

Irish News

ANTRIM.—Death of a Belfast Man

The death is announced of Mr. Arthur Hamill, D.L., Belfast, who was said to be one of the wealthiest Catholics in Ulster. Mr. Hamill had been ailing for about a year, and died at his residence, Trench House, near Belfast. In politics he was Unionist.

An Irish Harp Festival

A representative committee has been formed in Belfast for the purpose of making arrangements for the holding of an Irish Harp Festival in that city—a festival, however, which would not be limited to performances on the harp, but would include performances on the Irish pipes, singing, and dancing. In connection with the festival it is proposed to have an exhibition of national musical instruments, music, portraits of Irish harpers, etc.

CLARE.—The Diocese of Killaloe

The Bishop of Killaloe, the Most Rev. Dr. McRedmond, has announced his intention of establishing a Chapter in the diocese. It will consist of 15 members, including a dean, archdeacon, and 13 canons.

CORK.—The Forthcoming Regatta

A deputation of Cork amateur oarsmen recently paid a visit to London with a view of getting support for proposed rowing competitions at the Cork City Regatta. They received much encouragement from leading members of London clubs, and on their report being made to the regatta committee, it was decided to offer a challenge cup value £150, and consolation prizes value £108, for competition.

An Honest Lace Dealer

The 'Cunard Bulletin,' published on board the Campania on a recent outward voyage to New York, contains the following interesting story of the first money order sent out to a ship at sea by Marconigram. 'When about 150 miles out from Queenstown, speeding along on our voyage, we were called from behind by Crookhaven Station, County Kerry, by the following message from our Queenstown offices: "Mrs. Hegarty, Irish lace vendor, when on board the Campania this morning was handed a ten-pound note instead of a five-pound by a gentleman saloon passenger, and would like to return it. Please have inquiries made." The message was posted up in the saloon, and the owner of the note, a well-known New York merchant, found, and the difference, five pounds, refunded him by the ship, the amount being recovered from the lace vendor by our Queenstown agents.'

DOWN.—A Windfall

Information has reached Banbridge, County Down, to the effect that the Court of Probate in Philadelphia has given judgment in the case of the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Olds, deceased, of Newhaven, Connecticut. The value of the estate is 400,000 dollars. The claim of James H. Campbell, of Banbridge, has been dismissed, and the amount has been ordered to be divided into nine shares. Amongst the beneficiaries under the judgment are Mrs. Anna M. Shields, a sister of the deceased, and other descendants in the Banbridge district. They are ordinary working people and are greatly delighted with their good fortunes.

DUBLIN.—The Mansion House

The Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin, in which the Land Bill Convention was held, is one of the largest assembly rooms in Europe. It was built in 1821 by relays of workmen—the work proceeding without intermission by day or night—to enable the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Corporation to entertain with a fitting magnificence George IV. on his visit to Ireland that year.

Bogus Clubs

Judging by the number of prosecutions that have recently been instituted and the smart penalties inflicted the authorities (writes a Dublin correspondent) are waking up to the huge evil wrought by the bogus clubs of Dublin. As the recorder put it, they exist simply with the object of evading the law. They are beyond doubt responsible for most of the drunkenness of the city. The law evidently requires to be more stringently enforced in their regard than it has been, and it is satisfactory that a beginning has been made.

Lady Guardians

A conference of Irish lady guardians and their sympathisers was held recently in the Mansion House. Mrs. Dockrell presided, and a number of most instructive papers were read by lady guardians.

GALWAY.—Presentation to the Bishop

The Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack, Bishop of Galway, has been made the recipient, by the Very Rev. Dr. Fahy, P.P., V.G., and the other priests of Gort of a splendid portrait, painted from a photo of his taken at the last St. Colman MacDuagh celebrations at Kiltartan, Gort.

LIMERICK.—A Reminder of the Past

The reference in his speech winding up the debate on the second reading of the Irish Land Bill by Mr. Wyndham to the Treaty of Limerick and the two sinister heritages bequeathed (by the breaking of that Treaty by England)—the Catholic Question and the Land Question

—will render it of interest to recall the fact (says the 'Freeman's Journal') that on March 6th, 1828, Sir Henry Parnell, who was subsequently Secretary of State for War, and Lord Congleton, moved in the House of Commons that 'a copy of the Treaty of Limerick be laid upon the table.' The motion, which was ultimately agreed to without division, led to a debate of great animation, in which Sir Robert Peel, the younger Grat-tan, and Spring Rice took part. The report of the debate is, perhaps, the very best popular exposition on record of the Treaty of Limerick and the circumstances attending its violation. It is certainly a remarkable coincidence that this great instrument should form the subject of attention on the eve of Catholic Emancipation and on the eve of an attempt at the settlement of the Irish Land Question.

GENERAL

Treasure Trove

A London Judge has decided that the famous Celtic gold ornaments found at Lough Foyle, Ireland, in 1896, and purchased by the British Museum, are treasure trove and belong to the Crown.

A New Ireland

Mr. Justin McCarthy contributed to a recent issue of 'New Ireland' an article entitled 'A Quarter of a Century's Gain in Ireland.' He thus concludes: 'I am proud to be able to express my absolute conviction that the New Ireland has arisen, and that our dearest national hopes are on the eve of consummation. It is well for those Irishmen who have lived to see the coming of such a day.'

Nuns in Workhouses

A Parliamentary return has been issued showing the number of workhouse infirmaries in Ireland in which nuns are employed in any capacity, showing for each infirmary the number of nuns so employed, and the amount paid to them by the way of salaries within the last financial year. The totals are 32 matrons, who receive £1440 a year; 48 schoolmistresses, who receive £1,888; and 335 nurses, who receive £10,195.

Agrarian Crime

The return of agrarian offences in Ireland in 1902, issued as a Parliamentary Paper, indicates (says the 'Irish Weekly') that the expense involved in printing documents of this kind may in future be saved the taxpayers. It runs to 10 pages, it is true, but the pages are all but blank. In the matter of agrarian crime Irish perversity is considered capable of breaking out in 33 different ways; but during 1902 16 of the 33 crimes were so rigidly boycotted that there was not even one offence recorded under these 16 headings. Indeed, were it not for a marked partiality by some simpatons or unsuited beings for sending 'threatening letters' there would be practically nothing to return.

Tobacco Culture

An inquiry made of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by Mr. William Redmond is a reminder that a subject which created very great interest in Ireland a year or two ago is fortunately not a dead topic. Mr. William Redmond wanted to know if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would extend to the experimental culture of tobacco in Ireland the same protection and encouragement held out by his predecessor, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied at once in the affirmative, and this exchange of views between Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Redmond is interesting to us as a sign that experiments in tobacco growing are still being made under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. As nothing has been heard for some time of Irish-grown weed the public will be glad to know, on the authority of Mr. Redmond, that considerable success has attended the experiments.

Sectarian Feeling

Speaking at the Dublin dinner of the Surveyors' Institution, Sir Antony MacDonnell said that on coming back to his own country after half a lifetime of foreign service, detached from any political party and entirely above any sectarian feeling, nothing had surprised and pained him more than the extent to which sectarian feeling prevailed in Ireland. Seeing that Sir Antony's time since he returned to Ireland has been entirely devoted to a most laudable effort to reform the Castle with its various departments and ramifications, his words bear a significant meaning and speak volumes for the bigotry with which he has to contend. He also asserted that he had not met anyone, be he Catholic or Protestant, who had not deplored this miserable condition of things. No doubt the loudest weepers were those who live and thrive on sectarian animosity. It has ever been thus in Ireland.

Penal Laws

The 'Westminster Gazette' recently commented upon the fact that the Irish members more than any other section of the House of Commons affected the beard. This statement has caused a correspondent to write to the editor to remind him of the fact that there was a period extending over two centuries when an Irishman was prohibited by the law of England from wearing a moustache. We are told that 'In a Parliament held at Trim in 1447, Henry VI. being then on the throne, and John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, occupying the position of Lord Lieutenant, it was enacted that every Irishman must keep his upper lip shaved or be used as an Irish enemy.' If he persisted in following the fashion of wearing a moustache his treason could be purged only