

P. A. McHugh states that he never issued, nor even thought of issuing, such a circular, nor did he ever authorise anyone else to do so. Mr. McHugh believes the object of circulating such a statement was to intimidate the branches of the United Irish League from forwarding such resolutions for publication, and he declares that, so far as the 'Sligo Champion' is concerned, its policy could never in any way be influenced by any Coercionist proclamation. Those acquainted with Mr. McHugh's record in Irish politics, will, of course, need no such assurance from him that he has in no way modified his attitude as the result of any action by the Irish Executive, but, at the same time, it is well that the tricks of the enemy should be promptly and effectively exposed on every occasion that they may be attempted.

TIPPERARY.—Obituary.

Widespread regret was felt in County Tipperary and various other parts of Ireland at the announcement of the death of Mr. Samuel Burk, Kilmovee, Cahir, in the 80th year of his age. The deceased played a prominent part in the commercial, industrial, and social life of the County Tipperary, and was a well-known and energetic member of most of the public boards of the county.

WATERFORD.

The city of Waterford enjoys the unenviable notoriety of possessing the only toll-bridge in Ireland (says an exchange). Ever since the year 1795 the citizens and callers to Waterford have groaned beneath the tax which is levied on all that cross the bridge. In 1823 the tolls were farmed out at £4260 a year, and in 1895 the tolls were let at nearly £7000 per annum. From 1845 to 1897 the freeing of the 'bundle of sticks'—for so the American oak bridge is called in derision—has been a regular stock problem at the annual corporate elections. During the years 1898 to 1901 a glimmer of hope dawned, and it was fondly believed that at length a free bridge would be built. But the various negotiations and projects for coming to terms with the bridge trustees came to naught, and even the promised railway bridge was abandoned. Now, however, after a lapse of 108 years, the various public bodies have promised to support the movement for constructing a free bridge.

WEXFORD.

A curious discovery was made at Johnstown, County Wexford, a few weeks ago. Mr. Somers, District Councillor, had an old mattress, which, having become useless to him, he gave to the wife of a poor laboring man in the district. While the mattress was being forced through the narrow door of the laborer's cottage it was torn, and a parcel dropped out, which contained £390 in gold wrapped up in a silk handkerchief. The money was returned to Mr. Somers, who had no idea that for years he had been sleeping on such a goldmine.

GENERAL.

A Poor Prospect.

The Committee of the Irish Land Clerks, or more accurately the Irish landlord clerks, have again sent a statement of their case to members of Parliament. When estates are sold under the Land Purchase Acts these gentlemen are evicted, and what they propose is in effect that they should be readmitted as caretakers of the interests of the Irish tenants, 'with whom they have all ways been on friendly terms,' in the offices of the Land Commission. This, of course, is not a new proposal, and the land clerks are not to be blamed for endeavoring to save themselves in the wreck of landlordism. But, at the same time, looking at the matter from a rational point of view, it would appear

that they claim for compensation for disturbance, should be not against the public, who have incurred no obligation toward them, but against the landlords, who sell them at the same time as they sell their estates.

The Land Question.

A cable message received last week states that 'at the instance of Lord Defreyne, with a view to enforcing the law laid down by the House of Lords in the case of Quinn v. Latham, the Court of Chancery in Dublin has issued writs against 30 persons, including several Nationalist members of the United Irish League and the proprietors of the 'Freeman's Journal,' on a charge of conspiracy to compel the sale of property below its value in the course of the no-rent agitation on Lord Defreyne's Connaught estates. Damages are claimed. The trials will be the most important for years.'

People

At Paris a few Sundays ago the Passionist Fathers celebrated Mass in honor of Madame Marchesi's golden wedding. A reception which took place later was notable owing to the fact that former pupils of Marchesi (the Marquise de Castrone) were present from several parts of the world. Madame Melba was one of the singers of the occasion.

Most Rev. John Lancaster Spalding, Bishop of Peoria, in the Archdiocese of Chicago, who presided at the enthusiastic meeting recently held in his episcopal city in honor of Mr. Wm. Redmond, in his capacity of United Irish League representative, is widely and favorably known in the States as an author and lecturer. A prolific writer, he has published numerous works on moral and social subjects. Though a native-born American, he is of English descent, a fact which, perhaps, makes his advocacy of Irish National aims all the more significant.

An American exchange states that Prince Eugene of Sweden has decided to renounce all right to succeed to his father's throne in order to wed an American girl. The bride-to-be is Miss Helen Gorman Wild, of Baltimore. The Prince is the fourth son of King Oscar of Sweden and Norway. The renunciation of all rights of succession to the throne is necessary, not only because Miss Wild is not of royal rank, but because she is a Catholic. She is related to the famous Carroll family of Baltimore. At first King Oscar objected strenuously to the match principally on the ground of the young woman's religion. In the annals of Sweden there is not a single instance of an alliance of a scion of royal blood with a Catholic.

The mysterious case in France of a woman who has been lying in a state of catalepsy for nearly nineteen years, taking neither food nor drink, and which is agitating the medical faculty so much, had its counterpart in Ireland over fifty years ago (says the 'Freeman's Journal'). The 'Irish Penny Journal' of August 15, 1840, which was a very careful journal in stating matters of fact, reported that a man named Bernard Cavanagh, of Swinford, County Mayo, had by that time existed four years without tasting food or drink of any kind. From September 2, 1836, to July 2, 1840, he lay in bed, with his hands fixed on his breast and his eyes fixed on the window. He was visited by thousands of persons, and his continued abstinence from food was a source of great perplexity to the medical faculty. Religious mania was described as the cause of his catalepsy; while a shock of violent emotion is ascribed to the present case in France.

'Novel,' 'sensational,' 'interesting,' such are the terms (says the 'Freeman's Journal') in which some of our contemporaries have described the claim of the Austrian nobleman, Henry Count Taaffe, to be recognised by the House of Lords as Viscount Taaffe and Baron Ballymote in the Peerage of Ireland. This is all nonsense. Count Taaffe will hand in a simple affidavit verifying the notorious fact that he is the eldest son of his father, and his claim will be forthwith admitted. It is simplicity itself. In the Jacobite wars the Taaffes, Earls of Carlingford, Viscounts Taaffe or Lords of Ballymote, fought valiantly on King James's side. Nicholas, second Earl, fell at the Boyne. His brother Francis went to Austria and became Field Marshal Count Taaffe, who filled the highest posts in the Austrian State. He was a great friend of William of Orange, who had clauses inserted in the Forfeiture Acts of the English and Irish Parliaments, setting out that 'nothing therein should attain or convict of high treason Nicholas Earl of Carlingford or his heirs.'

It is pleasing to come across in a secular paper (says the 'Sacred Heart Review') a tribute to that sorely-ried woman, the Queen Regent of Spain, whose character has been so much misunderstood and maligned since first our relations with Spain grew strained. Immediately before our war with Spain, and during that struggle, the Queen Regent as the head of the Spanish people was the target for many foolish and malicious slurs on the part of that section of the American Press which boasted that it caused the war. The thinking people of the country, however, respected the woman who did so much to avert a calamitous war, and whose position was anything but one to be envied. The 'Transcript' speaks of her thus:—'Her domestic virtues and strength of character have won respect; her thoughtfulness for the poor and needy has enshrined her in the love of her son's subjects. Her sweet charity has been diffused continuously, it appears. The Queen, it is stated, is a leader in all good works in Spain; and her sympathy for the distressed has become proverbial. Her private purse is open to all calls upon it, whether for the relief of misery, or, as several years ago, when the State was in danger. Naturally it is the wish of all interested, thoughtful students of the world's progress and the advancement of that particularly fascinating part of it at the south-west corner of Europe that the youthful king may at least prove worthy of his mother.'

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