

struggle for Irish rights had fairly arrived. He advised Irish voters in Britain not to pledge themselves upon the fiscal question, but to await the word of command as in 1885. He would not vote on the merits of the fiscal issue, except in the way that would best serve the Irish cause. The Nationalist party were bound to pursue a selfish policy if they wished to see Ireland successful.

Success of Local Government

Local Government in Ireland has been a great and conspicuous success. Contrary to the ominous forebodings of Lord Salisbury and his friends the Irish county and district councils have performed the work allotted to them with praiseworthy zeal and public spirit. This statement may appear exaggerated, but it is made on the authority of the annual report of the Local Government Board for Ireland for the year ending March, 1902, which has just been laid on the table of the House of Commons, and derives special interest from the fact that in this report the Local Government Board authorities are able to pass judgment on the work that has been done during the first term of office by the county councils and rural district councils. The Local Government Board speaks in the highest way of the manner in which the county councils and rural district councils have discharged their duties.

Irish Minstrelsy

The recent purchase of a M'Fall Irish harp by the Lord Lieutenant (says the 'Freeman's Journal') may help to introduce the national instrument into the salons of our Irish moneyed folk. It is now almost 500 years ago since another Lord Dudley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, became a patron of Irish harpers. From the State papers it appears that Lord Dudley on coming to Ireland as Viceroy, in 1428, was determined to administer justice evenly between the Irish and Anglo-Irish. The harsh measures adopted by his predecessors, Lord Furnivall and Sir John Gray, towards Irish bards and harpers had provoked lamentable reprisals, and so Lord Dudley adopted conciliatory measures, which much encouraged the art of music. His patronage had a stimulating effect for three years; in fact, until the appointment of his successor, Sir Thomas Stanley, in 1432, and for a time the enactments of the Statute of Kilkenny, as regards minstrels, were utterly ignored. A confirmation of this may be found on the Patent Rolls of the 15th of Henry VI. (1435), wherein it is stated definitely that 'the Irish mummings, harpers, timpanists, minstrels, chess-players, rhymers, story-tellers, bards, and others, contrary to the Statute of Kilkenny, went amongst the English colonists, and exercised their arts and minstrelsy, and afterwards proceeded to the Irish enemies, and led them upon the King's liege subjects.' Coming nearer to our own day, the Duke of Richmond, when Lord Lieutenant, in 1809, purchased two harps from John Egan, the famous harp maker, of 25 Dawson street, Dublin, who added pedals to his harps so as to compete with the French double-action harp, which had been introduced by Sebastian Erard in 1801.

A Tribute to the Teaching Orders

At the meeting of the Protestant Synod on April 23, the Bishop of Killaloe proposed the appointment of a committee to inquire into the condition of secondary education as affecting the interests of the Church of Ireland. He said that in Cork, where he labored for many years, the principal positions in the large mercantile establishments, the positions of clerks, accountants, and, in fact, all remunerative positions, were occupied by persons who had been pupils of the Christian Brothers. The same thing was happening throughout Ireland in every place that the Christian Brothers had established themselves. This admirable organisation the Christian Brothers, had, he said, spread itself into every centre in Ireland where there was a sufficient number of Catholic children, and following the Christian Brothers they had the Presentation Brothers, another excellent organisation, giving very good education indeed; and then there were a large number of other religious Orders, and pupils were being educated and trained in thorough, sound education. It had come to this, that the members of the Church of Ireland who wished to give their children better education had to depend on the monastic institutions. They all saw where some time ago the directors of the Great Southern and Western Railway Co. were attacked for appointing Protestants to positions in the service of the company in preference to Catholics. The directors, the majority of whom are Protestants, naturally nominated Protestants to positions in their giving, but after the agitation of the Catholic shareholders, the directors came to the conclusion—and in his opinion it was a very wise conclusion—to open up these positions to competition. This would mean that positions could only be got in future by competitive examination. This entirely satisfied the Catholic shareholders, because they always had plenty of well-educated applicants, thoroughly trained up to the requirements of these very positions. The result would be that the Catholics will have the whole thing in their own hands when the system of examination came into operation. He proposed that a committee be appointed to inquire into the present system of primary and secondary education in Church of Ireland schools.

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People We Hear About

Sir Bryan O'Loughlin, Bart., ex-Premier of Victoria, has just entered on his 76th year. He is one of the few people who have been elected to the House of Commons in their absence, but he never took his seat in that Chamber.

Mr. C. E. de Trafford, a famous Leicester County cricketer, belongs to the old Catholic family, the Lancashire de Traffords, whose estate near Manchester, close to the Ship Canal, figured largely in the financial speculations of Mr. Hooley a few years ago.

Colonel Patrick FitzGerald Galloway, late R.A., died at Onslow Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, on May 20. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. Michael Galloway, Dingle, Kerry, and was born in 1838. Colonel Galloway served in the Afghan war of 1879-80 in charge of the field parks of the 1st and 2nd divisions of the Peshawar Valley Field Force, and took part in the operations against the Zakka Kheyl Afridis in the Bazar Valley under Lieutenant-General Maude, being mentioned in despatches for his services. He retired in 1895.

Writing of the late Archdeacon Slattery, of Geelong, the Daylesford 'Herald' relates that 'generous himself, he could not bear meanness in others. This was illustrated when a swagman, being refused work or food at a Daylesford farm, pulled up a billy of potatoes from the farmer's 20-acre crop and was given in charge for theft. Father Slattery assured himself of the facts of the case, lectured the farmer on his inhumanity, presented himself in court, and pleaded successfully for the discharge of the hungry tramp.'

A cable message received last week stated that the Dublin University had conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Sir Frederick M. Darley, Chief Justice of New South Wales. Sir Frederick Darley is now in his 73rd year, and is a son of the late Henry Darley, of Wicklow. He was educated at Dungannon College and Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated B.A. in 1851. He was called to the Irish Bar just half a century ago and went the Munster Circuit. He came out to Australia later on, and commenced the practice of his profession in New South Wales in 1862. In 1886 he was appointed Chief Justice of New South Wales, and was knighted in the following year.

Mr. William Redmond's humorous and pointed interjections are becoming quite a feature of parliamentary life. The House of Commons was favored the other day with another laughable interruption from the hon. member. Just before the House adjourned an Irish member managed to move the second reading of the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill. Thereupon Sir F. Banbury arose to perform his customary function of talking out the Bill. The member for Peckham succeeded in speaking for many minutes without saying anything in particular—much to the disappointment of the Irish members. 'For these reasons, Mr. Speaker,' concluded Sir F. Banbury—'They ought to send you to the House of Lords,' put in Mr. Redmond, amidst a roar of laughter.

Mr. Michael Davitt is on his way to Bessarabia for the New York 'American' to investigate the recent massacre of the Jews at Kishineff, and to bring financial succor to their friends and relatives from funds subscribed in the Republic. He has not an easy task before him, if we ('Freeman's Journal') may judge by a letter from 'a well-informed quarter in South Russia' which has just been published by the Berlin 'National Zeitung'. He declares that the Kishineff explosion is only a symptom of the deep, latent dissatisfaction among the Russian peasant classes, and that the fury of the mob in this particular case happened to be vented on the Jews for purely local reasons. Mr. Davitt has, it will be seen, undertaken a serious responsibility, and, with characteristic courage, has gone to a scene of real danger, where, from the very nature of the case, he must run many serious risks.

Though the late 'Max O'Rell' adopted an Irish form of non-de-guerre, and paid several visits to Ireland, he declined to write a book about that part of the United Kingdom. 'I have many times been asked why, having written on the subject of England and Scotland, I had no intention of publishing my impressions of the Irish,' he wrote in his first book on America. 'My answer is this. In speaking of a people I like to touch on their pet transgressions, their faults and weaknesses, and I have never been able to find any in the Irish.' According to that observant Frenchman, New York is the real capital of Ireland. After the city had been conquered successively by the Dutch, the English, and the Yankees, it is to-day 'in the hands of the Irish'—so he wrote in 1889. He explained that Americans favored Home Rule in the hope that 'when the Irish get Ireland they will go home.' 'I, too,' he went on, 'would like to see the Irish in possession of Ireland, but for other reasons. First and chiefly, because they are good patriots, and though in a foreign land, even naturalised Americans, they do not forget their beloved country. They give their allegiance to America, but their hearts remain true to Ireland.'

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