

Irish News

ANTRIM—A Change for the Better

We (*Catholic Times*) are sure that in the minds of many readers of the papers in Ireland a report of a meeting held some few days ago in Belfast must have produced no little astonishment. It was a drawing-room meeting which was convened at the City Hall under the auspices of the Irish Industrial Development Association. The Dowager-Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava presided, quite a number of high-born ladies were present, and the following resolution was proposed by Lady Londonderry: 'That it is our duty to encourage Irish industries and assist in solving the problems of unemployment and emigration by purchasing the products and manufactures of our country.' Our country! Lady Londonderry speaking of Ireland as her country! Why, the good time is coming when Lord Londonderry and Irishmen of his class will begin to feel that they have something to live for besides abusing their country and their countrymen. This meeting in Belfast is indicative of a profound change in the sister country. Hitherto the Irish tenant-farmer and the Irish peasant who felt, as common men do feel, that they had a country which claimed their hearts' allegiance, never dreamt that members of the landed aristocracy such as Lady Londonderry would avow with pride that Ireland was their country. If noble lords and ladies loved the green isle they successfully concealed their affection. Lord Londonderry may speak harshly of popular movements for reform in Ireland, but they have certainly had their effects on his good lady, though she may not be aware of the fact.

CORK—The Patents Law

The action taken by so many public bodies in Ireland to bring before foreign manufacturers affected by the new Patents Law the advantages of districts in Ireland as sites for factories has already borne fruit. A German firm has decided to establish a piano factory at Youghal. Another German firm engaged in the manufacture of electric specialities is, it is reported, in negotiation with Buncrana land-owners for the purchase of the site for an extensive factory.

DERRY—A House with a History

A notable building, Ballyscullion House, situated about a mile from Bellaghy, County Derry, is to be sold. Long ago it was known as 'Bishop's Folly,' or the Palace, and owed its erection to the munificent ideas of the Earl of Bristol, who was made Bishop of Derry in 1758. The structure was designed after the best Italian style, and much of the material employed was from the quarries in the county. It had special departments for collections of art treasures, and took sixteen years in building. It extended about 359 feet. The central part was an oval, 94 feet by 84 feet, of which the exterior wall was ornamented with Corinthian pilasters, and two long corridors from either side extended to picture galleries each 32 feet by 25 feet. The building was not completed when the Bishop died, and subsequently the elegant structure was much dismantled.

DUBLIN—The National University

At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Irish Catholic Hierarchy it was unanimously resolved to issue for publication the following statement:—As this is the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops since the Charters of the National University and of its Constituent Colleges have been issued, we avail ourselves of the occasion to express the profound interest we feel in the very important work that the Statutory Commission, the Senate, and the governing bodies of the colleges have taken in hand. We entertain no doubt whatever that, no matter how slender the resources of Irish Catholics may be, means will be forthcoming to enable the students of the colleges to have from the outset the advantage of the highest education in the truths of religion, and the necessary facilities for the practice of Divine worship. A college destitute of such spiritual provision as this would be utterly out of keeping with the sacrifices of Ireland for the Faith, and quite devoid of any claim on the confidence of the Episcopate. It shall therefore be our endeavour to secure the means of providing for religion as worthily as may be and in such manner as will be altogether acceptable under the Universities Act of 1908.

GALWAY—A Bog Slide

On Sunday night, January 17, an immense quantity of bog slipped at Kilmore, near Ballygar, County Galway, overwhelming several houses, the occupants of which narrowly escaped with their lives. The bog came from Mount Mary, which is covered with several thousands of acres of heath, and it is supposed the heavy rain following a

severe snowfall caused the bog to shift along the bottom of the mountain, where there are little hamlets occupied by small farmers. The occupants of the houses, on receiving the alarm, had to spring from their beds and rush undressed from their houses. The cattle in the outhouses had in several cases to be abandoned. There was barely time to carry off the children. It is feared that one old woman named McDonnell has lost her life, as her cottage is submerged. Over a hundred horses and carts were endeavoring on the Monday to remove the bog and slush from the houses, but the bog moved again on Tuesday at the rate of about five miles an hour. Farmers whose holdings were in the course of this second movement became greatly alarmed, and immediately set about clearing out their stock and furniture. Laden carts filled the roadways in the scramble to reach a place of safety. Over 100 acres of land which on Monday was under grass was on Monday covered by twelve feet of bog. The loss to the unfortunate farmers is very great. Not only are their houses, and in some cases their stock, gone, but the land will never again be of any use to them, as the mass of bog is constantly piling up on it.

KILKENNY—Practical Toleration

At a recent meeting of the Kilkenny Corporation a cordial vote of thanks was accorded unanimously to Captain the Hon. Otway Cuffe, retiring Mayor of the city. In reply he said no words of his could adequately express his appreciation of the courtesy and consideration extended to him by every member of the Corporation. It had been made a reproach against Irishmen that no one who in religion or politics differed from the majority was likely to receive honor from the people. He was no politician, and he was the only non-Catholic in the Corporation, yet they gave him the highest honor in their gift, a proof, he thought, that in Ireland the people could and did rise above political considerations. The main point with the people was: did the man they meant to honor care about his country, and he believed it was because he had shown that he did care for Ireland that he had been so honored and trusted.

KING'S COUNTY—The Late Lord Rosse

The late Earl of Rosse left personal estate of a total value of £80,178. Testator left £1000 to the Science School Fund of Trinity College, Dublin, the famous Rosse telescope and all his scientific instruments, apparatus, and papers to his sons in the order of seniority, successively, whom failing, to the Royal Society, London; and he left £2000 upon trust for the upkeep of the said Rosse telescope.

LEITRIM—A Papal Honor

Monsignor Prior, who has been appointed by Pope Pius X. as judge of the Tribunal of the Rota, is a native of the diocese of Kilmore, Ireland, his birthplace being in Coragh, Lower Drumreilly, County Leitrim.

LIMERICK—Technical Scholarships

The donation of £500 given by Lord Dunraven for the foundation of technical scholarships in Limerick has been supplemented by a similar amount from the Department of Agriculture, making £1000, and a scheme of administration has been prepared by the Department by which scholarships valued at £50 each, tenable for three years, will be available.

TYRONE—A Centenarian

Hale and hearty and in full possession of all her faculties is Mrs. Hannah McKenna, who lives at Ballygawley, County Tyrone, and who recently celebrated her one hundredth birthday. She is smart and active and able to thread a needle without the aid of glasses. She has always been of a healthy disposition, and attributes her longevity to her mode of living—plenty of sunshine and an abundance of plain, healthy food.

WATERFORD—Mount Melleray

The death of the Right Rev. John Carthage Delany, late Abbot of Mount Melleray, took place on January 15. He occupied the onerous position for about fifteen years, but was obliged to resign recently owing to ill-health, and was succeeded by Right Rev. Maurus Whelan, the present Abbot. The deceased was well known for his simplicity of character, humility, and piety, and he won for himself the esteem and love of his brethren in religion.

GENERAL

Irish Names in Jamaica

In the current issue of the *St. Vincent de Paul Quarterly*, New York, is an interesting account by Rev. Patrick F. X. Mulry, S.J., of a missionary's life in Jamaica. It seems even in that sub-tropical island, and among the colored population, Irish names are not uncommon.

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