

port of the men who are conducting the campaign in Ireland, so that friend and foe alike may know that the leaders in Ireland have the support of their kindred in America. The various branches of the United Irish League throughout America are taking active steps to swell the Irish National Defence Fund, the collections for which are now going on. The change for the better which has come about in Ireland has given a great fillip to the work of raising money, and new branches of the organisation are springing up daily.

The Royal Visit

It is now definitely announced that the King and Queen will spend six days in Ireland in the third week in July.

Need for Improvement

Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., addressing his constituents at Clogher, said the new Land Bill was not a measure to be thrown out, as was the Bill of last year. The Irish members of every shade would unite to improve it where improvement was needed. It would be a horrible calamity if an act of theirs should cause its rejection.

Congratulations

We ('Catholic Herald of India') congratulate most heartily Mr. M. Finucane, C.S.I., on his selection as one of the three members of the Estates Commission which is to control the operations of Mr. Wyndham's Irish Land Bill. His experience in land questions and the well-known ability with which he grappled them as Land Officer of the Darbhanga Raja and as Director of Land Records fully qualifies him for the honorable position to which he is called.

The Future of Ireland

Many years ago Cardinal Newman, in an article appealing for a Catholic University for Ireland, made a remarkable prophecy about the future of Ireland. The passage is well known to students of his writings, and even to newspaper readers, for it has often been quoted. It has been brought forward once again by the 'Westminster Gazette' in view of the Land Bill. 'I contemplate,' he wrote, 'a people which has had a long night and will have an inevitable day. I am turning my eyes towards a hundred years to come, and I dimly see the island I am gazing upon become the road of union and passage between two hemispheres and the centre of the world. I see its inhabitants rival Belgium in populousness, France in vigor, and Spain in enthusiasm; and I see England taught by advancing years to exercise in its behalf that good sense which is her characteristic towards everyone else.'

Banking Statistics

The report on the Bank and Railway Statistics of Ireland for the year 1902, prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, has been laid on the table of the House of Commons. It shows that the deposits and cash balances in joint stock banks at the close of the year amounted to £44,450,000 (exclusive of £1,890,000 Government and other public balances in the Bank of Ireland) as compared with £42,923,000 at the end of 1901. This represents an increase of £1,527,000, and is the highest amount ever reached, though the report is again careful to point out that these balances are not to be taken as complete bases on which to form an estimate of the prosperity of the country. The total amount in the Post Office and Trustees Savings Bank was £11,470,000 as compared with £10,797,000 at the end of 1901, being an increase of £673,000 for the year. £605,000 of this increase was in deposits in the Post Office Savings Banks, and £68,000 in those of Trustees Savings Banks. The report also shows that the amount to December, 1902, of Government Funds, India Stocks, Guaranteed Land Stocks, and War Stocks, on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, showed an increase of £1,362,000 as compared with the amount at the close of the preceding year.

The Gordon-Bennett Race

Preparations for the Gordon-Bennett race are being actively pushed ahead (says the 'Freeman's Journal'). According to Mr. Cecil Edge, who has thoroughly inspected the Irish course, the roads compare very favorably with those on which the Paris-Vienna race was held. 'Of course,' he said, in an interview with a 'Westminster Gazette' representative recently, 'you cannot compare any roads in these countries with those of France. There you get a stretch of straight road forty or fifty miles long, and you can put on your top speed and allow your nerves some relaxation. But on the Irish course, it will be a matter of a man being on his mettle the whole time. The longest straight piece of road is not more than nine miles at the most, though in the whole race of just over 351 miles there are 221 miles of straight. There are two rather bad hills on the Irish course, one known as Windy Gap and the other Kilrush Hill, the bottom of which is the finishing point of the race. The road has a good many sharp corners, though they are nothing like so dangerous as those in last year's race. A better road could have been found in England, but altogether it is a course over which a very fair race can be held, and that car which is the fastest will win.'

The last mail brought the gratifying intelligence (says the 'Freeman's Journal') that Amy, Dolly, and George Castles have safely reached their destination, and entered on their studies. M. Bouhy declares that Amy's voice is as fine as ever; he speaks in high terms of Dolly's, and expects great things from George Castles.

People We Hear About

Mr. F. Marion Crawford now produces on an average two novels a year, though 'Marzio's Crucifix' was written in ten days.

The Barings, who are the descendants of the Rev. Francis Baring, a German pastor, are the owners of no fewer than four peerages—those of Ashburton, Northbrook, Revelstoke, and Cromer.

Certain members of the House of Lords might take exception to their being called publicans. But are they not in a way? The number of licensed houses owned by Lord Derby is 72; Duke of Bedford, 50; Duke of Devonshire, 47; Duke of Rutland, 37; Duke of Northumberland, 36; Lord Dudley, 33; Lord Cowper, 22; Lord Dunraven and Marquis of Salisbury, 11 each. These nine peers thus own 319 public houses.

A charming touch was given to the debate on the Associations Bill in the French Chamber by Monsieur Lasies. He told how in the Church of Saint Philippe du Roule and in another Parisian church charming little addresses had been made on the occasion of the cure's feast day by the brightest and best boys in the catechism class, who were respectively the grandson of the highest magistrate and the son of one of the Ministers of the Republic. The Deputies of the Left made a loud call for names. 'The first, at St. Philippe du Roule,' then explained M. Lasies, 'was the charming little grandson of M. Loubet. The second, well, he is very intelligent, and takes after his father, who is M. Rouvier, Minister for Finance.'

A professor attached to one of the American Universities has endeavored to solve the riddle as to the order of priority of earth's greatest geniuses, by the length of the articles allotted to them in the six greatest and most important (English, American, French, and German) encyclopaedias in the world. Having selected the thousand celebrities to whom are devoted the longest notices, he next set to work to classify them according to the amount of space occupied by each name. According to this analysis, Napoleon comes out first, Shakespeare second, Mahomet third, and Voltaire fourth. George Washington obtained only nineteenth place.

Captain Shawe-Taylor, who was for many years stationed with his regiment in Limerick, has been staying in that county on visits to Lord Dunraven and other friends. The Captain is one of the best humored of men, and all attempts to 'chaff' him are gaily rebuffed. 'I suppose Captain,' said a stout Orangeman from the Black North, 'over the walnuts and the wine'—'I suppose, Captain Taylor, now that you have settled the liquor question and the land question, you will take up Home Rule next?' 'No,' was the reply. 'Home Rule is only Number 4 on my list; I am taking up religious intolerance as my next question, and am about to deliver a series of lectures to the Northern Orangemen.'

In the midst of the talk about the visit of Lord Middleton and his son, the War Secretary to their Irish Estates it may be interesting (says the 'Freeman's Journal') to note one point. 'Thom's Directory' gives Lord Middleton two Irish addresses—'The Grange, and 'Gahirmone'. As a matter of fact, the Earl is an absentee of the most arrant type. He has no home in Ireland, and during his flying visits stays at the house of his agent, Mr. Fitzgerald, a younger brother of Sir Penrose Fitzgerald. Long before a Broderick ever landed in Ireland the ancestors of Sir Penrose ruled the wide acres now ruled by Lord Middleton. They were those wild and turbulent Geraldines, 'The Seneschals of Iniskilly.'

In scholastic circles (writes the Wellington correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times') there is a good deal of talk in consequence of the failure of the Government to appoint representatives of the leading churches in the Colony on the University Senate. Archbishop Redwood (of the Roman Catholic Church), Bishop Nevill (of the Anglican Church), and the Rev. Mr. Paterson (of the Presbyterian Church), many people think, might very well have been nominated by the Government. Archbishop Redwood was previously appointed by the Atkinson Government, and he would be a particularly useful member of the Senate in consequence of his attainments as a French scholar. The Rev. Mr. Patterson would also be a valuable member in dealing with matters of finance and in other directions. Both these gentlemen have rendered very valuable services in the past.

Mr. M. J. Redding, Park avenue and Bindle street, Baltimore, the first vice-president of the United Irish League of America, who spoke at the great National Convention in Dublin, is a Limerick man. Born in the city of Limerick 50 years ago, Mr. Redding emigrated to America with his parents when he was but 10 years of age. This is the first time since then he has come back to Ireland from his distant exile. Mr. Redding, in coming to attend the National Convention, availed himself of the opportunity to visit his native city by the Shannon. He has seen all the historic spots in Limerick, in which he took a deep interest, but was much depressed at all the squalidness he witnessed in the poorer parts of the old city. He visited Broadwood, County Clare, close by, which his parents were born, and while there he had the pleasure of meeting Lord Emly who had just addressed a very large and influential meeting of agricultural, trade, and labor bodies.