

Irish News

ANTRIM—The Member for West Belfast

Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., who accompanied Mr. John E. Redmond to the United States, and remained there for some time after the Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, had a great reception on his return to Ireland. He was the recipient of addresses at Queenstown and Limerick Junction, and was to be entertained at a banquet in Belfast.

Rathlin Island

Rev. E. V. MacGowan, Adm., Rathlin Island, was received in private audience by the Holy Father the other day. His Holiness, who was greatly interested in Rathlin, presented Father MacGowan with rare and costly vestments for his church, and charged him with the duty of conveying the blessing of his Holiness to the islanders.

The Duty of the Laity

The Most Rev. Dr. Tohill, Bishop of Down and Connor, presided at the quarterly general meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, held in St. Mary's Hall, Belfast, on Sunday, December 13. In replying to an address presented by the members, the Bishop said nowadays some people think and say that the clergy do not sufficiently encourage the laity to take their due share in social work connected with the Church. For his part he most earnestly invited Catholic laymen, especially the younger men and those possessed of leisure, means, and education, to join the ranks of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and to take charge of the whole social work in its entirety—the moral, charitable, and physical improvement of the poor of Belfast. The spiritual directors and the clergy, as far as they had time and opportunities to co-operate, would gladly do so. Let them not fear to adapt their society to the changing circumstances of modern life and the new demands that may be made upon them in the interests of the poor.

ARMAGH—Dedication of an Altar

An interesting religious ceremony took place in the new church of the Immaculate Conception, Monasterboice, on Sunday, December 13. On that day the splendid high altar, the gift of a generous family, the Messrs. Brannigan, of Tymullen and Irishtown, was solemnly consecrated by the Most Rev. Dr. MacSherry, Bishop of Port Elizabeth and Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern Vicariate of South Africa, who is a native of County Armagh.

CAVAN—Death of a Nobleman

The death is reported of Lord Annesley at the age of 78 years. His Lordship entered the army in 1851, and saw service in the Crimea. He represented Cavan in Parliament from 1857 to 1874, when he succeeded to the title and the estates. Since then he has resided almost constantly at Castlewellan, and took considerable interest in the management of his estate. The gardens and grounds contain one of the largest collections of native and exotic rare trees and shrubs in the United Kingdom.

CORK—A Prelate thanks the Irish Party

In a letter to Mr. John Redmond, M.P., thanking that gentleman for copies of the Irish Land Bill and the Removal of Catholic Disabilities Bill, the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, takes the opportunity of congratulating the Irish leader and the Irish Party upon their recent splendid work in the House of Commons, especially on their defence of the educational rights of Catholics under the discarded Primary Education Bill for England and Wales. Their action was, his Lordship says, the most cogent reply to their ungenerous critics.

A Centenarian

A very remarkable East Cork farmer has just passed away in the person of James O'Sullivan, of Dungleary, Midleton. Deceased, who had attained the extraordinary age of one hundred years, was considered the oldest inhabitant in the district. Early last year he appeared as plaintiff in a land settlement action before the Chancery judge in the Four Courts, Dublin. He was complimented by judge and counsel on his extraordinary vitality and mental vigor.

DUBLIN—A Philanthropist

By the death of Mr. Charles Kennedy, Dublin has lost one of its most charitable citizens. Mr. Kennedy was widely known as an untiring philanthropist, who was never appealed to for any good cause in vain.

Death of a Religious

In the Dominican Convent, Kingstown, on December 11, took place the death of Mother Imelda Maher. Mother

Maher's religious life extended over fifty-six years. She was a sister of Mother de Rici, late Prioress, Cabra.

A French Visitor

M. Rene Bazin, Professor in the Catholic University of Angers, delivered an interesting address to the students of University College, Dublin, on December 10. He was introduced by Very Rev. W. Delany, S.J., who described him as one of the foremost writers in France, and said his works breathed nothing but the highest and purest sentiment. In the course of his address M. Bazin asked Irishmen not to think harshly of France. They were far from her, he said, but near to her in heart and sympathy. He urged them not to believe all the evil they heard of her. She was not irreligious; her religion was oppressed, but it was not on that account weak.

A Narrow-minded Society

Mrs. J. R. Green, a brilliant Irish lady, daughter of a late prominent Protestant clergyman, widow of a great English historian, and herself the writer of remarkable contributions to English historical literature, recently published a sketch of Ireland during the 'Dark Ages.' It was a marvellous volume—a triumph of honest research and patriotic industry (says the *Irish Weekly*). Mrs. Green proved conclusively that the semi-barbaric and almost wholly stagnant and 'illiterate' Ireland of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, with which the world had been familiarised for generations by 'histories' of those times gleaned from English sources of mis-information, had no existence in fact; and that this country was really a prosperous land outside the narrow area of British influence—well tilled, possessed of thriving industries and manufactures, an extensive and far-reaching trade with foreign nations, and a population versed in the arts of peace and war alike. No one has ventured to combat Mrs. Green's assertions and conclusions; but the Royal Dublin Society have, by the vote of a majority of the members, refused the hospitality of their library to her book. The members of the society guilty of this miserable and bigoted action are wealthy persons: presumably graduates of Trinity or of the old 'Queen's Colleges' in many cases. If some enemy of Ireland wrote a book alleging that the people of the country were elementary savages four hundred years ago, the society—to whose upkeep the Irish people contribute very largely—would have given the printed libel a prominent place on their shelves. Yet they ban the most valuable historical work on Irish history published since the days of Keating and the Four Masters.

GALWAY—Advantages of the Port

Mr. Charles Devlin, Canadian Minister, in the course of an interview recently, said Galway is the only natural Irish port of the All-Red route.

LIMERICK—The Revival of Irish Industries

An important meeting was held in Limerick recently to further the Industrial Revival in Ireland. Lord Dunraven was the principal speaker, but the meeting had no partisan limitations, the speakers including Dr. Windle, the Principal of the Queen's College in Cork; Mr. T. F. Gill, Sir Alexander Shaw, and Alderman Joyce, M.P. Lord Dunraven, in his address, said it was the bounden duty of the Irish people to help each other in the industrial movement. Although Ireland was, and always would remain, an agricultural country, they should, nevertheless, build on that foundation other industries that would absorb energy and intelligence. The industries of the country had been killed and crushed out, and nobody but the people could revive them.

MEATH—Stopping a Hunt

The Meath Hunt is composed of a number of landlords in County Meath, the head of the Hunt being Lord Fingall, a Catholic nobleman. The members of the Hunt also include some landlords and their families (one in particular) who have taken strong and prominent part against the tenantry in its efforts to acquire by purchase the land its members till. Much of the land over which the Hunt takes place is now the property of the tenants, who have bought it out from the landlords. Therefore it rests with the tenants to say whether or not they shall permit hunting over their ground. They have intimated to Lord Fingall that while he, and the members of the Hunt generally, will be made perfectly welcome to hunt over the land belonging to the peasant proprietors, there are some members of the Hunt to whom that privilege cannot be accorded on account of those members having made themselves conspicuous by their opposition to popular demands. The parish priest of Kilbeg, in a letter to Lord Fingall, says that he considers the resolution of the people to be quite logical and reasonable.

SLIGO—A Novel Case

A novel case in connection with the Old Age Pensions, and one which will scarcely find a parallel in Ireland, has

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