

years, owing to the early hour at which they commenced work. In the various churches they received timely warning of the temptation and danger which would beset them, a warning of which they evidently took good heed.

Shamrocks in London.

An ample supply of shamrock reached London for use on St. Patrick's Day. Most of it that was for sale at Covent Garden was the genuine article. Large quantities were ordered by the West End hotels and by people giving entertainments for use as a table decoration.

The Irish Language.

The Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language (says the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal') is in the happy position of seeing the seed which it has spent so many long and apparently hopeless years scattering in the Gaelic fields spring up with a strong and vigorous life. The Society has always aimed at the schools, and has enormously facilitated the work of the schools by its publications. These are now being consumed by tens of thousands. Last year outdistanced all records. Fifty-nine thousand five hundred and ten Gaelic publications were sold, as compared with 8478 in 1900, which year was, of course, the previous best. An edition of 10,000 copy-books was cleared. The total circulation of the Society's books has now reached the big total of 217,788, exclusive of the American circulation. Two essays in Irish—one on 'Irish Prose,' by Father Dinneen, and one on 'Irish Verse,' by Dr. Hyde—are about to be added to the Society's list. We hope to see it receive many more additions, and the Society could do no more useful work at present than by developing its energies as a publication department. That it can do the work well the past has proved. Meantime, we agree with it that 'it is in the schools our main reliance must be placed for the preservation of the Irish language.' Though all the obstacles have not been removed a patriotic manager and his teachers have now a genuine opportunity of making the teaching of Irish in the schools effective.

Morrow, Bassett and Co. have been appointed sole agents in New Zealand for the Cochshutt Plough Company's famous 'Excelsior' arm implements. Champions all over the globe. Send for catalogue.—***

MYIERS 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.—***

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People

The King of Siam sent hearty congratulations to Leo XIII. for his Pontifical Jubilee.

Lord Justice Vaughan Williams wore a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day. He was the only Judge sitting in the High Courts, London, who did so.

The late Mr. Aubrey de Vere has bequeathed the copyright of several of his published works and the profits to arise from their sale to the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster for the education of Catholics.

The proclamation of the King of Spain's majority will take place next week, but he will probably remain for three or four years under the guardianship of the Queen-Regent, and this prolonging of the King's tutelage will have to be formally ratified by some special enactment.

In celebration of the Coronation, the King is to give a dinner to about 500,000 poor people in London. This is to be called 'The King's Dinner,' and the cost, estimated at £30,000, will be defrayed by his Majesty. A central committee has been formed at the Mansion House to carry out the arrangements.

The 'Week-End' tells a good story of an Irish M.P. He was travelling by the County Council Omnibus to Westminster, and, at the request of a lady said, 'Conductor, put this lady off at the next corner.' The conductor, who was a new man, failed to understand, and said, 'Excuse me, sir, seems as how she's behavin' of herself; don't seem no occasion for proceedin' to extremes.' The M.P. was too astonished to reply and got off himself to avoid an explanation.

Mr. Justin M'Carthy tells the following story of a New York boot-black in his book of reminiscences: I was standing on the bridge one day studying the crowd, as was my wont, and wholly absorbed in the study, when a shrill, youthful voice accosted me, with the words: 'Cap'n, shine yer boots?' At that time the great Civil War was not long over, and the chance distribution of military titles was ready and liberal. I paid no attention to the invitation, although it was repeated many times in tones of increasing earnestness, and sometimes emphasised with an admonitory tap on the boots which my young friend was anxious to shine. At last a rival little boy seemed to imagine that he saw where the cause of my indifference was to be found, and pushing aside the unsuccessful claimant, he gave a military salute, and appealed to me with the captivating words: 'Brigadier-General, shine yer boots?'

Visitors to the last Passion Play at Ober-Ammergau will be interested to learn (says a London newspaper) that Anton Lang, who represented 'Christus,' is shortly to be married to Mathilde Rutz, whose rendering of the 'mystical song' was greatly admired. Fraulein Rutz, who is a daughter of Herr Rutz, the village blacksmith, and 'Leader of the Chorus,' will stay, until her marriage in the summer, with Miss Edith Milner, at Heworth Manor, York. The other week she was the guest of Countess Grosvenor, where she assisted at a drawing-room meeting, held to provide funds for the erection of a cottage hospital in her native village.

Poor Piccolomini's death (says the 'Catholic Times') recalls the almost analogous circumstances of the death of Carlo Ducci on the 18th January, 1900. Ducci, like Piccolomini, was a well-known composer of drawing-room music, and had for a very large number of years resided

in London. Both of them, as composers and teachers, must in their time have earned a good deal of money. Yet both died penniless. The funeral of M. Piccolomini took place on March 15 at the Catholic Cemetery, Mortlake, Father Hogan officiating. The mourners were Mrs. Piccolomini and her children and Father Conway. Mr. Williams, music master of the Grenadier Guards, made the arrangements for the musical part of the service, the principal feature of which was the singing of Mendelssohn's 'Beati Mortui.'

Mr. Justin M'Carthy, who is still living in Westgate-on-Sea, has finished the first volume of his 'History of the Times of Queen Anne.' Those who know his delightful 'History of Our Own Times,' anticipate the treat in store for them for the forthcoming publication. Mr. M'Carthy's health is fairly good.

A sketch by Father Russell of the Venerable Father Plunkett reminds the 'Catholic Press' that Cardinal Moran is the lucky possessor of a watch worn by the martyr up to the time of his execution. An Irish correspondent remarks that Chief Baron Palles, one of the most distinguished Irish judges, claims kinship with the martyr. His mother belonged to the family of the Plunketts of Rathmore, who are descendants of a brother of Oliver Plunkett. The Right Honorable Christopher Palles has been called the Last of the Barons; for this division of the Supreme Jurisdiction has been abolished and the title of chief Baron dies with its present holder, who has survived all the barons both of the Irish and English courts of justice. It is noteworthy that all the Chief Barons, since the Act of Emancipation made Catholics eligible for the office, have been Catholics—Chief Baron Woulfe, Chief Baron Pigot and Chief Baron Palles. Maziere Brady held it for a short time before becoming Lord Chancellor. He was not a Catholic, but his nephew and namesake became a Catholic, and will be remembered for his excellent work in connection with the ecclesiastical history of Ireland after the Reformation. A rare and valuable portrait of Oliver Plunkett is in the Cardinal's Palace, Manly.

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