

A HEROIC GUNNER'S FATE.

News of the death, under heroic circumstances, of James Gosson, a private of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, has been received by his friends at Skerries, County Dublin. Private Gosson and his brother were posted with a machine-gun section, and both fell practically together. 'Eye-Witness' deals with the incident as follows:—At one place in this quarter (the extreme left) a machine gun was stationed in the angle of a trench when the German rush took place. One man after another of the detachment was shot, but the gun still continued in action, though five bodies lay around it. When the sixth man took the place of his fallen comrades, of whom one was his brother, the Germans were still pressing on. He waited until they were only a few yards away, and then poured a stream of bullets on the advancing ranks, which broke and fell back, leaving rows of dead. He was then wounded himself. The 'sixth man' was Private Gosson, whose brother lay dead beside him in the trench. Wounded in the shoulder and foot he was removed to the Canadian Field Hospital. Tetanus supervened, and he died.

Private Gosson was a reservist, and at the time of the outbreak of the war was drill instructor to the local company of National Volunteers at Skerries. He has left a wife and young family.

RECRUITING IN IRELAND.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., writes to the press as follows:—There is a great deal of misapprehension, I find, in the public mind with reference to what we have all been calling the 'Irish Brigade.' As a matter of fact, the proper term is the 'Irish Division,' and we have all been using the word 'Brigade' simply because of historical associations. The fact is that the Irish Division, which is the 16th Division, under General Parsons, consists of three Irish Brigades—one stationed at Fermoy, one at Buttevant, and one at Tipperary, entirely composed of Irishmen and also largely officered by Irishmen. The Brigade at Fermoy is now full. The Brigade at Buttevant is almost full. The Brigade at Tipperary, however, still requires a large number of recruits. This, I fancy, is largely due to the fact that recruits have rushed to the Fermoy Brigade under the impression that that was the Brigade and the only Irish Brigade. The regiments of the Buttevant Brigade, which still require recruits, are the 7th Royal Irish Rifles and the 9th Royal Munster Fusiliers. The regiments of the Tipperary Brigade, which still require recruits, are 7th and 8th Inniskillings and 7th and 8th Irish Fusiliers. These are all great historical Irish regiments, and inasmuch as the Irish Division as a whole cannot be ready for active service until all the brigades are completed, it is to be hoped that the deficiency in the Tipperary and Buttevant Brigades will be made up as soon as possible.

Recruiting in Ireland has gone on with increasing rapidity, and it appears, from the latest figures that I have seen, that in the four weeks ending the 16th April close on 8000 recruits enlisted. A number of these, no doubt, went to the Irish Guards and a very large proportion to the various reserve regiments, and only a small proportion of them to the Irish Division. This is a great pity, and I feel sure that, if efforts were made to let it be clearly understood by recruits that they are required in order to complete the Irish Division, sufficient would speedily be obtained.

I may say that, through the generosity and public spirit of a leading Irishman and friend of mine in England, Mr. Thomas Ryan, of Buxton, I have been placed in a position of being able to present, as a mascot, an Irish wolfhound to each of the three Irish Brigades. The dogs are most splendid animals, of the purest strain, and they come from the finest Irish wolfhound kennel. One of them stands 9½ hands high to the shoulder. I hope personally to have the opportunity of presenting these dogs to the brigades.

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People We Hear About

Mr. Thomas Donovan, who has promised £30,000 to the Catholic College in the University of Melbourne, is a member of a very prominent old Sydney family. His father, Mr. Jeremiah Donovan, was a well-known and very successful merchant in Sydney commercial circles of long ago, and one of his brothers was the late Dr. Donovan, K.C., LL.D. Mr. Donovan has spent almost a quarter of a century away from his native land, in the chief cities of Europe. His early education was received at St. Mary's Seminary and at the Sydney Grammar School. His business life began in a bank, where he received a long and thorough commercial training; but, his health not being robust, he resigned his appointment and went abroad, where he remained until a few years back, spending the summer months in England and the winter on the Mediterranean.

Our readers (says the London *Universe*) will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Felicia Curtis. Under the *nom-de-plume* of 'Felix Noel' she wrote the delightful children's column in this paper for some time, and contributed many reviews and also short stories occasionally to our pages. Her novels, *Under the Rose* and *In the Lion Years*, written since she became a convert in the desire to arouse in others a love for the Faith to which she had come so happily, were both remarkably well received by the press, and were universally acclaimed as admirable specimens of the historical novel. To the *Irish Rosary* she was an occasional contributor, and her delightful stories also were well known to readers of the *Cross*. To the general public Miss Curtis was known only by her writings, but she has left to those who were personally acquainted with her the kindest memories of loyal friendship and sincere affection, which will always keep a place for her in the hearts of those privileged to be associated with her.

In a lecture, delivered recently in England, Mr. Godwin Bulger dealt with the influence of Catholic writers on English fiction of the present day. Down to nearly the middle of last century (said the lecturer) Catholicism as such can hardly be said to have had a generally recognised place in the literature of the country. With the Oxford Movement a new era dawned, and Newman himself after his conversion came to the forefront, and led the way for others to follow, among whom Coventry Patmore and Lady Georgiana Fullerton deserved special mention. But, to come at once to more recent times, it might be said that a fresh stage in the development of English Catholic literature, especially in the department of fiction, was inaugurated by another convert, the gifted lady who wrote under the name of John Oliver Hobbes. She may be said to have struck the note of enthusiasm, an enthusiasm for the faith which is much needed in our day. And in this respect she was worthily followed by Henry Harland, who is unsurpassed in the skill with which he sets forth the bright joyousness which pervades and permeates the lives of sincere and genuine Catholics, more especially when their lot is cast in the congenial environment which happily still survives in parts of Italy and elsewhere. Speaking of the novels of 'John Ayscough,' he laid stress on the fervent and tender devotion to the Blessed Sacrament which runs like a golden thread through all his writings. He spoke, too, of the works of Lucas Malet, Angela Dickens, Isabel Clarke, Mary Daniel, Edward Oldmeadow, and at greater length on those of Mrs. Wilfrid Ward and of Mgr. Benson, each with its definite lesson so convincingly urged and brought to the notice not of Catholics alone, but of the whole novel-reading public. Canon Sheehan, he said, had laid bare for us the heart of Ireland, and M. E. Francis had done a similar service for the English country-side.

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