

celebration of the foundation of New York diocese, when their beloved Cardinal was the central figure of the brilliant series of religious and social functions which accompanied that event. And as it was in America, so it was also in Australasia, to which Ossory had given many bishops, priests, and nuns. On that day, said his Lordship, Australia made adequate return for Ossory's services in building up her infant Church, and she sent her prelates and her priests and her laity to represent her in the presentation of her generous gift. Hence the bonds of faith, of hope, of love, of patriotism, of mutual sympathy and co-operative effort between the two countries were knit more closely together by that day's magnificent celebration.

LIMERICK—Sad Drowning Fatality

On the evening of June 29 a clerical student named John Hayes was drowned in the river Gale, near Athea, while bathing with a companion. The sad event was all the more keenly felt, as Mr. Hayes had almost completed his collegiate studies, and was a student of much promise.

A Venerable Total Abstainer

Mr. Martin Dalton, a venerable total abstainer, who took the pledge from Father Mathew sixty-six years ago, is still hale and hearty. He lives at Knocknagorna, County Limerick, and is able to walk four miles every Sunday to attend Mass.

WICKLOW—Presentation of an Address

The Rev. W. Duggan, Kilquaide, County Wicklow, has been presented with an address by the people of all denominations in Athy parish, where he spent sixteen years previous to his promotion to Kilquaide.

GENERAL

Technical Teaching

Mr. Redmond on June 25 introduced to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the Treasury, a deputation, consisting of Dr. Windle, President, Queen's College, Cork, and other representative Irishmen. The object of the visit was to urge upon the Chancellor the need for a further building grant for technical schools in Ireland. Mr. Lloyd-George postponed his decision for a few months, but the character of his reply was, on the whole, favorable.

Irish Tobacco

The 'Daily Mail,' in a leader on the revival of Irish tobacco-growing, says:—We have tried the experiment of mixing Irish cigarettes with cigarettes of the best Egyptian and American growth, and have invited connoisseurs to tell the difference. They have been unable to do so. It has been pointed out in the House that Ireland was at one time one of the most productive of the tobacco-growing countries. The prohibition of the growth of tobacco in the sister island was a real Irish grievance. Tobacco culture was denied to the Irish in order that our American colonies might be placed in possession of a practical monopoly, and an agitation, primarily engineered by the then Bristol tobacco manufacturers, was successful in crushing the industry, with the result that most of those engaged in the growth of tobacco in Ireland emigrated. It is obvious that the Government must grant facilities to Irish tobacco growers, but even when this has been accomplished the difficulties will only begin. The demand is certain to outstrip the supply for many years. Inferior brands of tobacco have already been sold as Irish. It will be difficult to maintain the quality of the crop in the absence of co-operation by the Irish tobacco farmers. It behoves all those engaged in this revived industry to see that the quality of the output is jealously guarded, that the manufacture of the cigars and cigarettes is effected by the latest machinery where machinery can be used, and that the boxes, labels, and general appearance of the packets are as dainty as those that come to us from Turkey and Egypt.

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People We Hear About

Lord Carrington, President of the Board of Agriculture, tells a good story of his experiences while Governor of New South Wales. His first public appearance was at the Mayor's dinner at Sydney. Having committed a few words to paper, he delivered them in reply to the toast of his health, and then sat down. Opposite him there sat an M.P. who had suffered long from the abundant eloquence of the new Governor's predecessor. When Lord Carrington sat down the M.P. filled his glass to the brim, and said, in a voice not intended to be heard, 'Thank Heaven, he can't speak!'

M. Francois Coppee, the famous French poet-dramatist, who died recently, was called the poet of the humble, and it was because he sprang from the people that he was able to write with such strength and feeling about them. Forty-five years ago he called on M. Catulle Mendes, another famous French poet. Mendes was living in a shabby little attic, with grubby window-panes, fireless hearth, and one chair. Coppee looked timidly round, and then said, 'Oh, monsieur! the room you live in would make a man wish to hang himself.' The next day Coppee brought Mendes 6000 lines. The latter read through them. 'Well?' said Coppee, anxiously. 'Well, my dear friend,' answered Mendes, 'it is unquestionable that you are splendidly gifted, but you don't know the alphabet of your craft.' 'Teach me,' said Coppee, heroically, taking his 6000 lines of verse and throwing them into the grate. Twenty years later Coppee was a member of the French Academy.

Mr. J. F. Hogan writes in the *London Daily Chronicle* of June 24:—Madame Melba, who gives an operatic performance to-day, in the presence of the King and Queen, for the London Hospital, to celebrate her twenty years' association with Covent Garden, has established a record that will not be lowered for a century or two, if ever. No previous prima donna has sung in London for twenty years without missing a single season, and the odds against any future one accomplishing the feat must be overwhelming. By general critical consent, too, Mme. Melba's voice, after two decades of strenuous work, is as beautiful, matchless, and unimpaired as ever. Mme. Melba was christened Helen Porter Mitchell, and her father, Mr. David Mitchell, a wealthy retired builder and contractor, still lives in her native Melbourne at the age of 81. As Nellie Mitchell she was numbered among the pupils of the Melbourne Presbyterian Ladies' College, then presided over by the late Professor Pearson, a distinguished Oxonian, who wrote a much-discussed book on "National Life and Character." Before she was out of her teens Miss Nellie Mitchell became the wife of Mr. C. F. Armstrong, a Queensland sugar planter, and the son of an Irish baronet. As Mrs. Armstrong she sang, much against her father's will, for two or three years in Australia before sailing for London, fame, and fortune.

Sir Antony MacDonnell, on whom a peerage of the United Kingdom has been conferred, is a Mayo man by birth, having been born at Palmfield House in that county in 1844. He had an extraordinarily brilliant career in India. As Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces and Oudh, he so distinguished himself that when half through his career of five years he was given—the only Lieutenant-Governor who ever received this distinction—the honor of being made Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India. Furthermore, his term of office of Lieutenant-Governor was extended for a year, in accordance with the prayer of the people of the two provinces—he won the affection of the native chiefs and people alike—while a statue to his memory, erected by the people of Oudh, was unveiled at Lucknow in March of last year. This is one of the few instances of statues of public men being erected during their lifetime. Since his appointment as Under-Secretary for Ireland in 1902 by Mr. Wyndham, 'as a colleague rather than as a mere Under-Secretary,' he has had a troublesome time of it; but much of the beneficial Irish legislation of the past five years is due to his energy and determination to be of service to his native land. Sir Antony is a splendid type of the Catholic layman *sans peur et sans reproche*, and in this as in all other respects he has a worthy helper—as many Catholic charities know—in Lady MacDonnell.

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