late Pontiff wrote: 'We bless your efforts. We see therein a fresh proof, added to so many others, of the zeal which you at all times show for the progress of the Faith in your country—in that England which is so dear to Us and whose spiritual welfare especially is the constant object of Our prayers and Our Apostolic solicitude.'

It is related of the late Sir William H. Russell that Bismarck once revealed to him a most important item of news at the time of the Franco-German war. Russell was so astonished at the break-down of Bismarck's impenetrable reserve that he feared the man of blood and iron had unintentionally broken his confidence, and, fearful of offending the great man, Russell sent another war correspondent to Bismarck to ask him if it were true that he had made this important communication to Russell, and if he intended that it should be published. Bismarck turned on the trembling scribe and shouted, 'Of course, I told him. Do you imagine I'd tell him anything I didn't want him to know?' And he added as he turned away, 'You can always confound these fellows by telling them the simple truth.'

When the death of Madame Donovan, one of the oldest and foremost of New York's dressmakers, occurred recently (says an American exchange), persons well acquainted with the history of dressmaking in that city took occasion to point out the fact that in making, copying, and selling high grade costumes, Irish women had for many years outnumbered and led the specialists of all other nationalities. The Frenchwoman, said they, dominates the dressmaking industry of Europe, but not of this country. In New York it is the Irish woman who is in the lead. French dressmakers of prominence are comparatively few in that city; Irish women, on the other hand, have owned and now own private establishments. They head the custom order departments of the leading dry goods houses and they are sent across to buy European dress models for the New York markets. It is the Kellys, the Ryans, the Reillys, the Connollys, the Egans, and the Donovans who turn out the most artistic gowns sold on this side of the ocean.

Since the trouble in France reached an acute stage the Government organs have been training their heavy guns on the Pope's Secretary of State. It has been said that he lacks the diplomatic ability of his predecessor, Cardinal Rampolla, and that he is unfitted to handle the tremendously important affairs of his office. Such is most decidedly not the opinion of Mr. E. Alexander Powell, F.R.G.S., presumably an Englishman and a non-Catholic, who, writing in 'Munsey's Magazine' for December, says: 'That he is eminently fitted for the post he holds there can be no shadow of a doubt. The son of a distinguished diplomatist, he has spent the last twenty years in the greatest school of diplomacy in the world. Other sovereigns can back up their diplomacy by fleets and armies; the Pope possesses no second weapon. It is doubtful indeed if any diplomatist of modern times has been better fitted for his task. Merry del Val's remarkable abilities as a linguist gave him an enormous advantage from the very start. Spanish is his mother tongue, English he speaks like an Englishman, French like a Parisian. Of German he has a fluent command; his Italian is so entirely free from accent that he has come to be regarded almost as one of that nationality. . . . Merry del Val will go down in history as the Secretary of State in whose term of office the rupture with France took place; but that the Cardinal was in any way responsible for this rupture has been proved a fiction by the very course of events.'