

scholarly of archaeologists think differently. Father Curry, of Drogheda, in a letter to the Press, quotes Dr. Petrie, an unequalled authority, as declaring that the stone is not in Westminster, but is still in Ireland, and that it is no other than the stone over the Croppies Grave at Tara. O'Donovan, also an archaeologist of unsurpassed scholarship, supports Petrie's view.

Municipal Elections.

A Dublin correspondent, writing under date January 1, says—The municipal elections coming on in Ireland are exciting unusual interest on account of the issues involved. No purely municipal questions seem anywhere at stake. The struggle will be on the broader score of political differences. In Limerick a pledge is being given to Nationalist candidates to vote only for a Nationalist Mayor. Some 'Labor' men voted Tory last time. Annual elections for the mayoralty are also a plank in the platform. In Cork the retiring mayor, Alderman Fitzgerald, though he has worked hard for the exhibition, is being opposed because of his opposition to the United Irish League. The Nationalists were willing enough to see him in again, but they will brook no attack on the National organisation.

Family Names.

It is impossible to obtain the exact data concerning the number of persons bearing any family name in Ireland, but some interesting tables, which give fairly accurate results, can be collated from the Report of Births. Taking this as a basis the leading family numerically in each of the Irish counties would be as follows:—Antrim, Smith; Armagh, Murphy; Carlow, Murphy; Cavan, Reilly; Clare, McMahon; Cork, Sullivan; Kerry, Dougherty; Donegal, Gallagher; Down, Thompson; Dublin, Byrne; Fermanagh, Kelly; Galway, Kelly; Kerry, Sullivan; Kildare, Kelly; King's, Kelly; Kilkenny, Brennan; Leitrim, Kelly; Limerick, Ryan; Longford, Reilly; Louth, Byrne; Mayo, Walsh; Meath, Reilly; Monaghan, Duffy; Queen's, Dunn; Roscommon, Kelly; Sligo, Brennan; Tipperary, Ryan; Tyrone, Quinn; Waterford, Power; Westmeath, Lynch; Wexford, Murphy; Wicklow, Byrne.

Royal Visits.

Remote preparations are being made in Ireland for the King's visit, though its exact date (says London 'Truth') is not yet officially announced in this country. No British King and Queen ever visited Ireland together. During the last century two sovereigns—George IV. and Victoria—visited Ireland. No Royal visit took place in the previous century, the last George being the only one of the four Georges who crossed the Irish Sea. The seventeenth century saw two British Kings in Ireland, who however, did not go to the country on peaceful conditions—James II and William III. They both stayed at Dublin Castle at different times, the last stay of James being for one night after the Battle of the Boyne. Dublin Castle is at present undergoing renovation. Whether or not the King and Queen stay there, the drawing room levee or any State ceremonial which takes place will be held in the State rooms of the Castle. Queen Victoria held a drawing room there over 50 years ago.

Mr. Davitt in Glasgow.

Mr. Michael Davitt, addressing 4000 Irishmen in Glasgow, said Irishmen would not break their political hearts if the Liberals allowed the views of Lord Rosebery and refused the Home Rule measures of 1886 and 1893, for these were lame and unsatisfactory, and constituted the minimum measures of Home Rule which Irish representatives would consider a settlement of the question.

People

The Rev. Herbert Vaughan has passed the examination for the degree of Licentiate in Theology at the Almiria University, Rome.

Miss Kate Livingstone, the sister of Dr. Livingstone, the explorer, recently celebrated her 106th birthday at her home on the Isle of Mull.

The Hon. Marmaduke Stourton, the little seven-year-old son of Lord Mowbray, has been chosen by the Duke of Norfolk to be his page at the Coronation. This is a peculiarly graceful compliment, for Lord Mowbray is claiming the Earldom of Norfolk from the Duke before the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords.

Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of the Customs in China, was born in Portadown (Ireland) 67 years ago. The measure of his success may be gauged by the fact that while the Inland Customs, over which he has no control, goes in the proportion of 90 per cent. in salaries to 10 per cent. to the Treasury, the Marine Customs department, which he controls, precisely reverses the order, salaries absorbing only 10 per cent. of the gross revenue.

The St. Louis papers announce the death of a well-known Irish-American of that city, Mr. Peter A. O'Neill. He was the son of Irish parents, and had amassed a large fortune in business. Very early in his life he and his brother, Hugh O'Neill, began to work their way upward. As his fortune gradually accumulated, Mr. O'Neill invested in real estate, and soon became one of the prominent capitalists of the city, and he leaves a large fortune. At the time of his death Mr. O'Neill was a director of the Mercantile Trust Co. Mr. O'Neill was a director of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, and a member of the grounds and building committee. His name has been connected with many of the most important realty and building deals ever made in St. Louis. He was a devout Catholic and a man of most charitable and kindly disposition.

A good story is recalled by Mr. Barry O'Brien in the 'Life of Lord Russell of Killowen'. Speaking of the famous case of Saurin v. Starr, he describes how Mrs. Kennedy, the mistress of novices, was cross-examined by Coleridge. Coleridge's case was that the breaches of discipline were trivial, contemptible. He pressed Mrs. Kennedy on the point, asking what had Miss Saurin done. Mrs. Kennedy said, as an example, that she had eaten strawberries. 'Eaten strawberries!' exclaimed Coleridge, 'what harm was there in that?' 'It was forbidden, sir,' said Mrs. Kennedy—a very proper answer. 'But, Mrs. Kennedy,' retorted Coleridge, 'what trouble was likely to come from eating strawberries?' 'Well, sir,' replied Mrs. Kennedy, 'you might ask what trouble was likely to come from eating an apple. Yet we know that trouble did come from it.' The answer floored Coleridge. He threw himself back on his seat and laughed. The whole Court laughed.

Telephones can be very treacherous instruments at times. One evening, when Prince of Wales, the King was at a public dinner at which he was to speak. During the meal he told an equerry to send for a book, to which he wished to refer for a fact, from Marlborough House. The equerry gave the necessary instructions, and the hotel manager rang the royal residence up on the telephone. After he had made himself understood there was a pause of many minutes. He rang again, then again, until at last, losing all patience, he literally shouted 'Are you—there? What the—do you

mean by keeping his Royal Highness waiting? Can you find the book or not?' To his angry expositions came the quiet answer, 'We are very sorry to keep you waiting, we are doing our best to find the book, which shall be sent on at once. Please tell my father this because he is so particular.' It was the first, and doubtless he hopes it will be the last time, that the manager had ever rated a Princess through the telephone.

The reign of the Queen-Regent of Spain is drawing to a close, for on May 17 King Alfonso will attain his majority, and, according to the Spanish law will take the reins of Government into his own hands. The young king is now in robust health, and leads a very simple life, with no luxury or pretensions. The summer at St. Sebastian is always greatly enjoyed by the Queen and her children, as there she leads an entirely family life of freedom from all court functions, and the king is delighted to have holidays. He has been extremely well trained, but in a few months his studies will be at an end, and he will be a reigning king. He speaks three foreign languages fluently—English, French, and German.

It has been discovered that a man named John Dalrymple, who was found dead from starvation on Christmas night, amid squalid surroundings, in Palestine street, Belfast, was a well-known Scottish painter and designer. He was not only an exhibitor in the Royal Academy and the Royal Scottish Academy, but took three first prizes for designs at the Paris Exhibition.

The ascetic character and habits of the late Cardinal Manning (says the London 'Free Lance') are still well remembered, and by many people highly venerated, but few know how oddly averse his Eminence was to accepting presents. In the Archbishop's palace at Westminster is a large storage cellar, and some time after the death of the prelate an enterprising priest undertook to hunt up its contents with a view to catalogue them. There he found, wrapped in sacking, packed in great, dusty cases, hidden away in deep mounds of lumber, a perfect Aladdin's cave of the most costly and exquisite articles, jewels, inlaid clocks, pictures, statues, rings, and priceless lace, all bearing inscriptions showing them to be presents from some of the greatest crowned heads of Europe. The good Cardinal had thanked the kind donors, as was his duty, but had ordered the splendid gifts to be consigned to the cellar, where they lay completely forgotten.

The Duke of Norfolk, who kept his birthday on December 27, when he was 51 years of age, was only 13 when he lost his father. On his mother—'Mamma Duchess,' as she was commonly called—devolved the responsibility of his training, and in sending him to Cardinal Newman's school at Birmingham she gratified her strong liking for the Oratorians, whose church in London she always attended. She was a daughter of Admiral Lyons and a convert, as also, in much later years, was her brother, Lord Lyons, British Ambassador in Paris. Miss Lyons met her future husband—then Lord Fitzalan—in Greece, whither, it is said, he had been sent by his family to keep him out of sight of the charms of Miss Pitt. The mot of the day was always ready made: he had escaped from the Pitt, only to fall into the mouth of the Lyons.

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