

farm he would have on his arrival under the Southern Cross. Canlin's new associate suggested that these bank notes might be bad. In fact, he remarked, several men had already been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for forging such bank notes as Canlin had. How terrible it would be if he arrived in New Zealand to find they were worthless! Why not go direct to the Bank of England to see if they were genuine, and get them changed into gold? They went to the city. While Canlin waited in the main entrance of the Bank of England, Canlin's £5 bank notes were being changed, and the friend of a few hours departed, presumably by the Prince's street entrance. After waiting nearly an hour Canlin began to hunt for his associate, and, not finding him, complained to the officials of the Bank of England. A telephone message to Old Jewry brought over officers, and Canlin was conveyed back to the police station. Detective Ferguson took Canlin to the Agent-General for New Zealand in the hope that with the balance of cash he might get an assisted passage to New Zealand. In this respect Canlin was disappointed, as there are no such passages granted now.

GENERAL.

Gaelic League.

In the course of his annual report, read at the Irish Congress in Dublin, the General Secretary of the Gaelic League stated that the number of branches affiliated with the Executive was 412 as against 227 last year. Since the last Congress two additional organisers had been appointed, and had gone through the Irish-speaking counties of Cork, Galway and Mayo, and devoted special attention to the schools of the districts, and brought pressure to bear on the managers and teachers. Within the past year Irish has been introduced into no less than 1300 National schools, and previous to that the number of schools in which the language was taught was only 139.

Higher Education.

Speaking recently at the annual meeting of the Clongowes Wood College Union, of which he is president, the Chief Baron said—During the time I myself was at school here—when I left in 1847—we knew by comparison of our fellows who left this for Stonyhurst, and by comparison with those who came from Stonyhurst to us, that those that were educated at the Irish College could successfully compete with those educated in England, and leave them nowhere. We have now a struggle of another nature. We have a struggle between Irishmen who are educated in different classes of schools. We have here in Ireland denominational education going on. We have the Roman Catholic school and the Protestant school. Well, I have always had the conviction formed from my knowledge of the characteristics of your race, and of the race which predominates with the other—I have always had the strongest conviction that if we only were on terms of equality, we would do to them what we and they have already done to English scholars, and to accomplish that it is the Jesuits we have to look forward to as foremost in the movement, and it is to Clongowes—their principal college—that we have to look forward as taking a foremost place in the van of the movement.

Maynooth College.

Rev. Peter Coffey, B.D., Dunboyne Establishment, Maynooth, was the only candidate for the vacant Chair of Philosophy at a Concursus which opened recently in the College.

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People

It is said that there are several Irishmen in the German Fleet which recently visited Ireland, and that they can speak Irish and German fluently.

Mr Robert J. Wynne has been appointed First Assistant Postmaster General of the United States. Mr. Wynne is a convert to the Catholic Church. President Roosevelt is reported to have said when appointing him: 'If I hit upon the proper man, other qualifications being equal, I shall certainly offer a portfolio in the Cabinet itself to one of your co-religionists.'

Mr. Neal O'Donnell, of New York, died on May 12. His brother Hugh died less than a month before. Both were octogenarians, and in the course of their long lives, had given thousands to Catholic institutions throughout the world. They had organised a coöperative manufacturing business, and it is stated that after they had gained large fortunes, they began distributing the profits, which exceeded £10,000 yearly; and this course they followed for 18 years.

Florence Nightingale, the world-famous army nurse, recently celebrated her 81st birthday at Claydon House, Buckinghamshire, England. It is interesting to recall that this noble woman completed her preparation for her lifework over 50 years ago, as a volunteer assistant in the great hospital of the Sisters of Charity in Paris; and that her most valued assistants during the Crimean War were Sisters of Mercy from Ireland and England.

Of the new President of independent Cuba, an English writer says:—In personal appearance President Palma is unassuming. He is 66 years old, and almost 40 years of incessant toil have left their mark upon him. The dominant chin and the firm lines of his mouth denote tenacity of purpose and strength of mind. He has the forehead of a statesman, and his eyes, overarched by his brows, show the man of thought and intellect. The dominating expression is that of a strong man with a kindly nature. He is well-read, being familiar with the literatures of five countries, and these he has studied at first hand. Patriot, statesman, jurist, soldier and student—it would be impossible to find a man better qualified for his onerous and responsible position than Thomas Estrada Palma.

The following account of Sienkiewicz at work is from a German source: The great historical romances, "The Polanski Family," and "Quo Vadis," first appeared in the newspapers of Warsaw. Sienkiewicz wrote both in great haste. The manuscript went piecemeal directly from the workroom to the press. Sienkiewicz produced every day just as much as the journals printed the day following. This exhausting manner of writing imposes the greatest demands upon the strength of a writer, and renders it impossible for an author to make any changes in his manuscript. Sienkiewicz rarely alters or corrects anything. While working he seldom pauses, but sits at his desk writing with great energy. Never has an editor received a complete manuscript from him—only single chapters. While writing his novels and tales Sienkiewicz is very nervous, and often is overcome with great restlessness. Then he generally changes his place of residence and travels with his manuscript from Russian Poland to Austria. Then he goes to Southern France, and so on. The change of surroundings benefits him, and his Wanderleben lasts for weeks or months until his work is completed.'

Lady Bellew (says the 'Candid Friend') is the wife of Lord Bellew, of Barmeth, County Louth, the head of one of the most ancient Anglo-Norman Families in Ireland—a family, however, which has retained the ancient faith through all the penal laws and persecutions from which, in the eighteenth century, Ireland suffered so greatly. The present Lord Bellew and his wife are both of rather small stature; they are most agreeable people, and very popular in both London and Dublin society, at either of which places they are very well known. Lady Bellew was by birth a De Trafford, being a sister of Sir Humphrey De Trafford. Her mother was the daughter of that once well-known lady, Mrs. Washington Hibbert, whose first marriage was with a Colonel Talbot, who, had he lived long enough, would have become Earl of Shrewsbury. Lady Annette De Trafford's brother, however, was Lord Shrewsbury for a few years; and at his premature death, in 1856, that ancient earldom became extinct in the Roman Catholic line and the Earl of Talbot, a distant cousin, succeeded to the historic title of Shrewsbury, and became premier earl of England.

A most unique record has just been decided in the London Law Courts, and is all the more remarkable as concerning a musician whose name rests principally on the composition of an Anglo-Irish song, 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' which still has a certain popularity. The case under notice is that of Frederick William Nicholls Crouch, who became bankrupt in 1837, and whose creditors (more correctly their survivors) were recently called together, 65 years after his failure, with a view of proving their claims and discussing matters, resulting in the very substantial dividend of 11s 9d in the pound. Crouch, in the bankruptcy returns of 1837, is described as 'Professor of Music, Felix terrace, Liverpool road,' and he was the son of Frederick Crouch, a fair violinist and composer, who died a pauper in 1840. Born in London in 1808, the younger Crouch, who was a 'cellist, leaped into fame in 1835 as the composer of 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' and died at Baltimore, U.S.A., in 1897, aged 89. It was not, however, by music that the late Mr. Crouch acquired a property which has now resulted in a belated dividend, but from a garden in Pentonville, originally only worth 6s a year, but now extremely valuable.

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