

lic interest. We were informed by cable that the verdict was in favor of the plaintiff, but the damages were assessed at one farthing for each of the six libels.

### TYRONE—A Closely Contested Election

The North Tyrone election, which resulted in the return of Mr. Redmond Barry, the Nationalist, by a majority of only seven votes, was in many ways a remarkable contest. While at the general election, when there was a Liberal majority of nine, the percentage of voters who polled was 92.5, the percentage on this occasion reached the record of 97.09, figures which give some indication of the hard work and perfect organisation of the forces of both political parties, and also of the great interest manifested in the election. As an instance of the complete Nationalist organisation, it is claimed that that vote was only one per cent. short of the possible. One man came from Gibraltar to vote, several crossed from England and Scotland, while one Church of Ireland missionary just returned in time for the poll. One old man of over 100 years of age was driven over eighteen miles to the polling booth. The result was received with the wildest cheering, and, as the Right Rev. Mgr. McHugh remarked, forms practically the last knock at the door of ascendancy in Ireland.

### WEXFORD—Death of a Venerable Priest

The Very Rev. Dean Busher, of Newtownbarry, who died on March 6, was born in 1825. He had a clear recollection of the resistance to the tithes in his native place, when thirteen people were killed and many wounded. The terrible famine of 'forty-seven' and 'forty-eight' he also recollected and the sufferings of the people. For nearly fifty-seven years he labored hard in the diocese of Ferns, and did much to promote religion and education.

### GENERAL

#### The Fontenoy Memorial

August 25th has been selected as the date for the ceremony at Fontenoy, when the memorial to the Irish Brigade will be unveiled. The letters from the burgo-master of Fontenoy show the interest that is being taken locally in the memorial. Fontenoy has, from the beginning, been insistent upon its claims to the custody of the monument; and it is evidently proud of the decision that has recognised those claims.

#### Church Property Insurance Company

After paying the usual 5 per cent. dividend and transferring £1357 to reserves account, the directors of the Irish Catholic Church Property Insurance Company have been enabled to distribute £1000 out of the net profits between the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, under article 90 of the articles of association of the company.

#### The Friend of the People

Speaking at the annual dinner of the St. Patrick's Club, at Oxford, the Chief Secretary for Ireland said that he was told since he went to Ireland that everything in Ireland was both political and religious. He was also told that no Chief Secretary enjoyed the complete confidence of anybody in Ireland, and he could assure them that although he was president of six bodies, he enjoyed the confidence of no single native in Ireland. Mr. Birrell considered that English ideas had far too large a place in the Government of Ireland. Touching on the education question, he deplored the state of affairs in Ireland at the present time, stating that over one million sterling was required to get buildings in anything like a decent state. He thought Ireland was at last awakening, and that the time would come when she would be a happy and a prosperous country, when there would be no Chief Secretary left to reply to the toast of Ireland. Ireland, he said, had been described as a priest-ridden country, but the priest had stood by Ireland in the time of her adversity, and was it likely that Ireland would turn against the priests now? Ireland was beginning to take a lively interest in things both intellectual and historical, and he believed had a great future before her.

If a laddie gets a wetting  
Coming thro' the rye,  
If he has a cold upon him  
Need the laddie die;  
He can laugh at all chest troubles  
If he can procure  
The proper stuff, and plain enough,  
It's Woods' Great Peppermint Cure...

## People We Hear About

A man who was well known from the North Cape to the Bluff passed away last week at Christchurch in the person of Captain Jackson Barry. In his younger days the deceased, who at the time of his death was in his 88th year, led an adventurous life, details of which are given in his published autobiography. He was almost an octogenarian when he brought out his last work, and within the last two or three years was to be seen in various parts of the Colony selling copies. He was at one time Mayor of Cromwell.

The passing away recently of Mr. E. M. Smith, M.H.R., creates a void in the House of Representatives which will not be easily filled. The deceased had always a great belief in the future of Taranaki, and proclaimed its praises in and out of season. He was generally known as 'Ironsand' Smith, owing to the persistency with which he advocated the utilisation of the Taranaki beach sand for the production of iron. He was a genial, kind-hearted man, who if he did not carry great weight in the House, was at least highly respected for his sincerity and honesty.

Here is a pen portrait from the London 'Sunday Chronicle' of the Rev. Father Vaughan, whose denunciations of the doings of the 'Smart Set' have attracted so much attention:—'Even when he is joining in chaff at the dinner table, or in familiar conversation with his friends, Father Vaughan has a notable manner—the manner of the Vaughans, they say. It is not the grand manner, yet full of a haughty dignity, a sense of being somebody, a consciousness, even in the very walk, of power to loose and unloose. The features are said to be those of Verestchagin's famous portrait of Napoleon. Certainly there is this point of similarity between the castigator of Europe and the castigator of the Smart Set—the appearance of both is far more impressive in profile than full face.

Mr. Hugh Mahon, M.H.R., who delivered the address at St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Sydney, has had the uncommon experience of active political life in the old world and the new. In the days of the land agitation, following the distress of 1879 in Ireland, he was associated with the leaders, and received the attention of the Crown as a political 'suspect.' He was for a time private secretary to Mr. Parnell, and coming to Australia he engaged in journalism in New South Wales, ultimately settling in Western Australia. He represents the enormous electorate of Coolgardie in the Federal House of Representatives, and his brief administration of the Post and Telegraph Department as Postmaster-General in the Watson Ministry won him the high regard of all who met him in that capacity.

Mr. Redmond Barry, M.P. for North Tyrone, is the first Liberal Solicitor-General for Ireland of the Catholic religion to sit in Parliament for many years. He is a native of Cork, where he was born in 1862. He took silk in 1899, and became Solicitor-General when the Liberal Government came into office. This is the first time since 1883 that both the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General for Ireland in a Liberal Administration are able to sit on the Treasury Bench. Mr. Barry is a distinct acquisition to his party in Parliament from the Irish standpoint. At the Bar he has proved himself an able lawyer and a fine orator, while his knowledge of the affairs of his native country is as extensive as his sympathies. Mr. Barry had a namesake in a sometime Colonial Solicitor-General. But he has another for all time in Thackeray's Redmond Barry, known to fame as Barry Lyndon.

Miss Alma Moodie (says the Sydney 'Freeman') is the latest musical prodigy. She hails from Central Queensland, and was born at Mount Morgan six and a half years ago. Her mother has been for some years, and still is, a teacher of music at Mount Morgan. For the past nine months the child has been with Herr Hugo Hage, of Rockhampton. 'She is a phenomenon,' remarked Herr Hage, in the course of an exhibition of the child's powers. 'Children of her kind,' he continued, 'are occasionally found in Europe; but never in my life have I seen anything like her in Australia. For one thing, the remarkable feature of her musical ability lies in her being so unconscious of her great gift. Her ability is inborn. Anybody in the room, for example, may strike a chord on the piano, and from outside the room she can tell you, immediately and unmistakably, precisely the note or notes that are struck.' Herr Hage considers that she gives every promise of proving one of the most brilliant musicians Australia is ever likely to produce.

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