

**SLIGO—The Freedom of the City**

The Sligo Corporation have decided to confer the freedom of the borough on Mr J. E. Redmond, M.P.

**WATERFORD—A Distinguished Visitor**

The Right Rev. Monsignor O'Riordan, Rector of the Irish College, Rome, spent a short holiday during September in Waterford as the guest of the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr Sheehan.

**WEXFORD—An Appointment**

Rev. Mother Gertrude, who has been many years Superioress of the Loreto Convent, Enniscorthy, has been appointed Assistant Mother-General of the Order in Ireland. She is succeeded in Enniscorthy by Rev. Mother Ignatius.

**GENERAL****Commercial Probity**

On December 1 last (remarks the London 'Daily News') the sum of £375,000 was due from Irish tenants in respect of the repayment to the Government of instalments owing on the purchase of their holdings. In March last all that sum had been paid in except £1,059. We do not think any people could be furnished with a better certificate for commercial probity.

**Catholic Secondary Schools**

A fact of no small interest (remarks the 'Freeman's Journal') is to be culled from the results of the Intermediate examinations. Not so many years ago the Catholic secondary schools of Ireland were thought unable to compete with the Protestant rivals in mathematical studies. It was explained in various ways. The pure-bred Gael, it was said, is not mathematically inclined; he is imaginative, romantic, fancy-free, and not to be curbed by the rigorous discipline of figures. The Gaels of the south, however, and particularly those of them who are in the hands of the Christian Brothers, are now carrying off the mathematical trophies from the erstwhile champions of the north. Side by side with this interesting fact is another not less attractive—namely, that the classics are bringing prizes to the legitimate homes of classical studies, the Irish diocesan seminaries. The Protestant schools were wont to take off the most coveted distinctions in Greek and Latin, as well as in mathematics, but it is so no longer. And the sad reflection remains that these Catholic youths who are showing such capacity in all branches of erudition are still without a university to complete their survey of the realms of learning.

**Success of Catholic Schools**

Few things (writes a Dublin correspondent) excite such widespread interest in Ireland as the Annual Intermediate Examinations. The results are always awaited with anxiety by the general public, as well as by the teachers and their pupils. On September 12 the official list of exhibitors, prize winners, and medallists was issued. The number of exhibitions have been reduced by fully one-third as compared with last year's list. This parsimony destroys the career of many a student whose only hope of attaining to the top of the educational ladder lies in winning distinctions enough to enable him to continue his studies. Blackrock College, Co. Dublin, heads the list as far as exhibitions go, having won no less than nine, three of which are in the senior grade. The Academical Institution, Belfast, also won nine exhibitions, but only one of these is in the senior grade. Rockwell College won eight exhibitions, and Clongowes Wood College eight also. The latter takes the first place in all Ireland for the number of awards, having gained no less than forty-four. Loreto College for Girls, Wexford, obtained seven exhibitions, St. Louis', Monaghan, five, and Loreto College, Stephen's Green, Dublin, three, a very creditable record for these institutions. Unmistakable evidence of the splendid education imparted by the Christian Brothers is to be found in the list published by the Intermediate Commissioners. To their Cork school belongs the honor of having won sixteen exhibitions, by far the highest awarded any school or college in Ireland. Thirty-nine distinctions were also awarded to this institution, placing it next to Clongowes in that respect. The O'Connell Schools, North Richmond street, won thirty-eight distinctions, or only one less than the sister school at Cork. The Synge Street Schools, Dublin, also did remarkably well, and so did the James Street Institution, Enniscorthy. The Youghal, Kilrush, Omagh, Newry, Tralee, Clonmel, Belfast, Thurles, Dundalk, Naas, Ennis, Mitchelstown, Glasnevin, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Mullingar, Maryborough, Dingle, and Armagh Christian Brothers' Schools have well held their own and shown what a boon they are to the districts where they are laboring in the cause of education.

**People We Hear About**

Count George Noble Plunkett, who has been appointed to the Directorship of the Museum of Science and Art in Dublin, in the gift of Mr. T. W. Russell, M. P., as vice-president of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, is highly trained in art and an enthusiastic scholar and student. He had a brilliant career in Trinity College, Dublin. He is a great traveller, and has visited all the art centres in Europe. He is also a prolific author and writer on art and other subjects. Count Plunkett is a Nationalist in politics, and in his younger days was a devoted admirer of Mr. Isaac Butt, the Irish Nationalist leader. He is a fervent Catholic, and something of a poet.

The Earl of Granard, the Catholic peer who has just been appointed Master of the Horse, in succession to the Earl of Sefton, remains at the age thirty-three, a bachelor. He succeeded his father in 1889, and became the proprietor of over 20,000 Irish acres. As a captain of the Scots Guards, he went through the South African war, and he was A.D.C. to Earl Cadogan as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Lord Granard's Irish earldom, which is a barony of the United Kingdom, is an old one, going back to 1684; but the family boasted a barony long before them. Sir Alexander de Forbes, who married a grand-daughter of the Scotch King, Robert III., was created Lord Forbes by King James II. of Scotland, in 1448.

The death is reported of Viscount Gormanston, the fourteenth holder of the title, and premier Viscount of Ireland. The deceased nobleman, who was seventy years of age, served through the Indian Mutiny, and had been Governor of the Leeward Islands, British Guiana, and Tasmania. He was a J.P. for Counties Meath, Cavan, and Dublin. He was twice married, his first wife (who died in 1875) having been a daughter of the first Lord Bellew. By his second wife, Georgina, daughter of Peter Connellan, of Coolmore, County Kilkenny, he had three sons and a daughter of whom his eldest son, Mr. Jenico Edward Joseph Preston, is his heir. The family seat is Gormanston Castle, Balbriggan, County Meath. The late Lord Gormanston was a very devout and earnest Catholic, and while Governor of Tasmania, from 1893 to 1900, he considered it a very special privilege to be permitted to serve Mass.

Though it would perhaps be too much to say that King Edward is the best linguist among European rulers there is certainly no more perfect master of German, among the crowned heads than the King, whose German is far more idiomatic, than that of the majority of educated Germans living abroad. It is true the King's father was of German birth, and German was as much talked as English at the British Court in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign; but one imagines that few sons of German fathers, living in England all their life would 'keep up' their German as King Edward has done. That the King is an almost equally good French linguist, goes almost without saying. Perhaps the next best linguist to the King, among those sitting upon European thrones, is the Kaiser, whose French is extraordinarily pure and idiomatic, and who also speaks excellent English, although he has never been able to rid himself of a strong German accent.

'Healy is up!' When the magic words go round, there is a swift hurrying into the Chamber, (says the London 'Tribune') for nobody can afford to miss the piquant Tim. Somebody will writhe before he finishes. His vitriolic wit never slumbers, and he is restless outside a fight. A short stoutish man, black-bearded and spectacled, with the tongue of a wasp and the wit of an Irishman, he commands an apprehensive and fascinated attention from all quarters of the House. Woe betide the interrupter. He is scathed with a retort which makes him unaffectedly sorry that he spoke, and irritable because of the proneness of the House of Commons to laughter. Mr. Healy is a happy outcast. Owning allegiance to nobody, bitingly critical to the failings of political leaders, extremely well-informed as to the intrigues of parties in which he takes a detached interest, and believing that it is no good speaking unless you can make somebody remember that you spoke, his words lash like a whip, and his satire corrodes like a bitter acid. The only man, with whom he never crossed swords, was Chamberlain. They had too much respect for each other's power of thrust.

The tenth anniversary of the consecration of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, was celebrated on Sunday, November 3.

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