

ment for all when we learnt how diviners for wells work with the magic hazel rod, a secret we learnt one day from a little boy who had seen the process—a process which furnished amusement for days and sorely puzzled us at first to discover why, while the rod worked as if bewitched in some hands, in others it was as dead. I suppose I must not give away the secret too easily, seeing that the trade means five guineas a well to a good many people who earn a living partly in this way. The experiment is most interesting.

M. B.

COUNTY NEWS

ANTRIM—The Giant's Causeway

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, the Chief Secretary for Ireland said: 'My attention has been called to a newspaper article indicating that quarrying rights over the Giant's Causeway have been acquired by a mining syndicate. I understand that there is no foundation for the statement beyond the fact that quarries are being opened near Portrush, some miles away.'

CORK—A Substantial Fine

The motion for attachment of Sir Timothy O'Brien for alleged interference with the Cork jury in the slander action brought by Hon. Alexis Roche against Sir Timothy for imputing that he was a liar, a thief, and a swindler, came before the King's Bench recently. Mr. Frank Morrough, one of the jurors in the slander trial, stated at the trial in Cork that Mr. Hardman, a friend of his and of Sir Timothy, had told him Sir Timothy would prefer a verdict for a farthing damages against him to a disagreement. Counsel said Sir Timothy recognised the action was improper, but he had no intention of influencing the juror. The court fined Sir Timothy £300, to be paid within a month; ordered him to pay the costs of the motion, and the costs of the proceedings in Cork rendered abortive by his action.

LIMERICK—A Terrible Calamity

Seldom (writes a Dublin correspondent) has so tragic an event taken place in Ireland as that which occurred in Mount St. Vincent Orphanage, Limerick, during the first week in November. Some sixty inmates of that fine institution became prostrate owing, it is thought, to ptomaine poisoning, and notwithstanding all that medical aid could accomplish, nine of them died. The calamity has cast a gloom over the city and county, and has elicited expressions of profound sympathy from every side. At the inquest Professor McWeeney, the eminent bacteriologist, said that until he had made a chemical examination he could not state the cause of death. The funerals of the victims, which took place at Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery, were attended by an immense concourse of citizens, who showed evident signs of sorrow. The clergy of the city, walking in twos, headed the mournful procession, and then at intervals came the hearses containing the coffins in which lay the remains of the youthful victims. The blinds were closely drawn all along the streets leading to the cemetery, where most pathetic scenes were witnessed at the interment. All the other children who were stricken down are steadily recovering, and it is thought that the death-roll will not mount higher. The institution is one of the best managed in the kingdom—a fact testified to by Mr. Fagan, Inspector of Industrial Schools, at the inquest, and others.

LOUTH—A Distinguished Visitor

The Right Rev. Dr. Doyle, Bishop of Lismore, visited Drogheda early in November, and was received by the Right Rev. Mgr. Legrave, P.P., St. Peter's. The chiming bells of the Oliver Plunket Memorial Church were rung by the organist; and so pleased was his Lordship with them that he expressed his intention of placing an order for a similar set for his own Cathedral before leaving for his distant home.

MEATH—A Generous Priest

Speaking in St. Patrick's Church, Trim, on Sunday, November 8, with reference to the late Rev. John Martin, of Ballivor, the Rev. M. Woods, V.F., paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased, who took an active and practical interest in the building of churches. As an instance of his devotion to this ideal, Father Woods said he was now at liberty to inform them that the late Father Martin was the donor of the beautiful sanctuary lamp which adorned their ornate sacred edifice. That gift was of solid silver, and weighed 500 ounces. The deceased benefactor would not allow him (Father Woods) to mention his name in connection with the presentation of the lamp till after his death. In addition to this costly gift, Father Martin had given hundreds of pounds (he never gave less than a cheque for £100) towards the building fund of St. Patrick's Church.

People We Hear About

The Most Rev. Dr. Delany, Archbishop of Hobart, will enter on his fifty-sixth year on the first of next month. He was educated in Ireland and France, and came out to the colonies twenty-three years ago.

The engagement is announced of Mr. George Gavan Duffy, son of the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, and Miss Mamie Sullivan, third daughter of the late Mr. A. M. Sullivan. It is of interest to note that when Mr. Gavan Duffy, as he then was, relinquished the proprietorship of the *Nation*, and left for Australia, describing the condition of Ireland as somewhat similar to that of a corpse on a dissecting table, Mr. A. M. Sullivan purchased his interest in the paper, and with the assistance of his brother carried it on for over a quarter of a century, doing invaluable work for faith and fatherland.

It is stated (says the *Catholic Weekly*) that Father Bernard Vaughan is the only man, in recent times, who has been able to persuade Madame Patti (Baroness de Oederström) to come forth from her mountain fastness at Craig-y-Nos Castle, and return to the platform, although many notable attempts have been made. When first approached with the request that she would lend the attraction of her beautiful voice to the cause of the charity which Father Vaughan had at heart, at the Albert Hall concert, the diva is said to have instantly exclaimed, and with much vivacity, 'I will always sing for him.'

The Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, who has been elected Chancellor of the National University, Dublin, was born in that city in 1841, and was educated at St. Laurence O'Toole's Seminary and at Maynooth College. After his ordination he was for some time professor in that famous college, and in 1880 succeeded Dr. Russell as president. In 1885 he was appointed Vicar-Capitular of the diocese of Dublin, and in that year was consecrated as successor to Cardinal McCabe. His Grace has taken a very active part in the public life of Ireland, has sat on many Government Boards and Commissions, especially those dealing with education. He was consulted in the framing of the Land Acts—especially those of 1881-82, and has been the life-long friend of the National movement, from which his predecessors, Cardinals McCabe and Cullen, held aloof. As a writer of wide range, he has contributed largely and effectively to questions affecting his Catholic countrymen. He was a pioneer in arousing the public conscience to the shortcomings of Irish University education—a question on which his views were first given to the public in book form eighteen years ago.

Despite his forty-seven years, which he carries lightly, and a slight addition in weight (says the *Catholic Weekly*), Sir Timothy O'Brien, whose name has been for some time prominent in the Irish Law Courts, is as handsome and as cheery as when he married the sister of Sir Humphrey de Trafford twenty-three years ago. They have got eight children, mostly girls. Sir Timothy succeeded his uncle, and before his marriage was anything but rich. His career as a cricketer began by colossal scoring for the Kensington Park Club. It is now completely forgotten that he was first tried for Middlesex as a wicket-keeper. As a last resource to obtain admission into first-class cricket, he went up to New Inn Hall at Oxford, and then, after some big scoring, was given his 'blue.' Great things were expected of his batting for Oxford against Cambridge, and it is one of the sensations of cricket that in his first University match he failed to score in either innings. Subsequently his fame was deserved. He is the only baronet and the only Irishman who has played in Test matches, but his greatest feat was a marvellous century for Middlesex against Yorkshire. After he gave up cricket, 'Tim,' as he was known to everybody, went to live in County Cork, where he hunted hard and was the life and soul of the county club. Few men are so engaging or such excellent company. Considering his natural impetuosity, it is curious that he was one of the finest and most judicious of captains. He is also a good judge of a horse, and has taught his children to ride uncommonly well.

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