

Irish News.

ARMAGH.—A New Convent.

The foundation stone of a new convent in Bessford was laid on April 9, by his Eminence Cardinal Logue, assisted by his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. O'Neill, Bishop of Dromore. A large assembly of priests and lay people were present. The new house will have a frontage of 130ft., and will include chapels and schools, and accommodation for 18 Sisters, and the contract price is about £6000.

Obituary.

Captain Coote died at his residence, at the Armagh Savings Bank about the middle of April. The deceased gentleman, who was extremely popular with all classes, had been suffering from a lingering illness for several months. He occupied the position of petty sessions clerk and manager of the local savings bank.

CLARE.—A Judge Without Work

There was not a single criminal case to go before Judge Carton at the Kilrush Quarter Sessions, this being the usual state of affairs in that portion of Clare.

CORK.—Death of a Journalist.

The death of Mr. John O'Brien, who was well known in the journalistic circles in Dublin, is announced. About three years ago Mr. O'Brien, owing to the state of his health, withdrew from newspaper work, and died in Cork, his native city. He had worked as a reporter in Cork, Dublin, and London, and his early death must be regretted by his colleagues, who knew him as a good friend and competent journalist.

DOWN.—An Industrial Scheme.

Appropos of the Bishop of Elphin's industrial scheme to establish factories of various kinds in the towns of his diocese, in the hope of reducing girl emigration, I am reminded (writes a correspondent) of a similar attempt begun some years ago—an attempt that has been rewarded with ultimate success—by a young curate in the diocese of Down and Connor, Father W. J. Kelly, now of St. Paul's, Falls road, Belfast. In his youth Father Kelly had seen a stitching factory founded in Ballinahinch, and had been a witness of the great service it was there in keeping the girls of the neighborhood at home. When Father Kelly was appointed curate of Portaferry, County Down by the late Dr. McAlister, in 1894, he was not long there till he found that a stitching factory or something like it was even more needed there than even in Ballinahinch, for the girl emigration from the place, to Belfast, America, and especially Glasgow, was extremely large. He decided, if possible, to stop the exodus, and by May, 1895, he had managed to send six girls to Ballinahinch to learn pillow-case, shirt, collar, and cuff making. The factory was started in September, 1895, and was continued for some time by the brave young priest who established it. Unfortunately, however, in the midst of his work he was appointed to a diocese in Antrim, the final result of which was that the factory passed into the hands of Messrs. Somerset, of Belfast. However, the Belfast firm made a good substitute for the courageous priest, who, in the meantime, owing to initial expenses, and other things, had lost on the venture more than he could afford. Messrs. Somerset, a leading Ulster house, entered into Father Kelly's scheme in the same spirit in which he himself had inaugurated it. They have carried on the business—chiefly pillow-case making—for the past four years. The work is done by the piece, and the more a girl can do the more money she earns. Portaferry is a town of only about 1700 inhabitants, yet during the year ended

1st March last the wages paid to girls in the factory was almost £1000, every penny of which was spent in the town. This is the remarkable efforts of a young priest during two or three years of a curacy in one parish.

DUBLIN.

The news of Brother Thaddaeus Judge's death (says the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal') will cause surprise and grief to all his past pupils and friends. Until recently he was engaged in the same work that had occupied him for nearly 40 years; but his great generous heart at last gave out without much warning, and he quietly passed to his reward. Few men have worked so long and so successfully as he in the sacred cause of education. For the past 37 years he devoted his high intelligence, indomitable will, and self-denying heart to the watchful painstaking training of the thousands of little boys committed to his charge; and in many other ways he rendered his presence in the Blackrock College almost indispensable. His death makes a great void in the College—in the hearts of the little ones who looked up to him as their guide and friend—in the minds of students and professors who received daily edification from his example, and in the affections of past men whose first inquiry on returning to their Alma Mater was about Brother Judge.

GALWAY.

The concerted action of the Galway magistrates, which was suggested by the Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack, is likely to have an excellent and far-reaching effect. Seeing the value of combination, Mr. Shawe Taylor, J.P., has suggested through the Press a meeting of magistrates of all shades of political faith, in the Mansion House, Dublin, which has been granted for the purpose by the Lord Mayor. Doubtless it will be decided, as it was in Galway, to grant no new licence unless the applicant extinguishes more than one public house in the locality. By this simple but efficacious plan these centres of temptation will be considerably reduced as time goes by.

LIMERICK Address to the Pope.

On the occasion of last St. Patrick's Day the members of St. Mary's branch of the Gaelic League in Limerick presented to his Holiness Leo XIII, an address in Irish, together with a casket containing shamrocks. The casket was made of Irish elder, most beautifully carved by Joseph P. Lynch, Limerick. On one side were the arms of the Bishop of Limerick, on another the arms of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, and on the third the arms of Limerick, and on the fourth was a Celtic scroll.

TIPPERARY.—A Donation.

The Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, has given a donation of £100 to the fund now being raised for the addition of a spire to the Church of the Sacred Heart, Templemore.

Archbishop Croke.

The news of the illness of the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), will occasion regret throughout the whole Irish world, for wherever there are Irishmen the name of his Grace is honored. He is at present suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis. The Most Rev. Dr. Croke is an old man, and even his splendid constitution can now ill stand such an attack. That he may speedily recover will be the prayer of every Irishman who reads that the revered Prelate, and uncompromising and generous Nationalist is stricken. The attachment of Nationalist Ireland to the Archbishop of Cashel is personal, because he has ever shown himself an earnest co-worker in the cause, and labored for the people, and defended them with extraordinary vigor.

WICKLOW.—Death of a Doctor

The death of Dr. Thomas More Madden, which occurred at his residence, Tynode, County Wicklow, removes from the roll of Dublin physicians one of its leading members. Dr. Madden had been in failing health for a long time past. To the general public he will be remembered chiefly as the son of the Doctor R. R. Madden, who, writing in the 'Lives of the United Irishmen,' did not 'fear to speak of '98.' Dr. Thomas More Madden was born in Cuba, where his distinguished father, at that time, filled the office of British representative at Havana in the International Commission for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, Dr. R. R. Madden being a prominent member of the anti-slavery party.

GENERAL.

Change of Name.

The movement towards the Catholic Bhurch is making itself felt even amongst the Protestants in Ireland. At the general synod of the Irish Protestant Church (says the 'Catholic Times') a communication was read from the House of Bishops regretting and complaining that the Irish Protestants are not called Catholics, and a discussion took place on the Catholic tendencies of the Divinity School, Trinity College.

The University Question.

Lay opinion as to the most desirable solution of the University question is divided between the ideal settlement proposed by the Irish hierarchy and the plan which their Lordships are willing to accept as an alternative. Many (writes a Dublin correspondent) hold that a final settlement is to be found only in the establishment of a separate university for Catholics, with an atmosphere as distinctly Catholic as that of Dublin University is Protestant. On the other hand, Lord Chief Baron Palles and many Catholics of great integrity and high intellectual attainments favor the alternative plan, namely, the modification of the constitution of Dublin University and the establishment of a second college within it in every respect equal to Trinity College, and conducted on purely Catholic principles. The discussion which has taken place on the merits of both plans has been conducted in an extremely able manner, and reflects infinite credit on those who participated in it. Now that the Protestant Primate, voicing no doubt, the opinions of the more enlightened of his co-religionists, has come forward and advocated the settlement of this long-standing Catholic grievance on the basis of the alternative plan the Government have no excuse for further procrastination.

Local Government.

Now that the Irish Local Government Act has been in operation for three years, what have been its results?—Ireland is still where she stood. There has been no cataclysm no revolution; the country (says an exchange) is peaceable and law-abiding, and there is at least no more confusion in its local government than there was in the days of the old Grand Juries and under the rule of the Castle-nominated justices of the peace. But more than this, the new bodies, despite the difficulties surrounding them on starting their work, have performed their functions in a business-like and economical way. In particular they have falsified one grave charge made against them in advance. It was said that they would spend money extravagantly and corruptly, by freely granting out relief, or making salaried places for their proteges. Instead of indulging in any of these vagaries, the councils have shown a most commendable zeal for economy, and have kept down expenditure. They have reduced the rates in a re-