

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—A Belfast Grievance.—The Protestant papers in Belfast are troubled in spirit because an Orangeman has not been selected as postmaster of the northern capital. The *New Letter* says:—We understand that a letter has been received by an influential gentleman in Belfast to the effect that Mr. Sheridan, the new postmaster of Belfast, is a Roman Catholic, and that one of the reasons why he obtained the appointment, which is regarded as one of the plums of the department, was because he has one year's service longer than Mr. Lindsay. That appears to be an inadequate reason, considering Mr. Lindsay's local experience, which would undoubtedly have been of great advantage, and considering also that the appointment should have been given to a Protestant. We are informed that Mr. Sheridan proved himself an excellent official in Cork.

ARMAGH.—Death of a Religious.—Widespread grief was felt in Lurgan on January 2 when it became known that the Superiress of St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Mother Mary Gertrude O'Hagan, had passed away during the previous night. The deceased was the eldest daughter of the late Charles O'Hagan, J.P., who was extensively engaged in business in Newry, and thus belongs to an old and respected Catholic family. Early in life she displayed a desire to enter into the service of God, and accordingly, at about the age of 20 years, she entered the Convent of Mercy in her native town, Newry, and shortly afterwards took her final vows. She continued there until the month of September, 1871, when she was transferred to St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Lurgan, to fill the then vacant position of rev. mother. The choice proved a most desirable one, as subsequent events have amply shown, for from the time that she took up her duties she laboured with untiring energy, in conjunction with the then parish priest, the Very Rev. James McKenna, to better the condition of the schools and the convent itself.

CLARE.—A Reception Ceremony.—A reception ceremony took place at the Convent of Mercy, Ennis, about the middle of December. The young lady received was Miss Margaret Lenihan, of Scariff (in religion Sister Mary Vincent), niece to the Rev. M. D. Lenihan, P.P., Silvermines, County Tipperary. The Most Rev. Dr. MacRedmond, Lord Bishop of Kullaloe, celebrated the Mass, assisted by the Rev. Father Enright (Diocesan College).

CORK.—Death of a Priest.—The death is reported of the Rev. Father Coveney, of Owens, Cork. Father Coveney entered Maynooth in 1870, and was ordained in 1876, going to Bantry, County Cork, as curate shortly after. Later he was transferred to Bandon, and thence to the chaplaincy of the Cork Workhouse. When he was subsequently sent to Caheragh he found it necessary to take up the cause of the oppressed tenantry. Father Coveney also officiated at Courneys and Dunmanway, and some few years ago took up the curacy at Owens, where he laboured incessantly up to the time his health failed.

Death of a Christian Brother.—Many friends in Wexford (writes a correspondent of the *People*) will regret to learn of the death of Brother Jerome J. Murphy at the Christian Brothers' Monastery, Cork, after a brief illness, aged 69 years. Brother Murphy, who was a most accomplished scholar, was Superior of the Wexford Monastery about ten years ago, and effected many improvements in the schools. He had numerous friends in Wexford who will hear of his death with sorrow. On Christmas Eve his remains were interred in the little cemetery attached to the monastery.

DUBLIN.—The Lord Mayor in the United States.—At a meeting of the Dublin Corporation recently a resolution was unanimously adopted placing on record their high appreciation of the honour conferred on the Lord Mayor by the President of the United States on the occasion of his lordship's recent visit to Washington and the warm reception given to him on that occasion.

Ordinations at Clonliffe College.—On Sunday, December 24 (writes the Dublin correspondent of the *New Era*), a number of students were ordained at Clonliffe College. His Grace the Archbishop performed the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Father Dunne, vice-president of the College, and the Rev. D. Petit, the Rev. A. J. Moore being master of ceremonies. The following were raised to the priesthood:—Rev. Louis Ryan, Maynooth; Rev. Michael Headen, Clonliffe College; Rev. John Ballist, C.M.; and Rev. John Ellis, All Hallows. Rev. Denis O'Sullivan, C.M., was ordained deacon, and the Rev. Anthony Murphy, Clonliffe, and the Rev. J. Murray were ordained sub-deacons. Father Headen is going to the diocese of Dunedin, New Zealand, of which the Most Rev. Dr. Verdon, a former president of Clonliffe College, is Bishop.

A Portrait of Lord Edward Fitzgerald.—In the National Gallery, Merrion-square, Dublin, is a picture of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, by a contemporary painter, Mr. Hamilton, a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. A copy has just been made by a Dublin painter, Mr. D. J. McEgan, and this has been on view for some time at the Members' room in the City Hall. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Tallon, purchased the painting just before Christmas.

The City Technical Schools.—At the annual distribution of prizes at the City of Dublin Technical Schools the secretary's report showed that great progress had been made during the year, when the largest number of pupils yet reached 1076 were enrolled. The average nightly attendance was 215 as against 249 of the preceding session. A scheme of scholarships for pupils attending the evening classes was established and examinations were held for same in May. The report gave many interesting details of the

various classes, the most recently established of which, namely, a class for teaching the use of the linotype printing machine, is very largely availed of. The Lord Mayor, in the course of his remarks, attributed the backwardness of technical education in Ireland to the neglect of the Government in past years to make any adequate provision for it. But it is to be hoped that a new era is now opening up, and that in future an amount of care and attention more commensurate with its importance will be devoted to the subject of technical education.

KERRY.—The Mackerel Fishing.—On the whole the autumn mackerel fishing along the Kerry coast has been fairly successful. The opening months were the best known for some seasons past, but during the last months the takes of fish were not so numerous. The Great Southern and Western Railway are very much alive to the importance of the fishing industry in this district. They have a project in hand for building a deep-water pier at Kenard Point, so that the fish can be loaded direct from the boats to the trucks. It is also proposed to extend the premises at Valentia Railway Station.

KILDARE.—Death of a Staunch Nationalist.—Through the death of Mr. Thomas Baker, of Allenwood, which occurred recently, the district has lost a staunch Protestant Nationalist, who, unlike the majority of his co-religionists, threw in his lot with his Catholic fellow-countrymen in every agitation carried on for an amelioration of their grievances. In the days of the Land League, and, subsequently, in the days of the National League movement, he was a prominent figure at all political meetings, and attired in the old Irish garb, knicker-bocker, and body coat, evidenced externally what he was in reality—an ideal Irishman.

LIMERICK.—Death of a Venerable Lady.—The death took place recently at Thomond Row, Limerick, of Mrs. Anne Murphy, mother of the Rev. Andrew Murphy, president of St. Munchin's College, Limerick. There has been a succession of bereavements in Father Murphy's family within a short time. Some months since his brother, the Rev. Patrick Murphy, was called away; then his sister, Mrs. Johanna Fitzgerald, died; and finally his mother, who had reached the age of seventy-five, succumbed to a lingering illness.

LONGFORD.—The Hon. E. Blake and the University Question.—In the course of a speech delivered at a public meeting in Longford on January 7, the Hon. E. Blake, M.P., said that the subject of higher education touched in the most vital spot the growth and elevation of the people. 'It is not a question for the few (he said) who can directly enjoy the blessing; it is a question for the masses, who must largely depend on the trained and broadened, the strengthened, instructed and elevated minds of the race for guidance and leadership. It is a burning shame that in this country, famed of old for the pursuit of learning under barbarous and incredible obstacles, there should be no suitable provision for the highest cultivation of the intellects of the great Catholic majority. Now, though some leading men in both British parties acknowledge the grievance, they seem powerless to redress it. In fact, the Conservative party counts in its ranks many of the extreme Low Church section and of the Orangemen; while the Liberal party gains its greatest strength among the Nonconformists. But in these elements of the British population mingled with numbers holding broader and more generous sentiments, there are yet to be found in one quarter many examples of the survival of an intense hostility to Roman Catholicism, and in another quarter many more examples of a determination, in the supposed interest of common or non-sectarian education, and in despite of the fact that Irish education is now almost universally denominational, to refuse to the majority here a University, though by no means exclusive, yet as Catholic in atmosphere as Trinity College is Protestant. This condition of political opinion bars the door to Parliamentary success on this, treated as an isolated question. It can prevail only as an element in a great imperial settlement of the Irish difficulty. I agree then in the view expressed by a most eminent Irish ecclesiastic, that this question depends upon Home Rule. I am proud to remember—for it happened that I myself suggested the plan to our friends of the Irish Committee—that the amended scheme proposed to the House of Commons in 1893 was then received with practical unanimity. But the fruition of that or any other scheme is now, I believe, inexorably bound up with the larger question of Home Rule. Still we should press for redress, and make manifest our sense of this as a serious National grievance.' The conclusion of the speech was a strong plea for unity.

GENERAL.

Proposed National Assembly.—A special meeting of the Wexford County Council was held on December 23, at which a delegation was appointed to represent the Council at the National Assembly of Ireland. Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart., M.P., in moving the resolution delivered an important speech, in which he explained his position in the matter, and dwelt at length on the possibilities of a properly organised National Assembly. The following is the resolution proposed by the chairman, and unanimously adopted:—That we appoint a delegation of four members of this Council to meet in Dublin a similar delegation from each of the County Councils and County Borough Councils of Ireland, with a view to the formation of a National Assembly, whose duties shall be to formulate the policy of the Nationalists of Ireland; the conduct of Parliamentary elections affecting the National welfare, as the County Councils, Urban Councils, and District Councils shall direct by resolution from time to time. That we respectfully invite the assistance and representation of our clergy in this National Assembly, leaving the form of their representation to their own decision. That we invite the Nationalist members of those County Councils, County Borough Councils, District and Urban Councils, where the Nationalists are in the minority, to send a delegation