

nents too cheaply. One very satisfactory result in Dublin was the success of Alderman Farrell, who was strenuously opposed by the publicans on no better ground than that he was a temperance man. Mr. Dillon, who was a voter in the Ward, took an active part in Alderman Farrell's interest, and as a result the Alderman was again returned. In the Mansion House Ward, where another temperance Nationalist was returned despite the opposition of the Tories, the Labor Party, and the publicans combined with Mr. Tallon—who sits himself for this Ward—to do their best against the Nationalist simply because the Nationalist was a temperance advocate. In Cork, the Lord Mayor was opposed on the ground of his political shortcomings, but his energies on behalf of the Cork Exhibition won the day for him.

An Indictment.

Speaking at a largely-attended meeting of Nationalists held recently in Glasgow, Mr. Davitt showed how disastrous the 'Union' has been to Ireland. When the Act of Union was passed, said Mr. Davitt, Ireland had one-half the population of Great Britain, three and a quarter times that of Scotland, ten times that of Wales, and five times that of London. To-day our population is about one-eighth of that of Great Britain, sixteen thousand less than Scotland, and two and a half times that of Wales, and about two millions less than that of Greater London. Going beyond the bounds of these islands, we find a similar progress in population in all the small nations of Europe, without a single exception. Holland, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Bavaria, Portugal, Greece, have added an average of seventy or eighty per cent to their respective populations during the last fifty years. In fact while these small States have doubled their people under the guardian care of National liberty, Ireland, under the evil influence of British Imperialism, has lost a hundred per cent of her population. In this respect she stands in a unique position among civilised lands: there being, in fact, no parallel in the history of Christian nations for the steady and deadly drain of people away from a country blessed by nature with resources capable of sustaining three times the present number of inhabitants of Belgium. This, however, is only half the indictment. As a direct result of this fatal weakening of our population both the birth-rate and the marriage-rate of Ireland are now the lowest of any country in Europe. There is likewise an alarming increase of insanity among the diminishing numbers, a fact also due to the emigration of the more virile of the people, leaving the physically impoverished beyond to carry on the racial functions of development. As a further comment upon all this decay and retrogression, a combined national and local taxation, which amounted to a total of about £2,000,000 a year under an Irish Parliament, with a population equal to that of to-day, is now, as a result of a hundred years of Imperialism, over £12,000,000 annually, an increase of 600 per cent. The total annual wealth produced by Irish industry on Irish land averages about £40,000,000. This will be the gross value of a year's produce of all the lands of Ireland. Out of this sum no less than £9,000,000 has to go in rent to landlords—that is, almost one-fourth of the whole. Adding the rent to the taxes, it will be seen that fully fifty per cent. of the earnings of Irish agricultural industry is thus taken by the two exploiting agencies of Imperialism, English rule and Irish landlordism. The non-agricultural industries of Ireland scarcely count. England's rule has crushed them out also; while on the top of all this there is the fact that we have far

more pauperism in the country to-day than there was thirty years ago, when Ireland had two millions more of people.

People

It has been decided to erect a monument in Dublin to perpetuate the memory of the late Dr. Kenny.

President Roosevelt has been elected an honorary member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of New York.

Prince David Kawanahaka, of Hawaii and Miss Abigail Campbell, of San Jose, California, were married recently in San Francisco by Most Rev. Archbishop Riordan.

Right Rev. Dr. Bagshawe, who lately resigned the See of Nottingham, has taken up his residence at the Convent of the Little Company of Mary, Isleworth.

Squire Sutton, of Stannington, Sheffield, a Catholic gentleman serving with the Yorkshire Yeomanry in South Africa, was severely wounded in a recent engagement.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., has appeared in the ranks of temperance advocates, giving this as his solemn matured opinion: 'I believe that in half a century from now no man will rise to the heights of any profession, in the field, in forum, or at the desk, who is not a teetotaller.'

The effete Latin races are showing up pretty well in the march of scientific progress (says the 'Western Watchman'). Marconi is a Latin; and he has just placed us in telegraphic communication with Europe without the aid of wires. Santos-Dumont is a Latin; and he has demonstrated that we can sail through the air and guide our course as perfectly there as on land or sea.

A brave and patient worker in the vineyard of the Lord, Sister Mary Loretta Dancino, of the Sisters of Calvary, passed away in Rome in December, aged 72 years, 50 of which she had spent in the religious state. Her long life was entirely devoted to the deaf and dumb, and she was the first to introduce the phonetic system in Italy.

Miss Annie Leary, of New York, has been created a countess by Pope Leo XIII in recognition not alone of her munificence along educational and charitable lines and her personal piety, but of her unceasing effort on behalf of the Church in America. She is the first American woman to bear a title bestowed by the Holy See, and probably the largest individual benefactor of the Church in the country. Up to this time only two American women have been distinctively honored by the Pope. Mrs. John Sherman and Miss Gwendoline Caldwell were decorated with the Order of the Golden Rose.

Far away in the Victorian mining centre, Bendigo (writes 'M.A.P.') lives a simple music teacher, Allan Bindley, a man of modest claims and still more modest fortune, but who taught Miss Amy Castles all she knew of music before she left her native Australia. On the night of her recent debut in London, when her dressing-room was thronged with people of distinction, and masses of costly blossoms were lying at her feet, a cable containing just two words, 'Good luck,' was handed to Miss Castles from Mr. Bindley. In that moment all her success was forgotten. Tears fell on the paper as she pressed it to her lips, and, remembering that cables from Australia are costly items, she said to a friend, 'How good of him, for he is not a rich man.'

Signor Enrico Mastracchi, of the staff of the 'Unita Cattolica,' is the doyen of Italian Catholic journalists. On Thursday, January 2, he had been 40 years on the Catholic press as a writer or editor. The

'Unita Cattolica' kept the day as a day of jubilee, for, as it remarked, the completion of 40 years fearlessly devoted to the defence of the Catholic flag deserved to be commemorated in a special manner. His Holiness Leo XIII. did not allow the occasion to pass unobserved. Through Cardinal Rampolla, he wrote to the journalist sending his congratulations and the Apostolic blessing. He also presented to Signor Mastracchi a gold medal, which is a beautiful work of art, assuring him that he desired to recognise the earnestness and constancy with which he applied himself to the laudable work of Catholic journalism, and the care which he took to practise in private life the principles which he asserted in public.

Father Felix Crepeaux, who performed the marriage ceremony of Senator Depew and Miss May Palmer at Nice during December, was a well-known officer in the French army (says the Cleveland Catholic Universe). Some years ago he was colonel of a regiment, and a brilliant career was opening before him. He resigned from the army and entered a seminary to study for the priesthood. He was then only 45 years old and was an officer of the Legion of Honor. He was soon ordained, and said his first Mass at Orgeval. His subsequent promotion was rapid, and he is now cure of Notre Dame, the chief Catholic church of Nice.

Lord Howth is now past 70 years of age, a bachelor, and the last of his line. He was, in former years, Liberal member for Galway, and will be chiefly known to fame as the virtual founder of the Dublin Horse Show. Howth Castle has been in the possession of the family since the 12th century, and the present peer, though only the fourth earl, is the 30th baron. The castle, which is 12 miles from Dublin, stands on a bleak hillside. But in late spring the bare-looking mountain is a perfect paradise of blossoms, acres of ground being covered with masses of azaleas and rhododendrons. The beech hedges grow nearly 30ft high, and there is an elm tree 300 years old. A quaint legend is attached to Howth Castle. The story goes that when an Irish chieftainess returned from a visit to Queen Elizabeth, she proceeded to the castle in search of refreshment, but found all the gates securely closed, it being the hour of dinner. In revenge, she seized the infant heir of the St. Lawrence and carried him off a prisoner to her own castle in Mayo. Nor was he released until his father had covenanted that the gates of Howth Castle should never again be closed at the dinner-hour. This vow has been religiously kept through the course of centuries, and the custom is still observed in modern times—even as recently as when Lord and Lady Ashbourne occupied the Castle.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

What are you going to give your boys and girls for a Christmas present? If you use 'Book Gift' Tea you can have your choice from our catalogue of over 500 good and useful books, absolutely free. If you cannot procure catalogues of books from your grocer, send to W. Scouler and Co., wholesale agents, Dunedin, and a copy will be posted you by return mail. The following useful books are on our catalogue:—Mrs. Beeton's Book on Cookery and household management, given with 6lb of tea; The Doctor at Home, a book that should be in every house, given with 10lb of tea; The Amateur Carpenter, given with 10lb of tea; The Enquirer's Oracle, or Enquire within upon everything. The money spent by others in extensive advertising and showy labels and tins is given by us to the customer in the form of high class literature.—***