

Irish News

ANTRIM—Destruction of a Mill

On Sunday morning, March 12, an outbreak of fire occurred in the bleaching mills of Pullan and Co., Malluce, County Antrim. On the arrival of the fire brigade from Belfast it was found that the whole of the extensive premises were ablaze, and the inflammable nature of the contents made it impossible for anything to be saved. At midday the building was completely gutted.

ARMAGH—The Temperance Cause

The annual meeting of St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society was held in the Cathedral after Vespers on Sunday night, March 12. The occasion being a special one, the Rev. Peter Sheerin, P.P., Crossmaglen, who is doing such splendid work in the cause of Temperance, had been asked to preach. In the course of his address he said it was a matter of history how the once powerful empire of Rome was destroyed by the drink evil. On the other hand, they had an instance not many years ago of a small and practically unknown Power, Japan, overcoming the Russians, because the Japanese were a sober people. Father Sheerin concluded by saying that the Armagh T.A. Society at present numbered about 2000. "Twas good," he said, but there were upwards of 7000 Catholics in the parish. Allowing 2000 for old people and children and 500 for inmates of institutions, still left near 2000 not in the society. The meeting being specially for the annual renewal of the pledge, about 200 new members, along with the old, were enrolled.

KILKENNY—Satisfactory Condition of the County

Addressing the Grand Jury at the opening of the Spring Assizes for the County Kilkenny, the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland said he was glad to find their county in the same satisfactory condition that he had found it for many years past. The condition that the County Kilkenny was in, the immunity from crime which it enjoyed, was a credit to the people at large, and it was very satisfactory to a judge of assizes to find such excellent relations prevailing between all classes, between the gentry and the people.

LONGFORD—Some Longford Celebrities

Very little attention is paid to Longford's beauty spots, for the tourist is more interested in the scenes associated with the genial, gifted Oliver Goldsmith (says a recent visitor to the county). A great deal of controversy has been aroused concerning the exact birthplace of the poet, he being claimed, Homer fashion, by three distinctive communities. The counties of Westmeath, Rosecommon, and Leitrim have claimed him for their own, but all doubt must be removed as to the precise place of his nativity by the two brief chronicles of his life and death. The following is an entry taken from the family Bible of the Rev. Charles Goldsmith, father of the poet: "Oliver Goldsmith was born at Pallas, Nov. ye 10th, 1731." In the epitaph composed by Goldsmith's friend, the celebrated Dr. Johnson, and placed on the poet's monument in Westminster Abbey, we find the words: "Natus in Hibernia, Forniæ Longfordiensis, in loco nomen Pallas." The principal events of Goldsmith's life are too well known for me to rehearse them. He received his early education at the hands of the village schoolmaster, Thomas Byrnes. Goldsmith left the village of Auburn for a school at Athlone and was transferred from there to Edgeworthstown. He was finally sent to Trinity College, Dublin, when he was sixteen years of age. But Babylon lured him, as it has lured hundreds of other gifted Irishmen, and he endured agony of spirit and suffered repeated degradations. Oliver Goldsmith has been accorded an honored place by the Supreme Court in the Republic of Letters, and from whose decision there can be no appeal. It would, indeed, be a strange assortment of 100 best books or an ill-constructed price-foot library that did not include Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*. When the simple-minded and noble-hearted Vicar is cast into prison he designs forms of industry and systems of reward for the benefit of his fellow-prisoners, outlining a scheme that has since grown to giant proportions—the movement of prison reform. The *Vicar of Wakefield* skilfully concealed a purpose no less noble than that contained in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Goldsmith adorned whatever he touched. His other well known works are: *The Traveller*, a descriptive poem of great power of observation and contrast; the comedies *The Good-natured Man* and *She Stoops to Conquer*. His characters appear like real personages, such was his gift of individual delineation. The world is immensely the richer that Oliver Goldsmith lived in it. He was a lovable character. He numbered among his best friends at the club, Johnson, Burke, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Garrick, Beauclerc, Charlemont and Flood. On receipt of the news of Goldsmith's death the dignified and majestic Burke burst into tears; Reynolds abandoned his studio, unable to work—all his associates were as affected as if they had lost their most immediate relative. Another great Longford writer was Miss Maria Edgeworth. She was a most voluminous writer. Her best known novels are *Castle Rackrent* and *The Absentee*. Sir Walter Scott publicly admitted that he was inspired

to write his Scottish novels from the reading of the Irish tales of Miss Edgeworth. *Waverley* is written on lines very similar to *Castle Rackrent*. Miss Edgeworth is one of the few ladies who have been made honorary members of the Royal Irish Academy. A still more celebrated Longford personage was Henry Essex Edgeworth, known in history as the 'Abbo Edgeworth,' and near relative of the lady novelist. Henry Edgeworth was educated for the priesthood at the Sorbonne, and became a distinguished ecclesiastic by his talents and nobility of character. He was the spiritual adviser of the royal family and confessor to Princess Elizabeth.

LOUTH—Elected Unopposed

On March 8 Mr. J. J. Russell, Sub-sheriff, and Mr. Espinasse, legal assessor, sat in the Crown Court of the County Courthouse, Dundalk, to receive nominations for the Parliamentary representation of North Louth. Notwithstanding that it was fair day in Dundalk, comparatively little interest was exhibited in the proceedings, only about a couple of dozen people congregating outside the Courthouse. This was no doubt due to the fact of Mr. Healy intimating beforehand that he would not contest the seat at this election. Shortly before noon Mr. Augustine Roche, ex-M.P. for Cork, the U.I.L. nominee, reached the Courthouse, accompanied by about twenty of his prominent supporters. Mr. Roche was proposed by Mr. P. Hughes, Castlering, and seconded by Mr. William Woods, Carlingford, and there were forty-four other papers handed in on his behalf. No other candidate was proposed, and Mr. Augustine Roche was declared the elected representative for the division.

MEATH—Death of a Priest

In the diocese of Meath deep regret is felt at the death of Rev. Nicholas Woods, Administrator, Collinstown, which took place in St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Dublin. Father Woods was a native of Drogheda, and had barely reached middle age.

TIPPERARY—Death of an Octogenarian

A Home exchange reports the death of Mr. Michael Meagher, who passed away at the residence of his brother, Templemore, in the 83rd year of his age. The deceased was a member of an old and respected family generally known as the Meaghers of Laha. He was for a period of twenty years relieving officer of the Templemore district of Thurles Union, but for some six years previous to his death he had been enjoying a well-earned rest on the usual retiring allowance. The late Mr. Meagher was a brother-in-law of Mr. Michael Bohan, of Wellington. The remains were taken for interment to the family burial ground, Templemore, after Office and High Mass at Templemore Catholic church. The funeral was of immense proportions, the following being the chief mourners:—Mr. and Mrs. Meagher, Rev. M. Meagher, P.P., Old Cunnock, Scotland (nephew); Misses Meagher (nieces), Messrs. R. Meagher, U.C., Templemore; T. Meagher, D. Meagher, Rataoth, County Meath (nephews), Martin Meagher, sen., Martin Meagher, jun., W. Meagher (cousins); Mr. John Meagher, Clerk of Union and Council Thurles. There were also present a number of the clergy and representatives of the District Council and other public bodies.

TYRONE—Peaceful and Industrious

Addressing the Tyrone Grand Jury Mr. Justice Holmes said there were nine bills to go before them, including one which had been returned for trial the previous day. As far as he could gather from the depositions taken before the magistrates, none of them would seem to be serious in their character. They were all such offences as must always occur in a large county so extensive and so populous as Tyrone; and, therefore, the cases were very few. 'I have been acquainted with the county from the time of my birth,' continued his lordship. 'I was born and lived in it in my early years, and I have visited it from time to time since, and my experience of it is that it is one of the most peaceful and at the same time one of the most industrious counties in Ireland, and I hope it will long maintain that reputation. You know it a great deal better than I do, and I am sure you will agree with me in the character I give it.'

GENERAL

Emigration Still Keeps Up

During the month of February the total number of emigrants who left Ireland was 847, as compared with 896 for the same month in 1910. The number of emigrants for January and February was 1491, as against 1511 for the corresponding period of last year, a decrease of 20.

Mixed Marriages in Ireland

The political origin of the agitation on the mixed marriage question is undeniable (remarks the *Catholic Times*). It is probably because writers on the subject in the press are influenced by political motives and desire to keep up the agitation for the present that they wander into so many absurdities. It is hopeless to try to enlighten them, for manifestly they do not wish to receive enlightenment. But it may be well to remind them that it is not so long since the law of the land imposed severe penalties on Catholic priests who officiated at marriages between