

Irish News

DERRY—An Unique Experience

There recently died in the district of Ballymultimber, Magilligan, County Derry, one Alexander McLaughlin, who for almost the long period of 74 years enjoyed a happy married life with her who survives him, and whom he took for 'better or worse' to share in all his joys and sorrows on December 23, 1834.

DUBLIN—An Appointment

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has nominated General Sir William Francis Butler, G.C.B., to be a member of the Corporation of the Royal Hibernian Military School, in the room of Sir John E. Barry, resigned.

Timely Intervention

Owing to the timely intervention of the Lord Lieutenant and the Under-Secretary for Ireland, the carters' strike which was paralysing business in Dublin has come to an end, and the strikers resumed work on December 21.

The National University

By the unanimous election of his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin as the first Chancellor of the new National University the right man was chosen for a position of the gravest responsibility (says the *Catholic Times*). He was a tower of strength to all the Catholics of Ireland for the past quarter of a century during the agitation for the establishment of the University. His voice was always firm and clear, and his extensive knowledge of the educational requirements of the people and of the circumstances under which former attempts by statesmen to settle the question had failed, enabled him to render invaluable assistance in the promotion of a practical solution of the problem. To the stimulating influence of his speeches and his writings the action of Mr. Bryce and Mr. Birrell can be largely traced. It was fitting, then, on this account alone, that the choice of the Senate should have fallen on him for Chancellor. But there was another consideration which could not be overlooked. In the case of the University as of every other undertaking, a good beginning is half the work. A good beginning, however, there could not be unless there were at its head one in whom Irish Catholics of every class have confidence. We need scarcely say that that confidence the Archbishop of Dublin possesses in the fullest measure. The Catholics of Ireland know that throughout his career his Grace has had nothing so much at heart as the interests of his country and his fellow-countrymen.

Lecture by Sir William Butler

On December 17 in the Mansion House, Dublin, General Sir William Butler, G.C.B., delivered an eloquent address on 'Charles Stewart Parnell,' in aid of the Parnell Monument Fund, before a large and enthusiastic audience, which included the most prominent city Nationalists and a big proportion of ladies. Sir William Butler said he proposed to speak of a man whose precise place in history was still difficult to determine, a man who came into the political life of Ireland without any previous preparation, without notice, without training, suddenly, unexpectedly—a man who almost from the moment when his feet touched the deck of our island ship at the age of 29, took the helm as easily and confidently as though he had grown to command through long years of political apprenticeship and professional service; a man whose youth or college course had not been passed in the study of Irish history, who had never brooded over Irish wrongs, nor travelled among the people of the island, nor shared their lives nor devoted himself to their politics, nor written nor read about them; a man whose first attempt to enter the political arena in 1874 had been a total failure; of whom critics of the time wrote that he was only a respectable mediocrity, that he had no political capacity whatever, and whose place at the General Election of that year was at the bottom of the poll. A short fifteen years formed the span of his active life, starting from 1875, which saw him classed as an ordinary unit among the political nonentities of the day, and ending in 1891, the foremost figure among many notable personalities of the era, and one, perhaps, whose name was destined to float longest above the surface of the years to come.

FERMANAGH—Bridging Lough Erne

Lisnaskea Fairs and Markets Committee have initiated a proposal of the greatest importance, not only to Lisnaskea but to the whole of South Fermanagh, namely, the building of a bridge across Upper Lough Erne. The place where it is proposed to put the bridge is known as Fox's Ferry, where the lake narrows to a breadth of about 90

Irish perches. Nearly half-way across is Thanish Island, on which it is proposed to rest the bridge. There is a good deal of traffic across the lake at this ferry, especially by those from the Derrylin district on the west side, attending Lisnaskea fairs and markets.

KERRY—Intermediate Education

The Most Rev. Dr. Mangan, Bishop of Kerry, speaking at the Christmas distribution of prizes to the students of St. Brendan's Seminary, Killarney, said that while large grants from Imperial sources were made to England, Scotland, and Wales for secondary or intermediate education, not a penny was given to Ireland. This was deplorable and disgraceful, and should not be tolerated. The Irish intermediate schools had lost at least 40 per cent. in grants for the last five years. St. Brendan's Seminary, with its increased number of passes, had lost at least £300 a year.

LIMERICK—Fire in a Girls' School

At an early hour of the morning of December 19, the girls' school, Kilmallock, in charge of the nuns, was observed to be on fire, which extended to the boys' school, which is attached. Both were destroyed, together with practically all they contained. The damage is probably £1500 or £2000. In attempting to save a statue the Rev. Mother ran a great risk, while Father Mangan had a miraculous escape.

Three Brothers in the Sacred Ministry

The Rev. T. F. O'Neill, Rev. T. O'Neill, and the Rev. James O'Neill, three brothers, natives of the County Limerick, who are on the mission in Australia (says a Dublin correspondent), left Liverpool in December en route for that continent, after having paid to Europe a visit of some months, during which they were received in special audience by the Holy Father. His Holiness said he was much pleased to receive at one time three brothers who are giving their services to God in the sacred ministry. A fourth brother was also on the mission in Australia, but he died some time ago.

Death of a Prominent Business Man

The death is reported of Sir Thomas Cleeve, High Sheriff of Limerick City. The deceased was one of the leading commercial men of the city, and was a great favorite with all classes in the community. Although a Protestant and Unionist he was elected to every prominent position in the gift of the people. Sir Thomas Henry Cleeve was a son of the late Mr. Edward Elms Cleeve, of Richmond, Quebec. He went to Limerick as a youth to assist his uncle, Mr. Jaurneau, proprietor of Messrs. J. P. Evans and Co., and showed such marked ability that he rapidly rose to a prominent position in the firm. Later on his enterprise found an outlet in the direction of establishing and developing the condensed milk and creamery, which, with the more recently established caramel and chocolate factories, have helped to make Limerick manufacture famous in all parts of the world. Sir Thomas took an active part in local affairs. When the Local Government Act came into force he was elected Councillor for the Custom House Ward, and remained in office till 1902, when he did not seek re-election. In 1905 he was placed at the head of the poll in the Castle Ward, and retired finally from the Corporation last January. He was High Sheriff of the city in 1899-1900, in 1900-1, and was chosen for that high office this year again. The honor of knighthood was conferred upon him during the late Queen's visit to Ireland in 1900. He was D.L. and J.P. for the city, was a member of the Harbor Board and of the Chamber of Commerce, having been chairman of the last-named body last year, and he was unanimously re-elected a few months ago. Sir Thomas was chairman and managing director of the Condensed Milk Company of Ireland; senior partner in Messrs. Cleeve Bros., of Limerick, London, and Liverpool; proprietor of Messrs. J. P. Evans and Co., and had also a large share in the business of the Cleeve Canning and Cold Storage Company, New Westminster, British Columbia.

LOUTH—A Venerable Priest

The parishioners of Cooley, near Dundalk, recently celebrated the golden jubilee of their venerable and respected pastor, Rev. Hugh Murphy. Father Murphy was born in the parish of Killeshill, County Tyrone, on August 28, 1823. He is thus an octogenarian, the oldest priest in the archdiocese of Armagh, and his present state of health gives promise of many years of work amongst his parishioners yet. He was ordained in All Hallows College in September, 1853, and was appointed curate to the parish of Ravensdale, County Louth. In 1869 he was appointed curate in Cooley parish, and was subsequently made pastor of the parish in succession to the late Canon McCrystal. He has thus completed 50 years in the priesthood, and during that time he has carried out many important parochial works. An address has been presented to Father

J. O'ROURKE,

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