

not be explained, for they do their duty as well as their brethren across the Channel. The miserable pensions they are given after having spent their lives in the onerous work of instructing the young are nothing short of a scandal. The policeman or the ordinary soldier after a quarter of a century's service, obtains at least sufficient to eke out an existence on. The unfortunate teacher after a similar period of arduous labor is entitled to sixpence per day if invalidated through ill-health. That the instructor of youth deserves to be treated as well as a constable or a soldier can scarcely be denied. Yet the fact remains, to the discredit of the Treasury, that he is not. The parsimony of the Treasury in refusing grants urgently required for replacing by new buildings the wretched school structures existing in many parts of the country is lamentable. Teachers and children are compelled to spend many hours daily in the fetid atmosphere of badly ventilated and insanitary buildings. Protests against this state of affairs have been made again and again by the clerical managers of various deaneries. The Irish members of Parliament have been requested to bring pressure to bear on the Government in this matter in the interests of primary education in Ireland. That they will do their part is certain. Some hope is afforded by Mr. Birrell's answer to Mr. Dillon in the House of Commons.

What was done in South Africa

Mr. John Dillon, in the course of a speech in the debate in Committee on the Parliament Bill, said the Unionist members used a great deal of strong language about the 'ruin and destruction' in Ireland, and 'disorder in Ulster' as a result of the passing of the Parliament Bill. He asked hon. gentlemen to consider the wisdom of this policy. Let them go back to the debates on South Africa four years ago. Where would we be to-day if the House of Lords had vetoed the South African Constitution question? The Liberal Government of 1906 under the leadership of Henry Campbell-Bannerman, would not have been able to give liberty to South Africa had it not been for the fortunate discovery that it could be given by Royal proclamation, though that could not be done in the case of Ireland. If they had been blocked in the case of South Africa as they were in the case of Ireland, they would have South Africa to-day in a very different condition, and when the Coronation came South Africa, like Ireland, would be absent; they would have had no Minister present at the Coronation entitled to speak for the people of South Africa, as they would have in fact. In the debates on the South African Constitution leaders of the Opposition had spoken, as they did in connection with Home Rule, about the horrors and evils that would fall upon the loyalist minority at the hands of the majority. The Het Volk was then described in very much the same terms as were applied now to the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In the entire history of England she never did anything so successful and so glorious as granting the constitution to South Africa. The only real road to union was conciliation and equality. Last week the Leader of the Opposition had charged the Government with being in the power of the Nationalists, 'who care neither for you nor for your Constitution.' He told the Leader of the Opposition, however, that his words were false. It was not true to say that they and those who went before them cared neither for the people of England nor the Constitution. What they did say was that 'we have never enjoyed their Constitution.' In spite of all he had suffered in the past under it he was one of the greatest admirers now living of the British Constitution, and he wanted to bring its blessings to Ireland, where they had never been enjoyed, and where the people live under an absolutism, and had no voice in the government of their country. It was a cruel and unjust reproach, for from the days of Daniel O'Connell down to the days of Parnell and Redmond the Nationalist Party had always been the friends and champions of the working masses of England. He told Mr. Balfour that while it was perfectly true that he and his friends were the enemies of the House of Lords and of reaction in this country, they were, and always had been, and he trusted would be in a greater measure in the future, the friends and champions of the British democracy.

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TELEGRAMS.....'SLIGO, DUNEDIN.'

People We Hear About

Most Rev. Dr. Farley, Archbishop of New York, quietly observed the sixty-ninth anniversary of his birth on April 20. His Grace is a native of County Armagh, Ireland.

Mr. George E. Griffin, newspaper man and lawyer, a great-grand-nephew of Gerald Griffin, the Irish poet, died at Liberty, Sullivan County, N.Y., on April 16, at the age of thirty-five years. Mr. Griffin was for many years on the editorial staff of the Albany Argus.

A year more on earth would have given Sir. William Butler one of the happiest days of a life of many joys and sorrows (writes the London Tablet). His second son, Richard, who made his vows as a Benedictine some time ago, was ordained priest on April 15, Lady Butler, his youngest sister, and his eldest brother, straight from his regiment in India, having met in Rome for the ceremony. The successes and disappointments, griefs and glories of the late General's career would, we may be sure, have been light for him in comparison with the happiness of this one hour of the Holy Saturday.

A famous career of service as military chaplain ends with the retirement of Father Collins, D.S.O., the Senior Chaplain of the British Forces. Father Collins began his priestly life as an Oblate of St. Charles at Bayswater, several years before he received his first commission in 1879. There are few better known instances of heroism on the part of the modern British army chaplain in the field than the oft-told tale of Father Collins' gallant bearing at the action of McNeil's Zareba during the Soudan Campaign of 1885. On that occasion he crossed a fire-swept zone to deliver an urgent message in a distant part of the field. His D.S.O. was of more modern winning in South Africa, and he has served on Lord Haldane's Advisory committee on the Spiritual and Moral Welfare of the Army.

The Right Rev. Dr. Graham, who has resigned charge of the diocese of Plymouth (England), is 77 years of age. He is a native of Mhow, India, and is the eldest son of the late Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Graham, who died in 1888. He studied for the priesthood at the English College, Rome, and was ordained in 1857. He was stationed first at Plymouth Cathedral, later becoming Canon and Vicar-General of the diocese, over which he was destined to rule. He was consecrated by Bishop Clifford as titular Bishop of Cismos, and Coadjutor to Bishop William Vaughan in 1891, succeeding him in 1902. The Plymouth diocese includes the whole of the ancient diocese of Exeter, with a portion of the old Salisbury diocese. It covers Devon, Dorset, Cornwall, and the Scilly Islands, and in part is inhabited by a race that was last to yield to the Reformation, and is said to be now equally stubborn in the retention of its newer ideals.

Mr. John Dillon M.P., was motoring last week, when his car struck against a birdge. He was flung against the screen and badly cut and thrown to the bottom of the car. On examination it was found that his back was injured, and as there were signs of collapse the last sacraments were administered. He was removed to the Dundalk Infirmary. The latest accounts are to the effect that Mr. Dillon is recovering. Mr. Dillon is now in his sixtieth year, having been born at Druid's Lodge, Killiney, Mayo, in 1851. His father was John Blake Dillon, who was one of the founders of the Nation. Mr. John Dillon was educated at the Catholic University, and is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. He was elected M.P. for County Tipperary in 1880, and has sat for Mayo East since 1885. He is a widower; his wife (a daughter of the late Right Hon. Lord Justice Mathew) died in 1907.

Mr. Gustavus Wilhelm Wolff, of the firm of Harland and Wolff, Belfast, was a few weeks ago presented with the freedom of the city. In his reply to the presentation, Mr. Wolff referred to the start of the Queen's Island shipbuilding yard, saying that 53 years ago he and the late Sir Edward Harland, Bart., were advised to go to Liverpool to inquire after some ground. They were received very kindly by the Liverpool Harbor authorities, but that board thought they were too young to start a shipbuilding yard. He (Mr. Wolff) was only twenty-three and Sir Edward Harland only a few years older. Perhaps they were young, but still he thought those gentlemen had made a little mistake in not liking young men for a job of that sort. However, they could not get the ground, and they travelled again to Belfast, and came to an agreement with Mr. Hickson to purchase his yard—lock, stock, and barrel—for £5000. It was worth much more now. They appealed to the Belfast Harbor Commissioners to grant ground to them, and they had more sense than the Liverpool Board, for now the firm employed 14,000 men, and paid £23,000 per week in wages in the city of Belfast.

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