

Irish News

ANTRIM—The Necessity of a Change

Lord M'Donnell, formerly Under Secretary for Ireland, addressing a meeting at Belfast University, on suggestions for the future welfare of Ireland, said that for the last thirty years no man who had the opportunity of looking behind the scenes of Irish Government, and had a capacity to read their meaning, could have any doubt of the urgency for a change in Irish Government.

CAVAN—The Bishop of Kilmore

The Most Rev. Patrick Finegan, D.D., the recently consecrated Bishop of Kilmore, has been presented by the Catholic laity of his diocese with a motor car and purse of sovereigns, and was afterwards entertained at luncheon in the Town Hall. The committee in charge of the arrangements brought off a perfectly successful function. There are forty-two parishes in the diocese, and from each of these two delegates attended, who, with the local priests and a number of gentlemen from the town of Cavan, made up a most representative gathering which greeted his Lordship.

CORK—The Christian Brothers

At Cork on February 28 was begun the celebration of an interesting centenary, which was inaugurated by a reception by the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall. Cork citizens (says the *Freeman's Journal*) have rarely assembled to commemorate an event of greater local interest than the introduction of the Christian Brothers into their midst. Founded in Waterford in 1803 by Edmund Ignatius Rice, the great Irish apostle of Catholic education for the masses of the people, this distinguished Order came into existence at an epoch when Ireland still suffered from the effects of the iniquitous Penal Laws which were enacted to keep the people in intellectual as well as civil and religious bondage. Rice merits to be ranked alongside O'Connell as the Liberator of his fellow-countrymen. A prosperous merchant in the Urbs Intacta, seeing the condition of ignorance and neglect to which the Irish people of the humbler classes were reduced, he nobly resolved to devote himself and his means to the alleviation of their lot, and to the work of popular education, encouraged thereto by Dr. Lanigan, Bishop of Ossory, and Dr. Hussey, Bishop of Waterford, the friend of Samuel Johnson and Edmund Burke, and the first President of Maynooth. Under such auspices the work, begun with a few assistants in 1802 in a rented house, which gave place the year following to the parent house on Mount Sion, prospered until in process of time the whole of the country was overspread with schools, centres of light from which knowledge, religious and secular, illumined the minds of the people. If O'Connell won deathless fame by emancipating Irish and English Catholics, to Edmund Rice belongs the imperishable glory of having endowed the people with the knowledge which taught them how best to use the liberty so dearly won.

DERRY—Presentation to the Bishop

An interesting function took place recently at the Bishop's House, Derry, when the Most Rev. Dr. McHugh was the recipient of a gift from his old class-fellows of Maynooth College. Owing to the protracted illness of his Lordship and other unavoidable circumstances, the presentation had been somewhat delayed. The gift took the form of a handsome crozier—a replica of the famous Clonmacnoise crozier.

DUBLIN—An Important Appointment

I am credibly informed on sound authority (writes a correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*) that Mr. Maurice Joy, a well-known Dublin litterateur and journalist, until recently a prominent official of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, under Sir Horace Plunkett, has just been appointed to an Assistant-Commissionership of Agriculture at Natal at a salary of £900 a year. Mr. Joy is favorably known in Dublin as one of the 'Intellectuals' of the new Irish literary movement, and his friends will rejoice to hear of his good fortune. It will now possibly be conceded that a journalist has brains and intelligence enough to gain him high official honors without undue influence or political wire-pulling.

The Sale of Bad Literature

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, in his Lenten Pastoral, says:—"The clergy should not relax their efforts to awaken the consciences of unworthy Catholics, vendors of immoral and irreligious publications, to the sense of the awful responsibility which they incur by lending themselves to the diabolical work of undermining the morals of the people through the dissemination amongst them of debasing the corrupting literature. Unhappily, in not a few places in the city and diocese, as elsewhere, there are persons calling themselves Catholics, who are engaged in this infamous traffic, heedless of every warning, heedless

even of the warning words of Our Lord: "What doth it profit a man to gain the whole world if he suffer the loss of his soul?" Such unworthy members of the Church," says his Grace, "so long as they persevere in their evil courses, are plainly unfit to be admitted to the Sacraments."

The Crusade Against Intemperance

In the Lenten Pastorals of the Irish Hierarchy the temperance question occupies a very prominent position. His Eminence Cardinal Logue says much ground has already been gained in the glorious crusade against intemperance, and Irish Catholics should be thankful to God for this blessing, but he points out that it is necessary to make sure of the ground gained, to consolidate victory, and to guard against eventual defeat. If there is to be any real progress in this vital, uphill struggle, all must pull together, using every means, natural and supernatural, to achieve success. The Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, says self-denial being the duty of all Christians, the faithful, especially in this time of penance, should avoid drunkenness, a degrading vice, the cause not only of many and most grievous temporal calamities, disgrace and beggary, sickness and sudden deaths, but also of the ruin and everlasting damnation of souls. The Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Archbishop of Tuam, says the Temperance Crusade preached throughout the West two years ago is still producing great blessings all over the country; but as there is always a tendency to relapse into old habits of evil, the Bishops of the province have resolved to renew the crusade during the coming autumn. Nothing else is so calculated to bring spiritual and temporal happiness to the people as the practice of the great Christian virtue of temperance, accompanied, as it always is, by the spirit of industry and thrift. The Right Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway, says drunkenness is much less common than it used to be, and, what is more hopeful, it has come to be regarded as a disgrace. Truer views prevail regarding the value of drink for health, work, and even pleasure; temperance is better taught in the schools; and public opinion is growing as to the need of a reform of the licensing laws and of their administration. The Right Rev. Dr. McKenna, Bishop of Clogher, advises abstinence from all intoxicating drink during Lent. He sees in the signs of the times a change in the drinking habits of the people. The Bishop exhorts the clergy to inculcate the principles of St. Patrick's Anti-Treating League. Many other Bishops write in a similar strain, remarking that while much has been achieved, much still remains to be done.

KERRY—A Great Crisis

In forwarding a cheque to the parliamentary fund for £20, Mr. Lindsay Talbot Crosbie, Ardfert Abbey, County Kerry, writes to the press:—"I have received the annual appeal from the National Trustees of the parliamentary fund, to which no doubt our local organisation will help to make a generous response. We have arrived at a great crisis in our national affairs; and it is eminently an occasion for a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together. As the expression of my satisfaction at again seeing Mr. John Redmond and Mr. William O'Brien standing shoulder to shoulder in the House of Commons in support of the national cause, I gladly double my annual subscription."

LIMERICK—A Venerable Catholic Passes Away

On February 16, at Bottomstown, Limerick, there passed away in his 82nd year Mr. Patrick Francis O'Malley. Like his life (says a Home paper) his death was extremely edifying, with the members of his family remaining in Ireland gathered at his bedside. The deceased gave to the service of Holy Church three sons and three daughters, namely Father James, of the archdiocese of Cashel, though since his ordination on the mission in Dunedin, New Zealand; Father Aloysius, of the Holy Name Province of the Franciscans; Brother Eusebius, of the Franciscans, Brooklyn; Sister Gabriel of the Good Shepherd, in Cardiff, Wales, and Sisters Hilda and Laurentine, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brooklyn. Just half of his household called to God's service in this materialistic age. While under his jurisdiction, no member of his family ever missed the public recitation of the Rosary nightly, and the other practices of Holy Church were equally respected. He loved the poor, who knew his generous spirit and whose prayers sounded so sweet as the alms were doled. The national movement had no truer supporter from the dawn of manhood to his last breath, whether it was the movement of '67, the Land League, or, in his declining years, the United Irish League. His motto was 'Faith and Fatherland.' Though full his years, he will be missed for many a day in the parish he so edified by the family so excellently and nobly trained. His obsequies were carried out in the new church of Murroe, where a Solemn Requiem Mass was offered, after which the remains were conveyed to the family burying ground in Clonkeen, amid the prayers of the vast throngs attending from all parts of Tipperary and Limerick.

LOUTH—A Nationalist Convention

A Nationalist Convention in Dundalk on February 27 selected Mr. Augustine Roche, formerly member for Cork City, as Nationalist candidate for the North Louth vacancy.