

denial, what loving patience. Now the aged people who hitherto looked upon themselves as burdens will be independent members of the household; able, indeed, to help the younger generation, for those who visit the poor well know upon how very small a sum each one can manage to live.

The preliminary work is going on smoothly here, for all are lending a willing hand both to lighten the work for officials and to help applicants. The post offices are available for forms, etc., and all are loud in praise of the patience and kindness of the post office clerks and the genuine pleasure this addition to their ordinary work gives them. County Councils and Urban District Councils have organised committees whose duty it is to give information and help both officials and the public. Charitable Associations, such as St. Vincent de Paul Society, are active, individual members looking up local cases and giving every assistance in their power. The old folks themselves are far from dull, and become quite alert over the business. All are glad and all are helping, and many an amusing, many a touching case comes to each one's knowledge.

M.B.

## COUNTY NEWS

### CLARE—A Centenarian

On Sunday, November 15, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. W. N. Kelly, Mullagh, Kilmurphybrican, County Clare, the death occurred of Jane, widow of the late Mr. Michael Comerford, timber merchant, Galway, aged 104 years. Deceased was mother of the late Colonel Surgeon Comerford, Dr. Michael Comerford, Mr. Isaac Comerford, timber merchant, Galway, and Mr. George Comerford, Melbourne.

### CORK—The Late Sir James Mathew

The obsequies of Sir James Mathew, late Lord Justice of Appeal, took place in Cork. The remains were received by the Lord Mayor, the High Sheriff, and a large number of citizens, lay and clerical. The chief mourners were Messrs. Theobald and Charles Mathew, sons, and Mr. John Dillon, M.P., son-in-law. After Requiem Mass, the absolution was pronounced by Dean Shinkwin, after which the interment took place in the family vault at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

### Praise for the Parliamentary Party

At a meeting at Queenstown to start the Irish Parliamentary Fund collection, a letter was read from the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, enclosing five pounds. The letter contained the following:—'Our contributions cannot be regarded by us as a favor, but as a duty to our Parliamentary representatives, who work for the interests of the country with such fidelity, perseverance, and success. Moreover, we must remember that the members of the Irish Party work for their country from no motives of selfishness. Even their enemies dare not accuse them, poor men though they be, of yielding to that indirect form of bribery when men use public positions entrusted to them by the people to secure for themselves a high salary and place from the Government.'

### DUBLIN—Self-Government

The inaugural meeting of the twenty-fifth session of University College Literary and Historical Society was held on November 5, when Mr. Thomas Bodkin, a son of County Court Judge Bodkin, read an interesting paper on 'Home Rule.' He maintained that the country was ripe for self-government. The working of the Local Government Act was a splendid testimony to the capacity of the Irish people to manage their own affairs. The worst foe to be fought now was ignorance, for the British democracy was no longer opposed to Home Rule.

### Trinity College and the Gaelic Revival

At the opening session of the Trinity College Gaelic Society Rev. Dr. Mahaffy said that when the Gaelic movement was started he criticised it adversely, but he now confessed that he was wrong. He never thought it would attain the growth and vitality it now possessed. The movement, conducted on its first lines, would in a few years upset the whole intermediate education system of Ireland. Dr. Sigerson spoke of Ireland's intellectual pre-eminence in the past, and said there was now no European nation in which scholars had a predominant voice that did not recognise that their culture, after the downfall of the Roman tyranny, was due to the leading thought and education and science which came to their land from Ireland. Mr. Yeats said that at one time the National movement in Ireland was founded upon grievances, such as the land question. The Irish people now realised that the land question was being settled, and the foundation was being changed to a national basis, and they were creating a national movement similar to that of Norway.

## People We Hear About

In the presence of a notable assemblage, representing all classes and creeds, the monument erected to the memory of Mayor Patrick A. Collins at Boston was unveiled and dedicated on Monday, November 2.

Few poets have had so busy a life as the author of 'Father O'Flynn.' For the past thirty years, the *Bookman* says, Mr. Alfred Percival Graves has been one of H.M. inspectors of schools, yet he found time to serve for eight years as honorary secretary of the Irish Literary Society; has all along been an eager student of Irish folk song and story; is a vice-president of the Irish Folk Song Society; and has for long past been a moving and most potent spirit in the Irish literary revival.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Harrington, British Representative at the Court of the Emperor Menelik, will not return to Abyssinia, as it is known among his friends that he is desirous of spending some time at home. It will not (says the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Daily Post*) be easy for Sir John Edward Grey to find someone to replace Sir John Harrington at Adis Abeba, especially at this juncture, when the Emperor Menelik's health is giving rise to some anxiety as to the future of Abyssinia. Sir John has acquired a very exceptional position there, and his strong influence with the Emperor has always sufficed to counteract any attempt to weaken British prestige in that part of the world. More than once, indeed, he has saved the situation as far as British interests in Ethiopia are concerned. Sir John Harrington is a Catholic, and was educated at Stonyhurst.

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, whose party was successful at the recent general election, was born at Quebec on November 20, 1841, and was educated at L'Assumption College, McGill University. He first entered Parliament in 1871, and became a member of the Federal Assembly three years later. In the Mackenzie Government of 1877 he was Minister of Inland Revenue, but was defeated at the general election in the following year. He was, however, elected immediately after for Quebec East, which constituency he still represents. In 1891 he became leader of the Liberal Party, and six years later Premier, in which capacity he has done yeoman service for his native land. Sir Wilfrid is an ardent Catholic, and is associated with two of the biggest books in the British Museum—a French and an English edition of his speeches, each running to upwards of 700 pages, with a prefatory memoir. His speech in denunciation of the execution of Louis Riel, the leader of two rebellions of the half-breeds in Eastern Canada, was a remarkable effort of impassioned eloquence, while the pathetic tribute he paid to the character and career of the departed Sir John Macdonald, his political opponent but personal friend, brought tears to many eyes in the Canadian House of Commons. Sir Wilfrid is equally fluent and eloquent in English and French.

One of the best known personages in the American Catholic literary world (says the *Catholic Citizen*) is Father Hudson, editor of *The Ave Maria*. As far as reputation goes, his fame is wide. As far as he is personally concerned, he is the least known of men, so modest is he and so given to shirking from the public gaze. Dr. Hudson (Mount St. Mary's College made him an LL.D. in 1897) is a New Englander, of Irish blood on his mother's side. Old acquaintances in Boston say that his father was a man of the highest aspirations and character, the friend of Longfellow and Jared Sparks, and that his mother was remarkable for her piety. He was born in the middle fifties and educated in the Jesuit College at Boston. For over 25 years he has been a member of the congregation of the Holy Cross, during which time his pen has never been idle in the defence of the mystery of the Incarnation. Father Hudson rarely speaks, never writes of himself. In less than 26 years *The Ave Maria* has grown from a mere pamphlet to a magazine of the first importance. In numbers its circulation reaches over 30,000, but its influence cannot be merely measured by that. It goes everywhere; you find it in Paris, in London, in Florence; it is looked for eagerly in Melbourne, in Bombay, in Cairo. Its influence is valued through the quality of its readers, who represent the best Catholics in every sense. Father Hudson has written sufficient 'copy' to fill many volumes. Those accustomed to the purity of his style can easily distinguish it even when it appears 'written into an article where richness of epithet runs not'; it shows qualities which the young author, opulent in words, might imitate with advantage. Father Hudson is as conscientious editorially as the late Charles A. Dana, and no line passes without his careful revision. The qualities which distinguish him and which have made his success as an editor are his inflexible industry and his wide sympathy.

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