

Irish News

ANTRIM—Harmful Reading

The Most Rev. Dr. Tohill, Bishop of Down and Connor, visited St. Peter's Church, Belfast, on Sunday, February 14, and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to over 800 children. Addressing the large congregation his Lordship said it seemed some few people belonging to the congregation admitted into their homes newspapers containing long reports, of vile cases tried in certain courts. He hoped that no such papers would be again found in any Catholic home in the parish, and also that those responsible for the selection of books of fiction and history for the Carnegie Branch Library would exclude from its shelves any works of immoral or irreligious tendency. Bad and immoral books were dangerous to all, but especially to young people. Such reading filled the imagination with images of evil that in the end corrupted the soul of the reader. Many persons of experience strongly held that public libraries would prove a questionable boon for the rising generation unless the books were very carefully selected. The Bishop paid to the Catholics of the parish, the most important of those under his charge, a warm tribute of praise, and congratulated the clergy and people on the satisfactory state of religion in it.

The Member for West Belfast

A complimentary banquet to Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., was held in St. Mary's Hall, Belfast, recently, when there was a very large and representative attendance. Mr. John Redmond, M.P., in the course of his speech on the occasion said:—As Chairman of the Irish Party I recognise, as every intelligent man in Ireland recognises, that since the day when Parnell gathered round him that wonderful galaxy of able young Irishmen, 25 or 30 years ago, no man has come into the Irish Parliamentary Party of such commanding political genius and ability as Mr. Devlin. In Parliament he is a tower of strength to the Irish Party, able to state a case with supreme and masterly force, able at a minute's notice to take part in a debate and answer and crush the ablest enemy of the Irish cause. I speak here to-night also as President of the United Irish League. I know no man in Irish public life so versatile as Mr. Devlin.

ARMAGH—Death of a Priest

On February 11 there passed away at Killeshil, Armagh, the Rev. P. Fox, in his 69th year. Father Fox was born in Carrickmore in 1840, and was ordained to the priesthood in Maynooth in 1865. He was parish priest of Killeshil for a period of 28 years.

CORK—Catholic Young Men's Society

The 57th annual meeting of the Cork Young Men's Society was held on February 14. In the unavoidable absence of the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, the chair was occupied by the Right Rev. Dean Shinkwin, P.P., V.G. The attendance, which was large and representative, included the Lord Mayor, the High Sheriff, and the Recorder of the city. The annual report, which showed a year of steady progress in all branches of the Society's work, was read by Rev. Father Knowles, O.S.A., the indefatigable president. The rev. gentleman, in the course of an earnest address, asked was it fair to have that, the premier society of its kind in the United Kingdom, hidden away in a side street, while the splendid institutions of other religious bodies reared their heads proudly in their principal thoroughfares? There was a great future before them, and all they asked was the generous, earnest, and devoted assistance of those who had the interest of the young men of Cork at heart. The best appreciation of their work that could be shown was practical help, by deeds, to extend its sphere for good, to strengthen its resources, and to maintain its position as the best and most useful among the many philanthropic institutions supported and sustained by the open-handed generosity of the citizens of Cork. Addresses were delivered by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Stanley Harrington, and others.

DUBLIN—The Parliamentary Party

A meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party, which was held in the Mansion House, Dublin, on February 11, re-elected Mr. John E. Redmond, sessional chairman. Captain Donelan, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. E. H. Burke, and Mr. J. P. Boland were elected whips; Mr. J. C. Flynn, Mr. W. Redmond, and Mr. R. Hazleton, secretaries; and Messrs. Mooney, Meehan, McKillop, and Abraham treasurers.

A National Loss

Count Plunkett, speaking recently in Dublin, at the conclusion of a lecture on 'Ancient Ireland,' delivered by

Canon Healy, LL.D., said it was estimated some fifty years ago that not less than £10,000 worth of early Irish gold ornaments had been thrown into the melting-pot. Yet the treasury of such objects in the National Museum compared favorably with the other great collections of ornaments in Europe.

The National Convention

The representative character of the National Convention held in Dublin early in February was dealt with by Mr. Devlin at the complimentary banquet in Belfast. Mr. Devlin said: 'There were present 2000 delegates, with their names officially forwarded to Dublin, from nearly 1000 branches of the United Irish League. There was not a single branch of the United Irish League in any part of Ireland allowed representation, whatever its peculiar ideas may have been on the public questions involved—there was not a single branch of the United Irish League allowed representation unless it was duly affiliated. There were 700 delegates from the elected public bodies of the country. We in the United Irish League, in our constitution, adopt an attitude for which there is no precedent in the history of any other country or any other organisation in the world. In England the Tories invite their own organisations to assemble in convention to declare policies and carry out programmes. The Liberal Party pursue the same constitutional form of convention, and the Labor Party also follow this rule. In England and in Scotland the same course is pursued. And what do the Irish Party and the United Irish League do? They invite not only delegates from their own organisation, but the representatives of every public body and every city and town council and every poor-law board, every trade and labor body, and every allied society with the slightest Irish sentiment inspiring it in its work. There never was a broader constitution; there never was gathered in any hall a more wonderful amalgam of all the complex interests involved in the life of the nation. We had at that convention, as I have said, 2000 delegates from the League, 700 delegates from public bodies, and we had 300 priests, the largest body of Irish priests that ever graced an Irish assembly. We had 80 delegates from the United Irish League of Great Britain, and we had 500 delegates from all the other organisations of the country. Leading and guiding and associated with all these various organisations were 80 elected representatives of the people, with the people's mandate, there at the convention to carry it out.'

The Parliamentary Fund

The National Trustees of the United Irish Parliamentary Fund—the Bishop of Raphoe and Messrs. J. E. Redmond, M.P., and John Fitzgibbon—have issued an appeal for funds for the maintenance of the struggle for Home Rule. They say in part: 'The time has come round once again for appealing to you for material support for the maintenance of a pledge-bound and united Irish Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons. We do so with full confidence that your response will be both prompt and liberal. We are not unaware of the influences, some open, some secret and insidious, which have been exerted to discredit the Irish Parliamentary Party and the constitutional movement, and thereby to close up the fountain of popular support for both the party and the movement. We are also aware that, so far as the great, overwhelming mass of our people are concerned, these influences have been exerted in vain. The Irish Party having remained steadily faithful to the trust committed to them, their supporters have remained faithful to the party, seeing in the attacks made on them only an old and battered device for breaking into pieces the chief weapon that exists for accomplishing the desires of the Irish Nation. It remains for the people to show in the coming year, as they have shown in the past, that, so far as material aid for the party can secure it, they will not allow these attacks to succeed.'

FERMANAGH—The Passionist Order

The Passionist Fathers have recently secured the property known as 'The Graan,' situated a short distance from Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, with the intention of establishing there another House of their Order. The Fathers are constantly engaged in conducting missions and retreats throughout the country, and 'The Graan' has been selected for its very central position. Besides, the increasing number of Irish aspirants to the Passionist Order has made necessary the foundation of another House in Ireland.

GALWAY—The Holy Father's Kindness

The Archbishop of Dublin, touched by the distress of those who are suffering owing to the Galway bog slide, ventured to request that the Holy Father would permit him to send to the Archbishop of Tuam for their relief £200 out of the Dublin diocesan collection for the surviving