

Erin when their native tongue was respected as it deserved to be and took the place to which it was entitled in the educational institutions of the country.

TYRONE.—Demise of a Priest

The death is reported of the Very Rev. John Rock, pastor of Clonoe. Father Rock was struck down with paralysis almost two years ago. The evening before his death he received the last sacraments from the hands of the Rev. Thomas M'Brien, C.C., one of his curates, and was perfectly resigned to the will of God. The death of Father Rock takes away one of the most learned ecclesiastics of the Irish Church. He received his education for the priesthood in the Irish College at Rome, and his name is still well remembered in the Eternal City. The news of his death was received with the deepest sorrow and regret by all who knew him, and especially by his own faithful people, who have lost in him a kind father and a loving friend.

GENERAL

Sporting Rights

A London correspondent writing with regard to the discussion on the Irish Land Bill when in Committee in the House of Commons, said that clause 12 was highly contentious, as it proposed to give the landlords, after they had sold their estates at a price which certainly could not be styled niggardly, power to retain the sporting rights of their estates. No more monstrous proposal could be put forward. The Irish tenant is expecting that he is, once and for all, to be freed from landlordism, and that the old feudal lordship is to be destroyed, and that he is to become the absolute and free owner of his soil. Fancy his position if, after purchase, the landlord and his friends could hunt and shoot at any time they pleased over perhaps the crops of the tenants. The Irish party riddled the proposal. Member after member brought forward the most convincing arguments to show how indefensible it was, how injurious it would be to the peace of the country, so that in the end, after a desperate fight by the landlord representatives in the House, Mr. Wyndham gave way, and allowed freedom to the tenants to make whatever bargains they chose with their landlords.

Local Government

The annual report of the Local Government Board for Ireland has been issued. It states that the term of office of the first county councils and rural district councils, on whom, with their officers, rests the credit of having successfully assisted in carrying the Local Government Act into operation, expired in June, and the new councils, with the experience of the past three years, will, no doubt, endeavor to bring the system into a state of even greater efficiency. The report proceeds:—'We feel confident that the conduct of their affairs by the various local authorities and their officials will continue to justify the delegation to them of the large powers transferred to their control by the Local Government Acts. In no other matters have the councils been more successful than in their financial administration. After the heavy preliminary expenses necessarily attending the introduction of a new system of local government had been provided for and the councils and their officers had succeeded in obtaining a satisfactory basis on which to make their estimates of future expenditure, they found it possible to effect considerable reductions in their rates, and there seems to be every reason to anticipate that with extended experience, there will be a still further general reduction of country rates.'

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People We Hear About

Count Campello, the Vatican Canon who became a Protestant and afterwards returned to the bosom of the Church, has just died in Rome.

King Alphonso of Spain will pay a visit, in the autumn, to the Court of Vienna. King Alphonso's mother is an Austrian archduchess, and it would be only natural, it is pointed out, that the King's first visit abroad should be to the Emperor Francis Joseph.

Rolfe Boldrewood (Mr. T. A. Browne), author of 'Robbery Under Arms' and other well-known Australian novels, completed his 77th year a few days ago. 'Robbery Under Arms' first appeared in the 'Sydney Mail,' and it was not published in book form till 1888. Mr. Browne has been both a squatter and a police magistrate during his 73 years in Australia.

Miss Geraldine Leake Griffin, to whom, as secretary of the Irish fair held the other day in London, fell the most of the labor in connection with the work of organization, is a very energetic and enthusiastic worker in the ranks of the Gaelic League, London. Miss Griffin, who is a niece of Gerald Griffin, the first of the Irish novelists, has been a prominent member of the Irish Literary Society, London, since its foundation 10 years ago. Her sister, Miss Anna Griffin, is widely known as an artist, and has exhibited at the Gallery of Painters in Water Colors, particularly portraits, and many clever sketches of Clare and of her native place, Limerick. Both ladies appropriately assisted at the stalls devoted to artistic work and Irish literature.

The brilliant Irish-French composer, Augusta Holmes (pronounced Hol-meze by the French), who has just died, had a most romantic career. Her father was a young Irish officer, who came to Paris with the Allies after the downfall of Napoleon in 1815. He married a Scotch girl and settled in Paris. Augusta was the issue of this Celtic alliance. She was trained in music, and appeared as a solo pianiste; and later on as a composer. Like Wagner, she furnished the poetry for her musical settings. Among her works, which have made her famous throughout Europe, are symphonic poems, 'Irelande,' 'Les Argonautes,' 'Ode Triumphale,' 'Hymne a la Paix,' 'Andromede,' and innumerable songs and concerted pieces.

The addition of The O'Clery, a former member of the House of Commons, and one of his Majesty's Lieutenants of London, to the list of Papal Counts calls attention to the fact that the number of lay British subjects who bear Papal titles is very small. They range from a prince to a count, the prince being the Scottish Earl of Newburgh, who was naturalised by Act of Parliament in 1857. There are two Papal Dukes: the Duke de Stacpoole, of Woodlawn, County Galway—a creation of Pope Gregory XVI.—and the Duke Gandolphi, of Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, a creation of the late Pope. The counts include Count Moore, who recently sat in Parliament for Derry, and Count Plunkett, who failed to enter Parliament for Stephen's Green, Dublin, and who is now secretary of the Greater Cork Exhibition. There are three or four other counts.

The King (according to the London 'Daily Chronicle') visited Ireland no fewer than four times before he was 20. The first occasion was in 1849, when he accompanied the late Queen on her visit to Ireland. With singular appropriateness, her Majesty landed temporarily at the Cove of Cork, henceforth to be called Queenstown, but the future King did not actually land until the Royal yacht reached Kingstown. Four years later, 1853, the King again accompanied his parents to Ireland, and Dublin received her new Earl with enthusiasm. His third visit occurred in his 17th year, when he took a holiday trip with his tutor, Mr. Gibbs, to Killarney, and went about incog., riding on jaunting cars, enjoying real 'potheen' at wayside inns, and cracking jokes with the oarsmen on the lakes. The summer of 1861 found him again in Ireland, this time to undergo military training at the Curragh camp.

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