

favoritism in his dispensing of relief, drew from the gentleman impugned the reply that of the seven applications for outdoor relief supported by him up till the present, five were for Protestants and two for Catholics, an unanswerable rejoinder.

WICKLOW.—A Link With the Past—There died on January 11, in the townland of Ballynultagh, a short distance from Shillelagh, a man named Denis Kealy, who had attained a remarkably advanced age. He was of a robust constitution, and was in his usual state of health almost to his death, which came rather suddenly. By his demise is severed one of the closest ties of the present time with the troubled period of 1798, for he was the son of one of the bravest and most fearless Wicklow pikemen. Poor old Denis gloried in the deeds of his father, and was wont to tell the youths who gathered round his hearthstone the trials and escapes of his sire during the Insurrection in all the battles in which he took part, from Oulart to the end. The interment took place in Kilquiggan cemetery.

GENERAL.

A Contrast.—The recent death of an Irish-American army pensioner, named McKeown, at Stewartstown, is a reminder that there are no less than 400 such pensioners in Ireland drawing sustenance from Uncle Sam's bounty. Their pensions vary from £2 to £9 monthly, according to disability. Even widows and children of Irishmen who have fought and bled on behalf of the United States Government against the Confederates are in receipt of comfortable pensions from across the Atlantic. This state of affairs stands out in bright contrast with the treatment dealt out to those who have suffered amid Crimean snows and on the South African veldt under the Union Jack. One striking instance of the American Government's generosity in this regard may be cited in Dublin, where there at present resides an Irish veteran who lost an arm in one of the fights around Richmond in the Civil War of '61-'65. This man is in receipt of £9 per month from Washington, and every three years is allowed a sum of £10 for the purchase of an artificial arm.

Building Societies.—According to the annual return issued recently, the number of building societies existing in Ireland during the year '99 was 81, possessing a total membership of 14,619. Their total receipts during the year amounted to £187,999, giving an average for each society of £7506, while their total liabilities were £882,115, and their total assets (exclusive of prospective interest) £852,603. One finds that the great majority of the societies are confined to the three cities—Belfast, Dublin, and Derry—Belfast having 35, Dublin 23, and Derry 19, Cork being a long way behind with 4 only. While, however, Dublin has to take second place to Belfast in the number of its societies, it is easily first as regards the extent and importance of their transactions. The annual receipts of the Dublin societies amounted during '99 to £312,696, as against £65,696 for those of Belfast, one Dublin society alone—Irish Civil Service Permanent—having a membership of 1143, with annual receipts amounting to £278,353.

Proposed Visit of the King and Queen to Ireland.—People throughout Ireland will feel particularly concerned at the announcement that the King and Queen have, after anxious deliberation, decided to include Dublin in their coming tour in Ireland. The Royal party will arrive in Dublin on April 23, and will visit the Leopardstown races.

The Bank of Ireland Benefits by the War—There is one institution in Ireland at any rate which has reaped some advantage out of the war. At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of Ireland, the chairman intimated that under the Appropriation Act of 1900 the bank had made advances to the British Government to the extent of a million pounds upon satisfactory terms. Amongst other things made clear by the war this is yet another exemplification of the proverb respecting the 'ill wind.' Bankers, some at least, coal syndicates, and others have had good reason to rejoice exceedingly over the outbreak of hostilities, which has afforded them such an unique chance of pushing business. To do them justice they have availed of the opportunity to the fullest extent. The directors of the Bank of Ireland have declared a dividend of 6 per cent. on the half-year, or 12 per cent. per annum. There has been an increase in circulation during the six months, showing an increase of £117,000 over the corresponding period of 1899, which had recorded the highest point reached for several years. So that altogether this bank appears to have traded exceedingly well throughout the stirring year just ended.

A RICH RETURN.

When a mixture attains so wonderful a success in so short a time as Tussicure has managed to do, it is difficult to speak of the matter in a way that does not appear like exaggeration. Let us look back at the career of this extraordinary medicine from the start. It is only a few months since the proprietor launched it upon the market, and, as it was produced in a comparatively obscure town in Central Otago, it will be seen that the inventor was considerably handicapped. There was no idea of putting forth a cheap mixture—for there are only too many of these before the public at the present time—but the object in view was to use the very best drugs procurable after a careful consideration as to the effect they would have on the systems of persons suffering from particular complaints. People are, not unnaturally, chary of trying a new remedy unless it comes to them heralded by all sorts of bold advertisements, and the proprietor of Tussicure, although he might have expected to have an extremely hard fight in convincing the public of the excellence of his preparation, is naturally gratified at its immediate success. At the same time he recognises that, in order to recoup him for his large expense that he has been put to in preparing the mixture, he must seek a wider field, and the number of testimonials he has received amply justified him in anticipating a success.—*.*

People We Hear About.

When the last mail left Home Dr. Lieber, leader of the Catholic Centre in the German Reichstag, was seriously ill.

There were six Popes in the nineteenth century, Pius VII. from 1800 to 1823; Leo XII. from 1823 to 1829; Pius VIII. from 1829 to 1830; Gregory XVI. from 1831 to 1846; Pius IX. from 1846 to 1878; Leo XIII., the present supreme pontiff, elected February 20, 1878.

Samuel Lewis, the well-known Jewish money-lender, who died in England the other day, left a fortune of between three and four millions, and made bequests to charities amounting to over a million. Under his will the Sisters of Nazareth, Hammersmith come in for £20,000.

Miss Eugenia Washington, a grandniece of George Washington, the first president of the United States, died last November in Washington. A memorial *Requiem* Mass was celebrated for the repose of her soul, December 31, in St. Patrick's Church, Washington. She became a Catholic about 30 years ago.

There was lately buried at the Carlton Catholic Church, England, the venerable Mr. Himsworth, who had reached the patriarchal age of 94. Mr. Himsworth was created a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory, by the Pope, in 1882, for founding a college at Cork, to educate Catholic priests for the African Mission. Ushaw College knew him as a benefactor, and he was one of the principal contributors to the Goole Catholic Church. He gave nearly £50,000 to Catholic institutions.

Colonel Bryan Mahon, the dashing cavalryman who relieved Mafeking, is to be banqueted by his friends of the County Galway, from which he hails. Colonel Mahon, who earned the mess soubriquet of 'The Mahout,' while he was in India, would much rather fight through a heavy battle than attend a banquet in his own honor, but his Galway admirers, proud of the lustre his gallant behaviour has shed upon the old soldier-breeding county, are not to be denied, and he will have to 'face the music.' Colonel Mahon is now 38. He joined the army 17 years ago, so that he has a splendid record for his length of service.

Sir William Butler, who took the chair at the lecture delivered recently by Dr. Todhunter before the London Irish Literary Society, received the cordial welcome of which he has always been secure in any gathering of his fellow-countrymen. Of the many generals with which England has been supplied by the sister country, the *Daily Chronicle* says, Sir William is perhaps the only one who has been sympathetic to national aspirations. There were many Butlers with Farsfield, the Irish General whose patriotism was the topic of the evening. More effective, therefore, was the allusion Sir William made to the illness of the Queen, and to the loyalty which Ireland has shown to her person, and was willing to show again.

Sir Frank Smith, who died early in January in Toronto, was born in County Armagh 79 years ago. When at an early age he went to Canada, he was both penniless and illiterate. He became a clerk in a store, rose to be manager, and afterwards opened a grocery business on his own account in London, Ontario. He went to Toronto in 1867, opened business as a wholesale grocer on a large scale, and retired in 1891 a millionaire. Twenty years before this he was summoned to the Senate by Lord Lisgar, and from 1882 onwards was a member of five successive Conservative Cabinets. In 1894 he was offered the Premiership, but declined in favor of Sir Mackenzie Bowell. He was knighted the same year. Sir Frank was a Catholic.

The death is reported of Mr. Benedict O'Toole, the editor of the *Advertiser*, Birkenhead, England, which took place early in the 31st year of his age. Mr. O'Toole's genial characteristics and his abilities were well known. The position which he had attained at so early an age was a deserved tribute to his journalistic talents. Born in Birkenhead, and educated at St. Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool, Mr. O'Toole was articled to the late Mr. Benjamin Haram, editor and proprietor of the Birkenhead *Advertiser*, in the year 1889, and so highly were his services appreciated that before he had even completed his indentures he became sub-editor and chief of the reporting staff, and since Mr. Haram passed away in 1897 Mr. O'Toole had filled the editorial chair with conspicuous success. He was a typical Irishman, and eminently popular with his colleagues of the press. He was a member of St. Werburgh's congregation, and for years was a bass soloist in the choir, and, a musician of no mean ability, he also held the post of assistant organist. His eldest brother is the Very Rev. Canon O'Toole, D.D., of Oswestry, and his mother, who in her time was noted as a singer, Miss Robson being her name, had just returned from Rome as one of the band of pilgrims under the guidance of the Duke of Norfolk.

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