

Irish News.

ANTRIM—The Lord Mayor of Belfast.—None of the leading men of Belfast seem particularly anxious to fill the mayoral chair. Up to the middle of December one gentleman after another appears to have definitely declined to have anything to do with the office, and the situation is almost unique in its awkwardness. Never before has there been known such a dearth of candidates.

CLARE—An Eviction.—On the Thursday morning before Christmas Major Fred Cullinane, sub-sheriff of Clare, with six bailiffs, evicted Mr. J. Molony, Brickhills, Cratloe, from the house and farm of 110 acres. All the doors were locked and had to be broken in. Mr. Molony then, at the Sheriff's request, left the house. There were some police present with the bailiffs. This, it is stated, is the fourth time Mr. Molony has been evicted in 14 months. Possession has been taken in connection with proceedings for the recovery of money lent by the old Munster Bank.

CORK—Illness of Dr. Tanner.—The member for Mid-Cork. Dr. Tanner, has been lying ill for some time at Ventnor. The doctor, it is understood, is suffering from lung trouble, and it is very unlikely that he will be sufficiently strong to resume his Parliamentary duties on the opening of Parliament.

Death of a Priest in the United States.—News has been received in Cork of the death of the Rev. Timothy McCarthy, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Toledo, who passed away after a long illness that was the result of tireless and unsparring activity in his duties as priest and pastor. About three months ago, utterly broken down in body and with a spirit wearied of the long combat with disease, Father McCarthy took to the bed from which he never rose. His disinterestedness, his zeal, his devotion to his work and to his flock won not only the respect, but the love of all to whom he had ministered in the 23 years of his priesthood. Father McCarthy was born in Durrus, County Cork, Ireland, November 6, 1843. He went to the United States in 1866, and studied his classics with the Benedictine Fathers at St. Vincent's College, Westmoreland, Pa. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Gilmore, July 6, 1877.

Death of a Nun.—On December 17 there passed to her eternal reward in the Presentation Convent, Doneraile, Sister M. Stanislaus M'Namara. By the pupils and by the community her tact, zeal, and energy were deeply appreciated. It was a source of grief to her two brothers, Rev. Patrick M'Namara, Penicuik, Edinburgh, and Rev. Thomas J. M'Namara, of the Cathedral, Plymouth, that they were unable to be present at her last moments. The latter, however, had the melancholy consolation of assisting at the obsequies, at which he was celebrant.

DOWN—Prior of the Dominican Community.—Very Rev. D. B. Falvey, O.P. (says a Newry contemporary), has been re-appointed Prior of the Dominican Community. The appointment has been received with feelings of the utmost gratification in Newry, Father Falvey being extremely popular not only amongst the Catholic people of the town, but also amongst the members of the different Protestant denominations.

DUBLIN—An heirloom of O'Connell.—The trustees of the National Library of Ireland have just purchased the fee-book of Daniel O'Connell. For the first year his income amounted to only £2 5s 6d. The next year his income was £50, and from that time it rose by leaps and bounds until it reached nearly £4000 a year.

An Alleged Libel.—Mr. J. J. O'Meara, solicitor, acting for Mr. T. C. Harrington, M.P., has served a writ on the *Freeman's Journal* claiming £3000 damages for alleged libel.

The Rotunda.—The noble circular room known as the Rotunda, Dublin, in which the Irish National Convention held its session, was built in 1757 as a place of public entertainment. It is 80 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height, without any middle support. It was the scene of the Convention of the Irish Volunteers in 1783, and of the Catholic Convention in 1793. The Home Rule Conference, which laid the foundations of the present Irish National movement, was held in the Rotunda in 1873. During the year 1793 and the three subsequent years, owing to the disturbed state of the city consequent on the insurrection, the Rotunda and the adjoining rooms were occupied as barracks.

The Decadence of the Stage.—Father Peter Finlay, S.J., in an address to the Dublin Catholic Commercial Club recently, referred to the decadence of the Irish stage. Plays which would not have been tolerated in Dublin 20 years ago were now produced to crowded and delighted houses. He spoke from hearsay only, but his witnesses were thoughtful, level-headed men, who assured him that a grievous moral degradation had fallen upon the Dublin stage, and that it was becoming an increasing moral evil. Dublin Catholics had only to express their disapproval by absence to change that state of things. Catholic papers should refuse advertisements of bad plays and Catholic critics speak out their minds against them.

The Trade in Secondhand Clothes.—Lord Iveagh's gift of a site for an old clothes market in Dublin interests 'the upper classes' more than most people might suspect. Secondhand clothes appear to an astonishing extent in Dublin Society; but all the facts connected with their purchase are carefully guarded by those most concerned. Still, 'figures talk,' and a turn-over of more than £5000 during the one year (handled by a single large firm) suggests a good deal of local patronage, as only a small proportion of the sum refers to the colonial export trade. Particulars furnished from the same source state that there is a large trade in secondhand evening suits among business and professional men of small means, as well

as waiters; and that mantles, day-dresses, jackets, and furs are largely, though secretly, purchased at low prices by Dublin ladies. Evening dresses and millinery are the most difficult to dispose of, and bring the lowest prices when sold.

GALWAY—A Slander Case.—In the Court of Queen's Bench the case of Mr. Thomas Higgins, President of the North Galway Executive of the United Irish League, against Sir Thomas Grattan-Bellew for slander was listed for hearing. Mr. Bushe, Q.C., for the plaintiff, said a settlement had been arrived at. The slander alleged was said to have been uttered at a meeting at which Sir Grattan-Bellew was reported to have said that the plaintiff was dishonest and that he had taken human life. Sir Henry denied that he ever had made such imputations against the plaintiff. A consent had been drawn up in which Sir Henry repudiated having made the alleged charges, and agreed to pay the plaintiff £125 for costs. The consent was made a rule of court.

LIMERICK—A Practical Suggestion.—When the question of insuring the Union premises came before the Limerick Guardians at their last meeting, the Chairman (Mr. O'Regan) said they heard a good deal about paying money to absentee landlords, and they ought not to be paying money to English Insurance Companies when they had good Irish companies with whom they could insure with perfect safety. Mr. Thomas Lane proposed that the insurance of £40,000 be divided between the National and Patriotic Companies. The Clerk pointed out that it would be necessary to ask for tenders, and a notice of motion was given that this course be adopted.

Heroic Act by a Lady.—At the Limerick City Sessions, Mr. Ambrose Hall presiding, Miss Christy, George street, Limerick, was presented with the medal and certificate of the Royal Humane Society as a reward for her gallantry in saving Mrs. Shields, of Castleconnell, from being drowned at Kilkee. Mr. A. Hall, in making the presentation, congratulated Miss Christy upon her gallantry. He said it was the wish of the Royal Humane Society that the presentation would be made in the most public manner. It was a pleasing duty to him to make the presentation, especially as the young lady was a Limerick girl, and particularly in such times as these when so much money is spent for making new inventions to take away life. The medal was for a different purpose—for preserving life.

A Vigorous Criticism of the Irish Educational System.—At the distribution of prizes in Laurel Hill Convent, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, delivered a vigorous criticism on Irish education, primary, secondary, and higher. His Lordship said he believed the payment for education by results was a false system. If they paid for French by the yard, for English by the pound, and science by the parcel, it was just as they paid tailors for the garments they make. They were simply degrading education, and getting results that would be measurable just as mechanics' work was measurable. Some of them had thought to make a change in the present system of education for the betterment of the country for years, but their work was worthless, and so, he believed, the whole of the country was crippled by a truly false and untrue system of education. There was a commission last year to inquire into this intermediate system of education, and they held a very exhaustive investigation, but the evidence on which to decide was largely given by those who were most interested in the pecuniary results of that system. And it was too much to expect from human nature that the people who were making hundreds and thousands of pounds in the year by an injurious system would be very enthusiastic to make a change and try another system that might be better for this country and would undoubtedly be serious for their own pecuniary interests. He believed that weight of money had dragged down the intermediate system of Ireland, and was now, he feared, committed to them for many a day. He thought that hitherto the National system of education was too literary and did too little for the manual and practical training of the people of the country. This was with the result to foster the absurd prejudices that existed in Ireland, and almost exclusively in Ireland, against manual labor. A clerk in Limerick earning 12s or 14s a week would strut down George street with a cigarette in his mouth, despising the honest tradesman who was earning £2 a week. There were lots of people in this country who would rather go to the workhouse than earn their bread by honest labor, and it was this state of things that left the country as it was. Gentlemen aired themselves on starvation and respectability in Ireland, but when they went to America, Australia, or South Africa they had to take off their coats and work to earn their bread. There they contributed to the wealth of the country, and were not consuming the fruits of the earth, as they were in their own country. In conclusion, his Lordship expressed the hope that one of the results of the new system would be to knock the nonsense out of people's heads, and that boys and girls would come to know that labor and work were honorable.

LOUTH—Alleged Libel on the High Sheriff.—It will be remembered (says the Dublin *Evening Herald*) that during the course of the late elections Mr. William O'Brien, M.P., made several speeches in Cork, in which he alleged that the date for the North Louth election had been fixed by the High Sheriff in collusion with Mr. T. M. Healy and the Castle, for corrupt and improper purposes. We learn that the High Sheriff of Louth has issued and served a writ claiming £5000 damages against Mr. O'Brien for alleged libel on him in the discharge of his official duty. It is understood that Mr. T. L. O'Shaughnessy, Q.C., has been retained as counsel for the plaintiff. It is rumored that the High Sheriff is also contemplating proceedings against the *Freeman's Journal* for libel alleged to be contained in the report of Mr. O'Brien's speech and their comments thereon.

MEATH—Religious Bequests.—Before the Irish Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, the will of Mr. John O'Neill, of