

Death of Archbishop Croke.

A CABLE message received last week announced the death of the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel. His Grace had been ill for some months, and when the last mail left Home there was little hope that the distinguished Prelate would recover. Some time ago his Grace asked for a Coadjutor, and on that occasion the *Cork Herald* said: 'This is an impressive sign that another striking figure in the Irish Church is passing into the shade. Always and without equivocation he was a friend and father of the people. "I preferred," he said himself, "the smiles of the poor to the blandishments of the rich, because I was for emancipating the serf and asserting the just rights of labor, for lifting up the old land generally, and making it as it might be, the fairest island in the sea, with her ports teeming with trade and her ships sailing in every ocean." What grander impulse could animate the priest or the citizen? and that impulse has guided him from first to last. It is now when he is seeking that period of rest which the fulness of time calls for that we can realise the magnitude of the work which this devoted Churchman and patriotic Irishman has accomplished. Half a century has flown by since he entered the service of the Church which he lived to adorn. Commencing his missionary career in his native Charleville, and having labored in subsequent years under the Southern Cross, he rose in due time to fill the ancient and historic See of Cashel of the Kings. That was just more than a quarter of a century ago, his consecration as Bishop dating back five years earlier. He is, therefore, to-day not only the ecclesiastical head of the province of Cashel, but the senior of all the bishops of a group of dioceses which contain over a million Catholics.'

'Long years, however, before the venerable Archbishop reached the high position in the Church which he has now filled for 20 years the name of the Rev. Thomas Croke was familiar throughout the land. Young, ardent, and independent, he was one of the very few priests who took the lead in the great Tenant Right movement in the early fifties. That movement was the first organised effort made to secure for the farmers of Ireland the right to live in their own land. Under the title of the League of the North and South, it grew until it justified its own name, though unhappily the union did not last. The time was not ripe for the bitterness which were then so keen to die out; but, nevertheless, the movement was not a failure, nor the efforts of men like young Father Tom Croke wasted. More than a quarter of a century passed—a period of trouble and turmoil in Ireland—and the old movement was revived under a new name. The curate of Charleville had become Archbishop of Cashel, but the heart of the Archbishop was the same sympathetic, fearless one that beat in the breast of the curate. He gave the movement the full strength of his support. This, as he said in after years, brought down on him "the maledictions of not a few, but the blessings of many." He was still the "unchanged and unchangeable," who never "turned his back in fear upon an enemy."

'Yes; the farmers of Ireland owe more to Archbishop Croke than they will ever realise. His friendship for them was a matter of principle and duty which, likewise, dictated his political action through life. The aim he set out in life to accomplish he always kept before him. To make young Irishmen manly and self-reliant, to teach them to be proud of their country, and to act so that their country may be proud of them—these have been the zealous cares of his old age. Of his work as an ecclesiastic we will not speak here. His name will live in the annals of the Church as one of her brightest ornaments. It is as the patriotic Irishman we regard him to-day—an Irishman whom all classes and creeds honor, and a noble man who, we all fervently wish, will enjoy for many years to come the rest which the toil of a long life has so richly earned.'

Death of Cardinal Ledochowski.

His Eminence Cardinal Ledochowski, Prefect of the Propaganda died last week. The deceased, who was over 80 years of age, was born at Gorki, in Russia. He began his theological studies under the Lazarists in the College of St. John, Warsaw, and at the age of 18 received the ecclesiastical tonsure from the Bishop of Sandomir. After some studies at Vienna he proceeded to Rome, where he joined the 'Academia Ecclesiastica'; became domestic prelate and prothonotary apostolic; and also went as auditor of the nunciature to Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago de Chile. He was named Archbishop of Thebes, in *partibus infidelium*, on his appointment in 1861 to the nunciature of Brussels, where he remained four years.

In January, 1866, he was translated to the Archbishopric of Gnesen and Posen, with the title of Primate of Poland. In consequence of his resistance to the so-called May Laws enacted in Prussia, he was, in 1871, cast into prison, and, while there, was proclaimed a Cardinal by the Pope, in a secret consistory held in 1873. He was released from captivity in 1876 and went to Rome. Here he was made Prefect of the Propaganda in 1892, which office he held until his death.

St. Patrick's College, Ballarat, conducted by the Christian Brothers, has made great progress during recent years. In 1897 it had 50 boarders and 20 day pupils. On July 1, 1902, the numbers had increased to 103 boarders and 63 day pupils. Some thousands of pounds have been recently expended on the college and grounds.

Wanted Known.—That for acute Bronchitis or Pneumonia TUSSIGURA is an immediate and permanent remedy.—*.*

The Landlords' Combine.

A CABLE message received last week states that the Irish landlords have combined, and are subscribing a capital of £100,000 with the object of opposing the United Irish League. We are prepared to accept the statement of the cableman that they are combining, but with regard to putting their hands in their pockets to fight their battle we have our doubts, as it is so contrary to their usual practice which is to put their hands into their tenants' pockets. This move on their part looks as if they had come to their last ditch.

Mr J. D. Phelan, ex-Mayor of San Francisco, has sent Mr John Redmond the sum of £500 towards the Nationalist defence in connection with the recent issue of writs at the instance of some landlords, who allege that there is a conspiracy to compel them to sell their properties below their value. Mr T. W. Russell visited some of these estates recently, and the result of his observations was that he came to the conclusion there was no economic rent to be got out of many of the holdings. The courts, in cases where sales to tenants have taken place, have fixed the price at an amount equal to about 18 years' purchase of the present high rental. Many of the landlords have recently raised their price to 27 years' rental, which is prohibitive, since the State would not advance money at such rates, as it would be impossible for the purchasers to meet their obligations. The tenants are willing and anxious to buy their holdings at from 16 to 18 years' purchase, and public opinion is in favor of compelling the landlords to sell at this price. This is what they call a conspiracy. From the proceedings of the last few years it is apparent that there is a huge conspiracy among the landlords to clear their estates of tenants and turn these into huge cattle runs. The contest is going to be a fierce one if the landlords persevere in their intention, but as the people have right and justice on their side we are confident that they will eventually come out victors. Now that the South African war is ended the people of the United Kingdom will be able to turn their attention to domestic affairs, and we are very much mistaken if they will allow the present administration to be the catspaw of a few selfish individuals, and permit half a dozen Irish landlords to dominate the policy of the Government.

A Dublin correspondent, writing under date June 14, says:—A writ has been issued at the suit of Lord De Freyne against a large number of defendants, the subject matter of the action being the dispute on the plaintiff's property. The action is for an injunction and damages. The injunction is asked for to restrain the defendants from acts of illegal conspiracy to procure the non-payment of rents on the De Freyne estate, to intimidate persons from entering into contracts, to procure boycotting, etc., etc. The following is a full list of the defendants:—

John Fitzgibbon, Patrick Webb, Denis Johnston, Bernard Harte, Owen McGarry, John Cullinan, M.P., O'Conor Kelly, M.P., William Duffy, M.P., the *Freeman's Journal* Ltd., John E. Redmond, M.P., John O'Donnell, M.P., David Sheehy, Laurence Ginnell, Alfred Webb, Andrew J. Kettle, William O'Brien, M.P., Michael Davitt, John Dillon, M.P., Patrick White, M.P., E. Haviland Burke, M.P., John McInerney, Thomas Harrington, John Roche, M.P., J. P. Farrell, M.P., Dr. Patrick Mulcahy, J. G. Swift MacNeill, M.P., Alderman J. J. Farrell, Joseph Delahunt, John Muldoon, and Richard McGhee.

The following are sued as members of the Standing Committee of the United Irish League: John E. Redmond, David Sheehy, Laurence Ginnell, John O'Donnell, Alfred Webb, Andrew Kettle, Patrick White, William O'Brien, Michael Davitt, John Dillon, Haviland Burke, John McInerney, Thomas Harrington, John Roche, J. P. Farrell, Dr. Mulcahy, Swift MacNeill, Alderman Farrell, Thomas Delahunt, John Muldoon, Richard McGhee.

Messrs John O'Donnell and John Dillon are in addition sued personally.

The writ is signed by Gerald Fitzgibbon, Pierce Nolan, Thomas L. O'Shaughnessy, K.C., and Stephen Ronan, K.C.

The Press Association understands that in Parliamentary circles much importance is attached to the action which is being brought by Lord De Freyne against a group of Irish Nationalist members who are associated with the United Irish League. It is understood that his Lordship has the sympathy and support of other Irish landlords. There is also reason to believe that the defendants will strenuously resist the action, not only in their individual capacity, but also protect the funds of the League from an attack calculated, if successful, to impoverish its resources, just as the decision in the Taaf Vale case was opposed in the interest of trade union funds. The case is not unlikely to be carried on appeal from the courts in Dublin to the House of Lords.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, DUNEDIN.

The annual meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Dunedin, was held in St. Joseph's Hall, on Wednesday evening of last week. His Lordship Bishop Verdon presided, and there was a good attendance of members.

Mrs J. B. Callan read the annual report and balance sheet which were as follow:—

In presenting to their subscribers a short record of the year's work the committee gladly take advantage of the opportunity to recognise publicly the valuable help the Society has at all times received from his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy of the diocese, the Nuns of the Good Shepherd (Mount Magdala), the Sisters of Mercy (South Dunedin), U.S.S. Co., Messrs Callan and Gallaway, the Kaiangata Coal Co., and the subscribing members. We are glad to say that the active members, who joined last year, have