

Irish News

DOWN—A Link with the Past

The presence of Mrs John Martin at the great Nationalist demonstration at Warrenpoint the other day, and her kindly response to the enthusiasm of the vast concourse of people who desired to see her, by coming to the front of the platform and bowing her acknowledgments, constitute a touching incident in Irish National politics. Mrs John Martin was the junior by many years of her husband, whom she had known all her life. Her marriage to Mr John Martin did not take place till after his return from exile. It is now almost forgotten that John Martin and Mrs Martin's famous brother, John Mitchel, who in life were associated together in such thrilling and historic episodes, in death were not divided. John Martin was borne away in March, 1875, dying, from the funeral of John Mitchel in Newry, and expired a few days afterwards in the house in which John Mitchel had breathed his last.

DUBLIN—The O'Connell Crypt

After years of patient effort, and the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, the Dublin Cemeteries Committee have at length concluded the decoration and embellishment of the O'Connell crypt. For several years the exudations from the walls retarded the decoration of the Liberator's last resting-place. How to get rid of this obstacle remained for long a perplexing and unsolved problem. The labors of the Committee, under the advice of eminent architects and engineers, were eventually crowned with success, and the work has now been completed in a highly artistic manner.

Death of a Well-known Writer

The news of the death of Mr Michael T. Duggan, which sad event took place after a very brief illness, will be received with deep regret by many Catholics (writes a Dublin correspondent). Mr Duggan, who held a responsible position in the office of the Board of National Education, Ireland, where he served for many years, was a gentleman of wide culture, and had acquired a wide-spread reputation for the extent and solidity of his knowledge. He ranked as a linguist of a very high order, and as a litterateur whose pen was always at the service of the Catholic Church his writings were greatly appreciated and admired. The questions of primary and university education in Ireland were from time to time treated by him with marked ability in his contributions to the current literature on those subjects; and his 'Life of the Venerable Oliver Plunket,' published by the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, has been read with the greatest interest throughout the country. Readers of the 'New Ireland Review,' to which he frequently contributed, and in which his writings always obtained an honored place, will long remember his exceedingly able and interesting articles, in which he completely refuted the previously-accepted theories of Lord Macaulay as to the authorship of the 'Letters of Junius'; but his most scathing criticism was reserved for those who advocated interference with the right of the parent to regulate the religious education of the child committed by God to his care.

KERRY—Potato Disease

An Irish exchange states that in consequence of the wet and inclement weather which prevailed during August and September in the East Kerry districts the potato disease had appeared in several localities.

KERRY—A Challenge

Mr Lindsay Talbot-Crosbie, Ardfert Abbey, Co. Kerry, writes to the 'Daily Graphic' as follows:—In your issue of September 3 you say that England might, for her own peace and quiet, be willing to rid herself of Irish troubles by allowing Irishmen to manage their own affairs, but that she would not be prepared to abandon the loyal minority in Ireland to be subjected to a Roman Catholic ascendancy. As one of the 'loyal minority' I can assure you we do not in any way share your apprehensions, and, if this is the only barrier to the fulfilment of Irish national aspirations, it may at once be swept aside. We are tired of being exploited by Orange lodges and the Tory Press for their own political objects; and, so far from the scattered Protestants of the South and West living under civil or religious disabilities, I challenge the production of a single case in which a Protestant has, on account of his religion, suffered either in purse or pocket from the action of his Catholic neighbors.

KILKENNY—From Cabman to Baronet

The death of Sir George Meredith, recently recorded as having taken place at South Great George's street, Dublin, recalls the fact that deceased, as plain George Meredith, was a native of Athy, in which he lived for some time before his death, when supporting, and ultimately substantiating, a claim to a baronetcy and an estate in Kilkenny worth £200 a year. Sir George, as a young man, left home and went to sea as an ordinary seaman. He subsequently emigrated to Australia, where he alternately filled the roles of cabman and policeman. He ultimately settled down at Hobart. He was twice married, and leaves three children by his first wife.

LEITRIM—Serious Fire

In the early hours of September 16 a fire broke out in the extensive business establishment of Mr J. J. Lynch, Carrick-on-Shannon. It was with considerable difficulty that Mr Lynch and Mrs Lynch and the other occupants of the house were aroused. There was intense excitement when it was observed that they had no means of escape from the flames, which were eating into the building. Blankets were at once procured, and Mrs Lynch, with great presence of mind, jumped from the third storey into one, which was held by four men. Mr Lynch immediately followed, and when he landed on the blanket, by some unaccountable accident it gave way, but he luckily escaped with some injuries about the head and face. The other occupants closely followed, and escaped without injury. The premises were totally destroyed.

LIMERICK—Mungret College

The celebration of the silver jubilee of Mungret College, Limerick, drew together a large number of past students and friends of this fine educational institution. They were entertained to luncheon by the Fathers of the Community. To the Rev. W. Ronan, S.J., and the Very Rev. T. V. Nolan, S.J., the present rector, to whose efforts much of the success of the College is due, well-deserved tributes of praise were given by the guests.

LONGFORD—A Sturdy Nationalist

The 'Westminster Gazette,' speaking of Mr J. P. Farrell, M.P., who was arrested recently on a charge of cattle driving, says that he lost no time in giving the House of Commons the benefit of his views once he became a member:—'Mr J. P. Farrell, M.P., who was returned for trial in Ireland in connection with what has come to be known as cattle driving, was not long in the House of Commons before he made his voice heard. He was returned to Parliament at a bye-election in 1895, and he took his seat on a day when the Irish Estimates were under discussion. Within an hour after taking the oath he was on his feet, calmly delivering a strong speech on the administration of Dublin Castle. Before that sitting had closed he had spoken three times.' Mr Farrell is a newspaper man, and went to jail for the cause so far back as 1889. Previously he sat for Cavan, but when Mr Justin McCarthy left the House of Commons, and a vacancy occurred in Longford, Mr Farrell came along and got the seat. During the Parnell split he stood as the candidate of the Party for Kilkenny City against Mr Patrick O'Brien, who remained a Parnellite. Mr O'Brien beat him by only fourteen votes.

ROSCOMMON—The Other Way About

It is proverbial (remarks the 'Catholic Times') that persons who wrong others always imagine they are aggrieved at the hands of those whom they have injured. In Ireland the Episcopalian Protestants long lorded it over the Catholics, treating them as inferior beings. Latter-day legislation has impaired their ascendancy, but they are still a favored body, receiving a vastly disproportionate share of the offices and public appointments at the disposal of the Government. Yet Dr Elliott, the Protestant Bishop of Kilmore, accuses the Irish people of intolerance. He is in alarm for the Protestant minority, fearing that they will suffer endless afflictions because of their creed. Considering the representation they have in the Government of the country, it is pretty clear that they do not fare badly. The Lord Lieutenant is and must be a Protestant. Of the thirty or forty gentlemen who are in waiting on him and are maintained at the public expense about nine-tenths are of the same religious belief. So is the Chief Secretary, and about five out of every six employed in his office are likewise Protestants. Under the Local Government Board the proportion of Protestants to Catholics is about thirty-four to thirteen, the salaries of the Protestants amounting to £22,225, as compared with £7,500 given to Catholics. These facts and figures lead to the conclusion that if the Irish Protestant suffers hardships they are of a roseate and not of a dismal hue.

J. O'ROURKE,

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