

deep sense of gratification at the happy results of the memorable crusade which was preached throughout the diocese during the autumn of last year. Our thanks are due in a special manner to the members of the Religious Orders, who performed their laborious task with a whole-hearted earnestness that could not fail to ensure a large measure of success. We gladly acknowledge also the signal services of the diocesan clergy, who co-operated in this glorious enterprise in a manner deserving of the highest praise. It must not, however, be forgotten that the most encouraging feature of the campaign was the readiness displayed by the laity in general to put into practice the lessons of sobriety so lucidly and, at the same time, so forcibly, inculcated by the Missionary Fathers. One fact stands out conspicuous as a result of last year's crusade: it is clear beyond question that the moral sentiment of the people is on the side of temperance. Many battles must yet be fought, many victories must yet be won before we can hope to witness the death struggle of the drink evil. But it may be safely assumed that the flowing tide is with us when we find the moral sentiment of the public in our favor. The questions now arises: How are we to turn to good account the advantage that has been gained? First of all, it must be borne in mind that the ultimate object of our society is the promotion of temperance. We have proclaimed, times without number, that total abstinence, which is the best safeguard for all, and the sole safeguard for many, is the most effectual means of promoting the practice of the noble virtue of temperance.

WATERFORD—Claim to a Title

Mr. Leslie O'Callaghan, Derrygallon, County Cork, is prosecuting a suit to establish his right to the title and estates of the late Viscount Lismore. The last holder of the title died last year, and it was thought that the title lapsed for want of an heir. The rent roll of the estates was once £70,000 a year, but for years the interest on heavy mortgages consumed most of the rents.

GENERAL

Vital Statistics

According to the annual report of the Registrar-General for Ireland, the number of marriages registered in Ireland during last year was 22,509, the number of births 101,742, and the number of deaths 77,334. The marriage rate was 5.14 per 1000 of the estimated population, showing a decrease of 0.02 as compared with that for the year 1906, but is 0.05 above the average rate for the ten years 1897 to 1906. The birth rate was 23.2 per 1000 of the estimated population, showing a decrease of 0.4 as compared with that for the preceding year, and is the same as the average rate for the ten years 1897 to 1906; and the death rate—17.7 per 1000—is 0.7 above the rate for the preceding year, but 0.2 under the average rate for the ten years 1897 to 1906. The returns for 1907 show that the natural increase of the population, or the excess over deaths, was 24,408. The loss by emigration amounted to 39,082, which exceeds the average number of emigrants for the past ten years. It would appear, therefore, that there was a decrease of 14,674 in the population during the year. With respect to immigration, there are no official records, nor is it taken into account in the estimate of the population to the middle of the year, which was 4,377,064.

Envoys in New York

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, with Mr. Devlin, M.P., and Mr. Fitzgibbon, arrived in New York on September 16. One hundred members of the United Irish League of New York met Mr. Redmond and his friends at the dock and escorted them to Hoffmann House, where a formal reception was given in their honor.

Mr. J. J. Marlow, well known in the wholesale furniture manufacturing business, has opened a retail branch at 203 Princes street south, Dunedin, where he has on exhibition a comprehensive stock of high-class furniture in antique and modern designs at remarkably moderate prices. Mr. Marlow has also just started a factory in Manor Place, equipped with all the latest wood-working machinery, and operated by electric power, by means of which he hopes to place upon the market high-class goods at rates which will bear favorable comparison with those of any other house....

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted; 12 copies and over, 8d each, purchaser to pay carriage. Apply Manager, 'Tablet,' Dunedin.

People We Hear About

At present there are six living recipients of the Victoria Cross among Catholic officers, namely, Major-General Luke O'Connor, Colonel Paul Kenna, Colonel J. H. Reynolds, Major James Masterton, General Goodfellow, and Captain Crean. General O'Connor, who is the only Victoria Cross man to rise to the rank of general officer from a private, won his cross on the heights of Alma.

The recent visit of the King and Queen of Spain to the ex-Empress Eugenie, reminds us that she is eighty-two years of age, having been born in 1826, only seven years after the late Queen Victoria. It argues marvellous vitality that she has been able for so long to resist the sorrows which began to fall on her so thickly just seven and thirty years ago, when she and her consort lost their Empire, and the still heavier blow of nine years later, when her only son fell under the assegaes of the Zulus.

In retiring from the War Department, Mr. Taft ceased to be a public official for the first time since he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Ohio twenty-one years ago (says the *Philadelphia Ledger*). He left the Ohio Bench to become Solicitor-General of the United States and then circuit judge, and while in this office he was made President of the Philippine Commission, in 1900. His Philippine service continued until he became Secretary of War, in February, 1904.

The Dowager Duchess of Newcastle, who was among the prominent members of the English laity who assisted at the Eucharistic Congress, is one of the few Catholic ladies who have personally taken up slum work in the East End. She founded St. Anthony's Settlement in Whitechapel. There she lives, not in the mission itself, but in a small house close by, where she can guide and assist the work that is carried on. The Duchess lives the most simple life among her beloved poor, and regards her own least of all.

The presidential election in the United States this week brings to mind the fact that the present occupant of the White House is in his fiftieth year. He was only forty-three when he became President. A man must be five and thirty before he can be elected, but the great majority of the rulers of the United States since Washington's time were much older than that. Of the elected Presidents of the United States, Washington was 57 when inaugurated, Adams and Jackson were 61, Jefferson, Madison, and J. Q. Adams 57, Monroe 58, Van Buren and McKinley 54, Polk 49, Taylor 64, Pierce 48, Buchanan 65, Lincoln 52, Hayes 54, Garfield 49, Cleveland 47, Benjamin Harrison 55. The oldest elected President installed was William Henry Harrison at 68, the youngest, Grant, at 46. The average age of the 20 elected Presidents when inaugurated was above 56 years, including the odd months. Of Presidents reaching their office by way of the Vice-Presidency, Tyler was 51, Fillmore 50, Johnson 56, Arthur 50; average age, about 52 years. Mr. Roosevelt himself was not quite 43 when he became President upon McKinley's death. He was inaugurated in 1905 at 46.

Among the prominent laity present at the Eucharistic Congress in London was General Lord Ralph Kerr, son of the seventh Marquis of Lothian, who is now in his 75th year. Like his brother, Admiral-of-the-Fleet Lord Walter Kerr, he is a convert to the Catholic Church of many years' standing. Both are sons of the late Dowager Marchioness of Lothian, who formed one of a group of noble and distinguished Catholic ladies whose names were associated with every charitable work, and were familiar in every Catholic household in the later decades of the nineteenth century. Lord Ralph, who has had a brilliant military career, entered the 10th Light Dragoons (now known as the 10th Hussars) in early life. He was in command of his famous regiment in India, where he took part in the engagement at Futtehabad, and afterwards attained distinction elsewhere. From 1891 to 1896 he was Major-General in command of the Curragh District. Thirty years ago Lord Ralph Kerr married the Lady Ann Fitzalan Howard, daughter of the fourteenth Duke of Norfolk, and he is, therefore, the brother-in-law of England's premier duke. A devoted son of the Church, he has been foremost in the support of every good cause.

Some people complain because they have so much to do, giving as an excuse for not living beautifully. But there is no other way in which a life will become transfigured so quickly, so surely, as in the faithful, happy, cheerful doing of everyday tasks. Ordinary work is one of the best means of grace.

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