

Irish News.

ANTRIM.

The meeting which was held in the Town Hall, Belfast, at the call of the Lord Mayor, to discuss the best means of perpetuating the memory of Lord Dufferin (says the 'Irish Weekly') was most successful. That the deceased nobleman was regarded with affection by his fellow-citizens in Belfast is undoubted. It was not alone the glamor of his great abilities and his success that appealed to the imagination, but the surpassing traits of character he possessed, as well as his charming personality, and the particular interest he took in everything bearing on the welfare of the citizens. The most favored proposal at the meeting was that to erect a statue of the Marquis, to be placed in the front of the new City Hall, and the idea will we venture to think, be received with general acceptance. Considerably over £1000 were subscribed at the meeting.

CARLOW.

Oak Park, two miles from Carlow, the magnificent residence of the Right Hon. Henry Bruen, D.L., was on Sunday morning, February 23, almost completely destroyed by fire. The north wing was the only portion saved. The valuable pictures (except those in the hall), plate, books, and a quantity of furniture were also saved.

CLARE.—A Difference.

The 'Manchester Guardian' notes some extraordinary proceedings at a Coercion Court in Ennis, and comments editorially on them as follows:—'The charge was over an intimidation to prevent a Mr. Normoyle from occupying certain lands which he had a right to occupy. But Mr. Normoyle, the sufferer whose wrongs the prosecution was to redress, seems in the witness-box to have treated his would-be protectors with chilling indifference, so much so that first his own champion, the prosecuting counsel, had to cross-question him as a hostile witness, and finally the Court committed him for contempt. His wife and son were next put into the witness-box; they likewise failed to testify against the defendants, and were likewise committed. At this point one might have expected those in the dock against whom nothing was testified, would be discharged. Such an expectation would, however, have ignored one important factor—the difference between justice in England and justice in Ireland. The magistrates admitted that there was no case, but proceeded to order the defendants either to be bound over in substantial security to keep a peace which they had shown no sign of breaking or to go to gaol for three months. The defendants refused to give bail in a case where they were quite innocent, and have gone to prison accordingly. It is not quite clear from the report whether the Normoyle family are there also.' The English writer (says the 'Freeman's Journal') thinks that these facts throw a ludicrous light on the judicial attitude of Coercion Court magistrates. Of course they do. But, except in the 'Manchester Guardian,' and perhaps one or two other papers in all England and Scotland, there is no chance whatever in these days of having them recorded.

CORK.—Priests Honored.

The Holy Father has conferred the title of Doctor of Divinity upon the Rev. P. A. Sheehan, P.P., Doneraile, the author of 'My New Curate,' 'Luke Delmege,' and other works. His Holiness has further signified his appreciation of literary merit in the priesthood by sending, through his Lordship the Bishop of Cloyne, two costly medals, one for the Rev. B.

McCarthy, D.D., P.P., Inniscarra, and the other for Dr. Sheehan. Dr. McCarthy is an eminent Celtic scholar.

KILKENNY.—An Election.

Mr. Joseph Devlin, of Belfast, has been returned unopposed as M.P. for North Kilkenny, a vacancy having occurred through the resignation of the sitting member.

TYRONE.—Candid Admission.

A correspondent writing in an Ulster Orange paper essays to explain the position of the South Tyrone Unionist Association, with whose organisation and working he professes to be acquainted. 'The association,' he makes clear, 'was originally formed, not in the interests of landlords or tenants, nor yet was it promoted on the lines of the Orange institution,' and he proceeds with refreshing logic to say:—'Our testaments together' and 'Keep Protestants together' and 'Keep Popery down.' The last motto exactly hits off Ulster Unionism.

WICKLOW.—A Memorial.

A monument is about to be erected in Baltinglass, County Wicklow, in memory of 'Antrim Jack,' otherwise Sam McAllister, the trusted comrade of Michael Dwyer, whom he died to save under tragic circumstances.

GENERAL

Plain Speaking.

In the course of a letter in a Dublin newspaper, Mr. T. W. Russell replies to Sir E. Carson, who called him a traitor because of his action in the South Down election. Mr. Russell writes in part as follows:—Sir Edward Carson speaks of me as a traitor. Yes—but the Ulster tenants will be quick to recognise who and what Sir Edward Carson is. They will recognise that this is the gentleman who watched over the landlords' interests on the Morley Committee (1894), who sprawled into Lord Ardilaun's arms when that distinguished nobleman ran amuck against the Unionist Government in 1896, who conspired with Lord Londonderry to wreck and render worthless the Land Act of 1896, who used language toward Mr. Arthur Balfour in the House of Commons that made every man of honor and of feeling in the House (and who knew what Mr. Balfour had done for his assailant) hang his head in shame, and who for it all holds an office which last year brought him £11,000—for work as well done by the law officer of Lord Rosebery's Government for £5000. Treason is not treason when it is successful. The Ulster tenants know Sir Edward Carson. To be attacked by men of his stamp is an honor, and his opposition to the land movement will make it the more popular in every Ulster county. My 'treason' consists simply in this—that I supported a candidate in East Down chosen by a representative Unionist Convention, against a gentleman selected by Lord Arthur Hill and the landlords. All this fury about East Down simply represents the last dying kick of Irish landlordism. In the debate on the Address last year I told the House of Commons that the country was face to face with a new Ireland. The revolt in Down is revolt against a tyrannous and an impossible system.

A Significant Fact.

The London 'Tablet' points out that Lord Rosebery's programme of the 'clean slate' as applied to Home Rule has not received the adhesion of any Catholic peer who was to be found among the supporters of Mr. Gladstone's Bills.

The University Question.

The evidence given before the University Commission by Lord Chief Baron Pilles, Monsignor Molloy, Professor Mahaffy, Mr. Lecky, and Mr. N. Synnott, appears in the second volume of the proceedings. The Lord Chief Baron said he con-

sidered a Catholic College in the University of Dublin on the same terms as Trinity as the ideal solution of the question. The only other satisfactory solution in his opinion would be the foundation not of a new college affiliated to the Royal University, but of a new University. A college affiliated with the Royal University would not ensure finality. Mr. Synnott also spoke strongly in favor of a Catholic college side by side with Trinity in the University of Dublin. Professor Mahaffy does not appear to oppose this proposal, and Mr. Lecky, on being asked his view, declined to express it.

Candidates' Expenses.

A blue book gives interesting particulars of candidates' expenses at the last general election. In Ireland votes are cheaper than elsewhere. The county vote averages 4s 6d, the borough vote 2s 9d, which makes an average of 4s only. One hundred and forty-nine thousand three hundred and ninety-three Irishmen recorded their votes. The electorate numbers 762,518, and returns 103 members to the House, at a cost of £33,068 4s 10d. The candidates for North Down, Mr. Corbett and Colonel Sharman Crawford, spent £1137 16s 6d and £1118 17s 9d each. Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien makes a record by obtaining his votes at Cork for 7d each, while Colonel Singleton's beating at North Leitrim cost him 14s 10d per vote. The cheapest victory in the three kingdoms was gained by Mr. J. P. Kennedy at North Westmeath for £148 18s. These are very large sums when compared to the modest three half-crowns which the junior member for Wellington spent at the last general election in this Colony.

An Illegal Proceeding.

Referring to the imprisonment of Irish members the 'Speaker' says: 'Here are two members of Parliament of unquestioned integrity sent to prison for making speeches at orderly meetings, kept in prison on bread and water and the plank bed, and treated as common criminals! Chief Barron Pilles, the greatest Irish Judge, holds that magistrates who passed these sentences had no jurisdiction to try the prisoners, that the charge against them did not come within the Crimes Act, and that the whole proceeding was a "bad, illegal thing!"'

Naval Chaplains.

Nowhere in the United Kingdom (writes a Dublin correspondent) is the spiritual desolation to which Catholic seamen are subjected in the Royal Navy more keenly felt than in Ireland. About nine-tenths of these men are Irish, or of Irish extraction, and the almost insurmountable difficulties which they have to overcome when desirous of approaching the Sacraments are well known to their friends and relatives. It is believed the appointment of even a small number of Catholic chaplains, with the same rank and status as Protestant ministers now enjoy in the navy would do much to remedy their grievances. To these the Catholic sailor could make known his difficulties, with the certainty of their being redressed if it were at all possible. At present his complaints fall upon unsympathetic ears and remain unheard. Notwithstanding the plausible statement made by Mr. Forster in reply to the speeches of Messrs. McKillop, Joyce, and Dillon in the House of Commons the other night, the Irish people place little or no reliance on promises made on behalf of the Admiralty. That they have good grounds for this distrust is certain. Over 23 years ago Mr. W. H. Smith, then first Lord of the Admiralty, in reply to an eloquent appeal of the late A. M. Sullivan, said:—'It will be the duty of the Admiralty to endeavor to make such provision by attaching a Catholic clergyman to every fleet of five or