

solemnity. Few except the sick and infirm missed the thanksgiving services which were solemnly opened at midnight on the 31st December as the old century expired and the new one came into existence. Never was a scene more impressive held in Ireland. It was indeed edifying in the extreme to see the multitudes wending their way to the various churches. In the cities and large towns it was easy enough, but in remote country districts it was frequently a difficult task. The faithful, however made little of the trouble. For miles and miles they tramped along the roads to the nearest church in order to be present at the solemn Midnight Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, and 'Te Deum.'

The Catholic University Question.—The *London correspondent of the Bradford Observer* writes:—I understand that Mr. George Wyndham is in communication with the Catholic Bishops on the subject of University education in Ireland. The new Chief Secretary shares the views of Mr. Balfour on this question, and I should not be surprised if he attempted to secure support by suggestions of legislation on this question. There is one favorable influence. The Irish Unionist members are not at all on good terms with the Government. Most of them are pledged to compulsory land purchase, and this is a proposal with which the Government will have nothing to do.

The Irish Question from a Scottish Standpoint.—The *Ayrshire Post* says: The presentation of an address to Mr. Kruger, even by a section of the Irish people, is an incident whose significance it would be wrong to ignore. We have no more relish than our neighbors for these manifestations of disloyalty. They are an obvious source of weakness to the Empire. They are a manifest blot on the Queen's head, a proof that Ireland has not shared in the content and national happiness that have been part and parcel of the life of Scotland and England since the Queen ascended the throne. They are a plain source of danger. They are signal evidence of the fact that, while the United Kingdom has strengthened its hold on its Colonies and dependencies in all parts of the world, it has abjectly failed to make Ireland happy, any more than to make Ireland prosperous. As to the solemn fact of Irish discontent there can be no doubt. The sooner Great Britain awakes to the importance of the situation, and to the fact that the United Kingdom is not united, the better; if not for the sake of Ireland, at least for her own sake. For the Empire can never be as strong as it ought to be, with Ireland sulky and discontented, and with coercion as the one practical policy that appeals most forcibly, and commends itself most readily, to the large majority of the people of England. It is the business of statesmen to remedy grievances, and to strike at the causes of disloyalty; to make friends of enemies. There are some indications that ere long Ireland may evoke the consideration of Parliament, and that the calm that has prevailed a while may be broken by storms. We hope not, but should it be so, it will be as well to bear in mind that these things must intermittently be so, so long as the causes of Irish discontent are allowed to remain.

The Parliamentary Fund.—Bishop O'Donnell, of Raphoe, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., and Mr. Stephen O'Mara, the treasurers of the Nationalist Parliamentary Fund, have issued an urgent appeal to the Irish people at home and abroad for the funds necessary to enable the Irish party to give an unremitting attendance in Parliament during the coming Session.

The Stage Irishman.—There was an exceptionally large attendance at the meeting of the Irish Literary Society in London on December 14, when Mrs. Ernest Rhys lectured on 'A Hundred Years of Irish Fiction.' Mr. Anthony Hope was in the chair, and in the audience were to be noticed many well-known writers of the day. In the course of a very interesting and critical discourse, Mrs. Rhys discussed the various types of Irish character which are to be found in works of fiction, and entered an earnest protest against the frequency with which the stage Irishman is portrayed by even the best known authors. She also gave her views upon the prominent Irish writers and their work during the century, especially criticising both Lever and Lover, whose Irishmen, she said, were drawn purely to suit the English taste. Subsequently, in putting a vote of thanks to the lecturer, Mr. Anthony Hope referred to the same subject, of which he did not quite take so strong a view. Stage Irishmen were, he said, produced every day as well as stage Irishmen, and if Irish writers wished to appeal to alien readers it was necessary and excusable to paint a broad and it may be a rather coarse character, because after all a little bit of exaggeration did no harm. Authors liked to be popular, and he did not suppose that in their hearts Irish people were less susceptible to that consideration than the English.

Tussicura, Wild Cherry Pectoral Balm, the famous remedy for coughs, bronchitis, asthma, and consumption, has the largest sale of any throat and lung medicine in New Zealand. Those who have taken this medicine are amazed at its wonderful influence. Sufferers from any form of bronchitis, cough, difficulty of breathing, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, experience delightful and immediate relief, and to those who are subject to colds on the chest it is invaluable, as it effects a complete cure. It is most comforting in allaying irritation in the throat and giving strength to the voice, and it neither allows a cough or asthma to become chronic nor consumption to develop. Consumption has never been known to exist where coughs have been properly treated with this medicine. No house should be without it, as, taken at the beginning, a dose is generally sufficient, and a complete cure is certain. Beware of coughs. Remember every disease has its commencement, and consumption is no exception to this rule. Obtainable from Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., Limited, and all merchants throughout the Colony. Price, 2s 6d.—*.*

People We Hear About.

Mr. C. Burnand, the Catholic editor of *London Punch*, has attained his 64th year.

The eldest son of the Marquis of Dufferin was killed early in the South African war, and another son has now been wounded.

Mrs. Haywood, the widow of the recently-deceased Chamberlain to his Holiness, died on December 14. Like her husband, she was an American convert to the Catholic faith.

The only sister of the late Monsignor Barry, V.G., of the diocese of Westminster, is the well-known Lady Superiress of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin, where for 47 years she, as a Sister of Mercy, has ministered to the wants of the sick and dying.

The Rev. Edward Abercrombie Wilkinson, M.A., Anglican vicar of Whitworth, near Durham, has passed away. He belonged to a very old Durham family, and was a brother of the present Catholic Bishop of Hexam and Newcastle (the Right Rev. Dr. Wilkinson).

Lord Arundell, of Wardour, a Catholic peer, has just attained his 69th birthday. He married a daughter of Mr. John Errington, of High Warden, Northumberland, but has no issue, and the heir to his titles is his brother the Rev. the Hon. Everard Aloysius Gonzaga Arundell, who is in holy orders of the Catholic Church. One of his half-sisters is a nun.

The friendship of the ex-Empress Eugenie for Princess Henry of Battenberg is well-known, and it is believed that she has left the bulk of her fortune and beautiful jewellery to the latter's daughter, Princess Ena. It is now announced that the Princess is in future to be known by the name of Victoria Eugenie.

The oldest Catholic member in the House of Commons is Sir John Austin, who is 77. The following are sexagenarians:—Messrs. J. F. X. O'Brien, P. Carvill, James O'Connor, P. J. O'Brien, Donal Sullivan, W. McKillop, and Colonel Nolan. The youngest member is Mr. O'Shaughnessy (West Limerick), who is only 23. Messrs. Boland, O'Mara, Murphy, and Hope are 30 or under 30.

The youngest direct descendant of the Father of his Country, Miss Mary Washington Bond, has, strangely enough, just married a Catholic and an Italian, Mr. Attilio P. Morosini. Morosini, senr., the father of the groom, disapproved of the marriage because Miss Bond was not a Catholic, but he has since reluctantly relented. The Morosinis are of the staunchest Catholic stock.

Sir John Conroy, Bart., Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, who died recently in Rome, in his 56th year, and by whose death a baronetcy becomes extinct, was not merely one of the most learned scientists in Europe, but the head of an ancient Milesian family in Ireland, and as such entitled of right to be named and addressed as 'The O'Mulconry.' One of Sir John Conroy's ancestors, who had large estates in Connaught, was beggared by the confiscations of Cromwell; another fell at the battle of the Boyne fighting for James II.; Sir John Conroy's grandfather, who was created a baronet, was Equerry to the Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria; and his grandmother, the first Lady Conroy, was always believed to have been the medium of the friendly communication from the Queen in the early years of her reign to Daniel O'Connell. Sir John Conroy's mother was a daughter of Sir Lawrence Parsons, afterwards Earl of Rosse, the vehement opponent of the Union in the Irish House of Commons; and her eldest brother was the Earl of Rosse, the famous astronomer, from whom Sir John Conroy acquired the scientific tastes which made him a renowned Oxford Don, a Lecturer of Physics, and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

An amusing incident occurred at the first meeting of the new Westminster Corporation, London. The council agreed to apply to the Earl-Marshal for a grant of arms, and the Duke of Norfolk (the Mayor of the new borough), with a merry twinkle in his eye gravely informed the members that he would, as Mayor of the city, use his influence with the Earl-Marshal to obtain a favorable consideration of the council's request. The idea of the Duke of Norfolk as Mayor of Westminster pleading with himself as Earl-Marshal was too much for the gravity of the council and the joke was greeted with a peal of laughter. It is very evident that the Duke intends to keep this council in good humor, for he enlivened the proceedings with many pretty flashes of his wit. He proved himself to be exceedingly business-like, and set himself against any undue waste of time. One could not help extending a little sympathy for the photographer—'that horrible necessity of the end of the nineteenth century,' as the Earl called him—who was peremptorily ordered to desist from taking a second shot at the Council, because, in the opinion of the Mayor, he was wasting the time of the members.

The Grand Prix was the highest award obtainable at the Paris Exhibition, and the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, of Chicago, secured this coveted honor, and not only this but they obtained more special prizes than all other competitors. Such a tribute to the worth of the McCormick machines is proof positive of their excellence. Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co., Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, are the agents for the Company's manufactures in New Zealand.—*.*

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—*.*