

TIPPERARY—Death of a Venerable Religious

Mother Mary Alphonsus Holohan, foundress of the Presentation Convent, Fethard, County Tipperary, with which she was connected for fifty years, died after a short illness in the early days of July.

TYRONE—Retiring from Public Life

Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., who succeeded Sir Horace Plunkett in the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, has informed his constituents in Tyrone that he will retire from political life at the end of the present Parliament.

An Australian Visitor

When the last mail left Home the Rev. Father Treacy, an Irish-Australian priest, was on a visit to Glenchiel, County Tyrone, to see his venerable parents, who are both over ninety years of age.

WATERFORD—A Golden Jubilee

The golden jubilee of Sister Mary, of the Little Sisters of the Poor, was celebrated at the Convent of the Order, Manor Hill, Waterford, on July 4. The Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan officiated at High Mass, after which the venerable jubilarian was the recipient of presents and congratulations.

WEXFORD—Archbishop Kelly in Enniscorthy

The Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney, when on a visit to Enniscorthy, was presented with an address by the pupils of the Presentation Convent Schools of the town.

GENERAL**Land Stock**

A five-million issue of Irish Land stock at 2½ per cent. on July 6 was subscribed sixty times over.

Mr. Birrell and the Christian Brothers

The success of Mr. Birrell's speech in the debate on the Supplementary Estimates for Irish education was largely due (says the *Catholic Times*) to the confidence it inspired of the display of a more liberal spirit in the future. The attitude of the Chief Secretary with regard to the action of the Treasury in apportioning the education grant was not all that could have been desired. It is manifestly indefensible that as to details which could only be properly ascertained and judged of by educationists on the spot in Ireland the power of giving a momentous decision should be practically entrusted to Treasury clerks. Upon further consideration, Mr. Birrell will, we feel sure, change his opinion with respect to that point. The duty of deciding how the grant should be applied is as much within the province of the Irish Commissioners of National Education as is that of saying where the school accommodation is excessive. Mr. Birrell's remarks on the work of the Christian Brothers will be read by Catholics everywhere with genuine pleasure. Everyone who had seen their schools, he said, appreciated their value and the part they played in Irish education. The Christian Brothers were doing a great work. He did not know whether they wished to come under the authority of the Commissioners, because parents preferred their schools partly because they were able to give instruction in their own way without being interfered with by public authorities. But if they presented their views to him he would consider them most sympathetically. The Chief Secretary's offer will be carefully considered by the Brothers. It is to Mr. Birrell's credit that he sees it is only fair, since the denominational principle prevails throughout Ireland that the Brothers should not be deprived of Government grants because they assert it without limitations or disguise.

The Franco-British Exhibition

The Archbishop of Westminster has arranged that during the continuance of the Franco-British Exhibition Mass will be said each Sunday at the 'Irish Village, for the convenience of those resident there. Father Day, of Westminster Cathedral, has been appointed 'parish priest' of the village. Referring to this village, generally known as Ballymaclinton, the energy and business capacity of those who 'run' it are very remarkable. They have, in fact, succeeded in making it the feature par excellence of the whole Exhibition. 'Ballymaclinton' is the one place that every English and Irish visitor seeks for first. The promoters deserve warm congratulations from all who have the industrial interests of Ireland at heart; the more so as all profits from the sales in the village and from the 'gate' go to the aid of Lady Aberdeen's crusade against tuberculosis in Ireland. There are several Irish factories in the village, chief amongst them, McClinton's Toilet Soap Factory, in which a soap is made for which soothing and hygienic qualities are claimed above those of any other soap, inasmuch as it is manufactured from the ash of plants instead of caustic soda.

People We Hear About

The *London Gazette* announces the style and title of the four new Peers included in the Birthday Honors' list. Sir Antony MacDonnell takes the title of Baron MacDonnell of Swinford; in the County of Mayo.

The very comprehensive name given to the new Spanish Royal Prince at his baptism on June 29 was Jaime Leopold Alijandro Isabelino Enrique Alberto Alfonso Victor Juan Pedro Pablo Maria. The sponsors were the Prince Regent of Bavaria and the Infanta Isabella.

Mr. Thomas Browne ('Rolf Boldrewood') received congratulations from numbers of friends the other day on the 82nd anniversary of his birthday. The son of Captain Sylvester John Browne, of the East India Company's service, and afterwards of Enmore, New South Wales, Mr. T. A. Browne was born in London on August 6, 1826. He arrived in Sydney in April, 1830, with his father. From 1844 to 1869 Mr. Browne was engaged in squatting, first in the Port Fairy district, Victoria, and then on the Murrumbidgee. From 1870 to 1895 he was a New South Wales police magistrate. His 'Robbery Under Arms,' one of the most widely-known novels ever published, appeared in 1888. Since then no fewer than sixteen novels and sketches of Australian life have been issued by 'Rolf Boldrewood.'

That gifted writer who was known to readers of fiction as 'John Oliver Hobbes' was a pupil of University College, London, from 1889 to 1902, and a bronze portrait-plaque will in future serve as a memorial of her in the Library of the College. The medallion was subscribed for by friends, and with it has been offered to the college about £600 for the foundation of an English Literature Scholarship. A replica of the plaque is to be placed in a suitable position in the United States, and a similar scholarship is to be established in an American University. Lord Curzon, who performed the unveiling ceremony in London, paid eloquent tribute to the character and gifts of Mrs. Craigie. 'As a writer,' he said, 'though possessed of the dangerous gift of epigram, she was essentially sincere, and so escaped the horrible pitfall of paradox. Her artistic sense sought always to express itself in the most perfect literary form. I remember once receiving a letter from her written in Greek iambs—surely an unfamiliar feat in the twentieth century.' Beneath the wit and humor that graced all her writings there was, he pointed out, a deep religious sense, and 'in joining the Catholic Church she found inspiration in its ideals and solace in its authority.' The Right Rev. Monsignor Brown, V.G., also paid a tribute to the deceased writer, who was suddenly cut off in the height of her powers, and when suffering had brought new strength to her work.

Mr. Taft, who was selected as the Republican candidate for the Presidency at the Chicago Convention, has had a brilliant career as Judge, Administrator in the Philippines, and Secretary for War. The Catholics of the States certainly have no special ground for hostility to him. In the Philippines he displayed an unswerving love of justice when dealing with Catholic interests. A weaker man, or an administrator less keenly alive to the demands of fair play, might easily have been betrayed into wrongdoing. As soon as the Spanish power in the islands was at an end Protestant ministers who possessed in a high degree the hustling qualities which are so highly developed at the other side of the Pacific rushed in. They thought they saw opportunities of reaping, with worldly advantages, where other men had sown. They were concerned for the souls of the Filipinos, but did not forget the property of the friars. This not a few of them sought under one pretext or another to appropriate. But Mr. Taft stood firm. Finding that very difficult questions cropped up, he resolved to settle them by direct negotiations with the Holy See, and for that purpose he visited Rome and had interviews with Leo XIII. By such a policy he won the confidence of the Catholics, and since then has done much to commend himself to their good-will. The Chicago Convention was opened with prayer by Dr. Muldoon, the Catholic Bishop. It is the first time that a Republican National Convention has been opened by a Catholic clergyman, though numerically the Catholic Church in the States is the largest of all the denominations.

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