

Many a time we had high fun with her over tea, a potato cake and our comical match-making plans for her and a rich old gentleman of about her own age, who is now fast nearing the grave.

In life, Miss P. appeared about 75. In death she looked a beautiful old woman. 'I wonder,' she said at times last summer, 'which will go first, Mrs. Carthy or myself?' God rest them both. They were carried to their long home on the same day, our friend leaving a younger sister, aged 96, and a 'maid,' aged 80, behind, the latter still doing the entire work of the natty house and running of messages, as brisk as a bee. I have come to hate the hackneyed word, pathetic, yet it was indeed pathetic to meet the pretty little old servant a day or two ago, setting forth to do her marketing, her market basket covered with black.

Someone in one of Charles Dickens's books had written up in his room, 'Lord, keep my memory green.' Truly, old age is beautiful when the Almighty does leave the memory green.

Memoirs of a Diplomatist.

A remarkable Irishman, the Marquis of Dufferin the descendant of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and intellectually worthy of his descent, has been seriously ill. During a long life amongst the highest diplomatic circles of Europe and India and the highest social circles at home and abroad Lord Dufferin kept a minute diary, and upon this interesting book and a mass of other material gathered together by him he has been working for a considerable time, with the view of giving his memoirs to the world. If not too carefully edited, this should prove one of the most engrossingly attractive books of the century, for few men have had such opportunities of knowing the men and manners of his time as has had the gifted son of the authoress of the 'Irish Emigrant.'

M.B.

COUNTY NEWS.

GENERAL.

Threatening Notices.

An official return placed upon the table of the House of Commons shows that during the quarter ended 31st December last the number of agrarian outrages in Ireland did not exceed 47, of which 26 consisted of sending threatening letters or notices.

A New Land Bill.

The London Standard says that an Irish Land Bill will be introduced shortly. The Cabinet has postponed action towards the Irish League until the Bill is considered.

The Royal Visit.

The Royal visit to Ireland this year has been abandoned, owing, it is said, to the Coronation festivities.

New Mayors.

Mr. Timothy Harrington, M.P., has been re-elected Lord Mayor of Dublin for the ensuing year. The Conservatives nominated Mr. Beattie, but withdrew him without a division. An exciting contest took place for the position of High Sheriff. Councillor Cox, defeating Councillor Dodd for the first nomination by 18 votes to 23. In Cork Alderman P. Fitzgerald was unanimously re-elected. Mr. Augustine Roe was unanimously placed first on the list for the position of High Sheriff, and he has been the subject of many congratulations from Nationalists all over the country. Mr. James F. Barry, City High Sheriff, was elected to the mayoral chair of Limerick by 21 votes to 11 for Councillor Donnelly. Councillor Nash, magistrate, was placed first on the list for shrievalty. Mr. Barry is a staunch United Irish Leaguer. The election of Mayor of

Kilkenny resulted curiously. The voting ended in a tie between Alderman E. Nowlan and Alderman Patrick Hoyne. The Town Clerk stated that the casting vote rested with Alderman Healy, who was not present at the meeting, and the outgoing Mayor declared the meeting adjourned. Alderman T. J. Condon, M.P., was re-elected Mayor of Clonmel. Alderman P. Keely, a labor representative, was elected Mayor of Drogheda by 13 votes to 10 recorded for Alderman MacGuinness.

The Licensing Scandal.

At the quarterly meeting of the standing committee of the Catholic hierarchy, held in Dublin about the middle of January, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: 'That we, the standing committee of the archbishops and bishops of Ireland, view with deep concern and sorrow the continued multiplication in town and country of licenses for the sale of intoxicating drink, and deplore the reckless facility with which licensing authorities have been granting licenses and perpetuating what we deem a grave abuse. That, as pastors of our flocks, we appeal to the licensing authorities of the country to abstain from granting new licenses, and to take every legitimate opportunity of reducing the number of existing licenses until it has been brought within reasonable limits. That we look forward with feelings of alarm to the disastrous consequences—spiritual and material—of this multiplication of centres of temptation to excessive drinking, unless promptly and effectually checked by an awakened healthy public opinion. That we call upon our clergy to earnestly co-operate, in season and out of season, in creating and fostering a sound and enlightened public policy upon this licensing question, as well as upon the widespread evil of intemperance, which as a canker is fast preying upon the social and industrial life of our country, and blighting peace, happiness, and prosperity.'

People

According to the Brisbane 'Age' the Rev. Father McKiernan is Mayor of Gayndah, and is the only priest in Australia holding such an office.

Much regret has been caused at Cambridge by the announcement that Lord Acton, in consequence of the state of his health, has intimated his intention of resigning the editorship of the 'Cambridge Modern History' to the Syndics of the University Press. Lord Acton is a Catholic.

Mr. Wilfred Whistler, in the London 'Mail,' says there are 23,000 street names in London. The most remarkable feature about this fact is that Protestant city is the older the location the more Catholic are the names attached to the streets. Names from the liturgy of the Church, and from the saints, especially Our Lady, are too frequent to be enumerated, while, to a careful philologist, many names that are of doubtful origin can no doubt be traced to a similar source. Such names as 'Cockpit Court' do not bear much investigation; they will be found to spring from later times and the current recreations which came in vogue certainly not with the sanction of the Catholic Church.

Another famous art treasure (says a correspondent of the 'Daily News') will shortly be hung in a private museum in New York. Mr. Pierpont Morgan is now the owner of the Colonna Madonna, and has paid £100,000 for it to the picture dealer Sedelmeyer. It was in the possession of Ferdinand II., of Naples, and on his death passed into that of Francis II., who tried to sell it for £30,000 to Queen Isabella, to Queen Victoria, to the Empress Eugenie, and, I have heard, to the National

Gallery. The Empress Eugenie would have induced the Louvre to buy this painting had it not been for the war of 1870. Francis II. thought it heart-breaking to have to part with his famous work of Raphael, which was done in his 23rd year for the nuns of St. Anthony of Padua at Perugia. It represents the Virgin Mother on a throne with the Infant Jesus on her knees, and with a court of saints and angels.

An Irishman named James McNally, an inmate of St. Peter's House, South Lambeth, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest man in London. He was born, according to his own account, in King's County, on February 17, 1797, and brought up in the County Galway. He left his native land 90 years ago and went to London, where he got a job as scaffolder to the biggest building firm in the city. As he was always careful and sober and never smoked or drank he saved money, married, and went to America with his wife. It was during the Civil War, and the American Government employed him to look after the baggage. Though he never enlisted, he was present at the Battle of Nashville and saw a good deal of fighting. He lost his wife in America and he returned to England in 1883 with a snug little sum in his pocket. The old man is now 105 years of age.

Father O'Callaghan, the Paulist, tells the following story illustrating the fearlessness of Archbishop Keane of Dubuque: One Sunday, when the Archbishop was Bishop of Richmond, Va., he ascended the pulpit and announced that on the following Sunday afternoon there would be a meeting of all colored people of Richmond in the Cathedral. The then Bishop stated further that he desired all coloured people, irrespective of religious belief, to come to the meeting, and that he hoped that no white person would be present. The announcement caused consternation in the church. Racial hatred was strong then, and the white members of the congregation protested vigorously against having 'niggers' occupying their pews. Their objections were in vain. Bishop Keane, like the Apostles of old, recognised not the color of a man's skin, but was concerned about the salvation of souls. Accordingly, when the meeting was opened on Sunday, the Catholic Cathedral of Richmond was crowded with colored persons. Every negro in the town became interested, and lent his support by being present. Bishop Keane addressed the negroes, and on each Sunday succeeding he held meetings for the exclusive benefit of the colored population. The result was that at the close of a series of weekly lectures lasting a year the Bishop had made 500 converts.

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.'—***

Did you ever read 'Helen's Babies,' and do you remember the delightful enthusiasm of little Toddy when he got at the internal workings of somebody's watch and wanted to see 'the wheels go round'? And does it occur to you that wheels occupy a pretty important part in cycles? We have realised this fact, and as an evidence of the attention given the subject, we want you to examine the latest Sterling chain, chainless, and free wheels. Built like a watch. New shipment just landed. Morrow, Bassett, and Co.—***