

PEOPLE WE HEAR ABOUT

Mrs. Thomasina Arnold, who died at Salem (Mass.), U.S.A., at the age of 102 years, was (says the *Boston Pilot*), a cousin of the late Mr. John Redmond. She was a native of Wicklow town, and one of a family of 11.

Mr. Patrick O'Shea, the well-known Irish tenor, died recently. He was for a long time associated with the Carl Rosa and Moody-Manners companies, in the United States, and in Great Britain, and was in much request as a lecturer on traditional Irish music and folk songs. As a singer of Irish airs in the native tongue, he had few or no rivals. He was a native of Lismore, Co. Waterford, and had barely reached middle age.

News has reached Dublin of the death of Ernest Windisch, Professor of Sanscrit at the University of Leipsic, and one of the foremost Celtic scholars of the day. He was a friend of Whitley Stokes and Standish Hayes O'Grady, both well-known Gaelic scholars. He devoted his attention principally to "Middle Irish," and compiled a useful grammar for that period, of which there are two translations into English. His *Irish Texts* with vocabulary is a standard work for students.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Byrne, Dean of Dungannon, Ireland, died on March 28, in his 78th year. A member of an old Tyrone family, he was ordained in 1864 and became Dean in 1882. He did a good deal for education, building many schools and convents, and was for many years chairman of the Catholic Education Board. He was also a Commissioner of National Education. He was elevated to the domestic prelacy in 1891. His grand-uncle was Doctor in the Sorbonne, Paris, and President of the Irish College, Nantes. Leaving France at the time of the Revolution, he became third President of Maynooth, and afterwards Dean of Armagh.

Early this year it was announced that the term of office of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Governor of the Punjab, was on the point of expiring and that he would thereupon retire. Since then serious troubles have occurred in India, and as a strong man is required to handle the situation, *The Times* the other day made the suggestion that it was highly desirable that the British Government should ask Sir Michael to remain at his post. On the same day on which *The Times* made this proposal it published a letter signed "I.C.S.," evidently written by an authority upon Indian affairs, which pointed out the necessity of retaining in office one of the ablest rulers the Punjab of India had ever known. An Irishman and a staunch Catholic, though a graduate of Balliol College, Sir Michael O'Dwyer has been one of the greatest administrators that the Indian Civil Service has produced in these latter days. The Punjab and the Indian army know and have testified to this. It is gratifying to Catholics to know that some of the most successful rulers India has had have been Catholics. For instance, no Viceroy was more loved by the people of India than the Marquis of Ripon. Lord MacDonnell, an Irishman and a Catholic, was not only recognised to be a great administrator in India, but was specially invited by a Unionist Government, under unique circumstances and in spite of his Home Rule views, to take part in the government of Ireland. Now comes Sir Michael O'Dwyer to continue the story of brilliant Catholic rulers of India. Men like Sir Michael O'Dwyer, who have been administering in most exemplary manner Indian provinces having three or four times the area and population of Ireland, demonstrate to the world at large (as *Franciscan Annals of India* truly remarks) that Ireland is well capable of taking care of its own affairs.

Remember that humble prayer obtains conversions, not only among the souls around us, but according to the designs of the Divine Mercy, equally among those who are far from us.—*Mother M. of the Sacred Heart.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

W. K. (Ellerslie).—Sorry, but all unsuccessful essays were consigned to the W.P.B.

W.K. (?) Wellington.—What do you expect from the calumniator of dead nuns? Surely nobody takes that creature seriously. The falsehood that Marshal Foch is a Presbyterian is a fair sample of the accuracy and veracity of P.P.A. ranters. Presbyterian elders do not make visits to the Blessed Sacrament. But the statement is good enough for the half-witted persons who pay that particular piper for his dirty work. They get what they want, even if no decent people want it.

R. A. L. (Wellington).—Sorry emendation too late to be used.

"WORRIED" (Probably somewhere in N.Z.).—It is elementary to send name and address as a guarantee of good faith. Anyhow the simple answer is, consult your confessor.

M. L.—Our next serial will be the book you mention. We got it from Gill's, of Dublin.

"STYRAX."—For goodness' sake give us a rest. We want no clippings, cuttings, papers or letters in any way dealing with the doings of the ghoul of the P.P.A. or with the windbag Earnshaw. Write to us about rats, snakes, bugs, and such moderately inoffensive vermin if you wish.

"ARCTIC."—No, we do not believe that the Government is blocking the trains, upsetting the mails, torturing people with cold, promoting profanity, and what not besides, in order to cause antipathy against the Labor Party. The reason we do not is that even this Government of ours could hardly be so stupid as not to recognise that every sane man blames them and nobody else for their bungling. This is a great sheep country! Listen: will there be a special train for the tourists this time?

"CRITIC."—What are you driving at? We know nothing about "family seals." It is likely that the story about a certain gentleman rushing for his better half's sealskins when the matter was mentioned is a canard. But you are right: Among Italians that attempt to prolong the nose is regarded as a proper gesture. We did not hear how he liked the French dishes or how he got on with the *limaçons*, *colimaçons*, and *escargots*. We may yet get some hints on French cooking if we get nothing else for our money.

"GAITERS AND GAS."—Piggott shot himself after his exposure. As "Civis" still remains as a warning and an example it might be well to pray for him. Certainly, the man who falsifies a historical quotation is a forger. What a testimony it is to any cause that low scoundrels have to invent and forge charges when they want to blacken it! Regarding his sneer at Sinn Féin journalists, it is natural enough. Persons of his class would certainly starve if they depended on Sinn Féiners.

Taumarunui

A particularly pleasant social function was (writes a correspondent) held in the music room of St. Joseph's Convent on June 18, the occasion being the farewelling by the ladies of the Altar Society of two of their number, Mesdames Gavin and Gamble, who are leaving Taumarunui for Te Aroha and Wanganui, respectively. In the course of a happy speech, Father Bleakley dwelt on the many good qualities of both ladies, and in appreciative terms referred to the energy and zeal they exercised in Church work. On behalf of the ladies of the parish, he asked Mrs. Gavin's acceptance of an oak salad bowl, and Mrs. Gamble's of an oak tray. Both ladies suitably responded.

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