

Murphy by his parishioners, and it was accompanied by a beautiful suite of vestments (made in the Mercy Convent, Dundalk), the gift of the Sacred Heart Society of Cooley, which boasts a membership of 1800.

WESTMEATH—Division of Ranch Lands

A large area of ranch land has been distributed in North Westmeath, some five miles from Mullingar. The lands distributed are situated in the districts of Mace-town, Cooksborough, Ballinderry, and Glaxtown, and are portions of the Pakenham estate.

GENERAL

A Venerable Age

The remarkable age of ninety-eight years was reached by Mrs. O'Malley, mother of Mr. William O'Malley, M.P., whose death was announced on December 21.

A Terrible Clearance

In the course of a speech in Belfast on December 21, Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., said that he had never believed, and he dared say that he could also say that he had never desired, that Ireland should ever become a great manufacturing country in the sense that England and Scotland were manufacturing countries. These things brought along with them troubles that they were happily rid of in Ireland, and he held that if the Irish people cared to work the land of Ireland—and that was not by rearing bullocks instead of men—if they would take care to have a mixed system of farming in this country—for he did not wish to drive out all the cattle—or if they would have a mixed system of farming with small industries where they could be suitably started and profitably worked, in ten years they would have another country to what they had now. But the thing was not easily done. When they talked about a mixed system of farming they must remember what had taken place. He drove the other day over a huge tract of Irish country devoted to sheep and to cattle, and from that tract of country some sixty years ago eleven thousand families had been driven. They heard a great deal about other drives to-day. They heard very little about the human drive that took place in those ghastly years. That great drive in the late forties and the early fifties changed the whole face of Ireland, and they had now, whether they liked it or not, great portions of the country devoted to cattle; and even when they were transferring the land now, in the endeavor to undo this, they found every effort blocked and impeded by the habit that had been engendered in the people of trusting to grass, and not to tilling; and land given to the people now for the purpose of altering this whole system was all often sub-let, a small part of it tilled, and a great part of it given over to cattle. It would be a long and a weary work before the mischief that was done in the late forties and early fifties was undone.

A Housing Bill

Like England and Scotland, Ireland has its slums, and some of them inimical in the most extreme degree to health and comfort. Social betterment there cannot be till those hot-beds of disease are swept away. This problem was taken in hand some time ago by the Irish Party. Mr. J. J. Clancy, M.P., who had carefully studied it, undertook to draft and introduce a Housing Bill. The provisions of the Bill bore testimony to the hon. member's legal ability and his knowledge of the people's wants. The ingenuity displayed in the arrangements for liberating certain Irish funds in order to provide the requisite finance elicited general admiration, and Mr. Birrell very willingly gave his support to the Bill, recognising that its main purpose—to enable urban authorities to take steps for the better housing of the poor in the towns—was one to which the Irish Executive could not deny its practical sympathy. But the acquisition of land for sites for dwellings was to be cheapened and quickened. A number of the Lords were, therefore, hostile, and in the Upper House the measure was shorn of some of its desirable features. But such as it is, the Act is most welcome to the Irish people, and we feel sure that through its instrumentality the death-rate in the large centres of population will be reduced. The Act may be described as a valuable gift from the Irish Party to the cities and towns of Ireland.

Messrs. Brown, Ewing, and Co., Ltd., Dunedin, are giving, during the current week, stocktaking bargains in men's and boys' clothing....

Highlander Condensed Milk was awarded a silver medal at the recent Franco-British Exhibition, London. The judges in their award acknowledged its fine quality, purity, and richness in cream—features which all users in the Dominion have long since recognised....

People We Hear About

One of the unexpected events of the national election in the United States was the defeat of Mr. Bourke Cockran in New York. The presence of the famous Irish-American orator will be missed in Congress.

Lady Ellen Russell of Killowen is the daughter of Stevenston Mulholland, M.D., of Belfast. In 1858 she married Lord Russell of Killowen, who was Lord Chief Justice of England from 1894 to 1900. Like her sisters, Lady Gilbert and Miss Clara Mulholland, Lady Russell is an author of some repute. Her stories have been contributed to periodicals, but none of them have yet been published in book form.

Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, M.P., has been the member of Parliament for South Down since 1902. Mr. MacVeagh, who is a journalist, was born in 1870, and is the son of Mr. Thomas MacVeagh, a Belfast ship owner. He was educated at Belfast and at the Royal University of Ireland, and he is the London correspondent of the *Belfast Irish News*, and was formerly the special Irish correspondent of the *London Daily News*.

Right Rev. Mgr. Robert Fraser, D.D., LL.D., the Rector of Scots College, Rome, was ordained in Rome in 1882, and thereafter, until 1897, he was engaged in mission work in Scotland, and he was also for a considerable time a professor at Blairs College. In 1897 he became Rector of the famous Roman College for Scottish clerical students, and his excellent work in that institution is well known to everyone. In 1898 Father Fraser was named Domestic Prelate, and in 1904 Protonotary Apostolic. On the occasion of his sacerdotal jubilee, Mgr. Fraser received a congratulatory letter from his Holiness Pope Pius X.

In the presence of a distinguished and brilliant assemblage, with military show and martial music, the Federal statue of General Philip H. Sheridan, cherished as one of the nation's greatest soldiers, was unveiled in Sheridan Circle, Washington, on November 25, by the dead hero's son, Lieutenant Philip H. Sheridan. With President Roosevelt sat the widow of General Sheridan, with her daughters and son and her husband's brother, Brigadier-General Michael V. Sheridan, U.S.A., Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, Cabinet members, members of the diplomatic corps, high officers of the army and navy, and many leaders outside of official life in the society of the capital.

It may not be generally known that the late Lord Petre was related to the historic North-country family of the Earl of Derwentwater, the ill-fated owner of Dilton Castle and estate. The eighth Lord Petre in 1732 married the only daughter of the Earl of Derwentwater, from whom the late Lord Petre descended. In the ancestral home of the Petres at Thorndon, in Essex, are preserved numerous relics of the unfortunate Earl of Derwentwater, together with the suit of black velvet which he wore on the scaffold. And there the remains of the Earl are now at rest in the family vault of the Petres, near to those of his daughter. After the sale of the Dilton estate in 1874, the coffins in the private chapel were removed to the cemetery of the Catholic church at Hexham; but that of the Earl of Derwentwater was taken to the Petre vault at Thorndon.

General Sir William Butler, in the course of a lecture in Dublin on 'Charles Stewart Parnell,' said it might be asked what was the secret source of the great success and the rapid pre-eminence of the great Irish leader. The answer, he thought, could be given in a few words. The inner force or essence of Parnell's nature was neither political nor administrative, legal, or judicial, or academic; his innermost instinct was rule, command. He thought the word 'hold' best suited the attribute in the catalogue of phrases which men had coined to express the supreme in human nature. Had Parnell adopted the military profession, he had in him, in the highest degree, that natural instinct, rapidity of judgment, which was the first essential in war. Rule, judgment, daring: these were the qualities the possession of which made Charles Stewart Parnell, at the age of 30, the most powerful leader known in Ireland during the last 700 years of her harrowed history. But, running under and through those great rocks of character foundation, there was something else which was altogether the product of the land in which he was born, and of the times in which he lived. Courage, grasp, judgment belonged to no particular land or class, but this other quality of which he spoke was essentially Irish. He could find no precise name for it in the English language, perhaps, because persons of peculiarly English race seemed to be little accustomed to use it. It was sympathy with suffering peoples, it was rage and anger against injustice.

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