

a shock even to those who knew him best. Father Hamill was born at Crosskeys, in the parish of Duneeane, in the year 1846, and is a younger brother of the Very Rev. James Hamill, P.P., Whitehouse, the venerated senior priest and Vicar-General of the diocese. He pursued his earlier studies at St. Malachy's College, Belfast. He entered the class of First Year's Philosophy in Maynooth College on January 15, 1869, and was ordained in Maynooth by Dr. Lynch, Bishop of Kildare, on May 30, 1871. After ministering in many parishes of the diocese he was appointed in 1906 pastor of Kilkeel, where he was greatly esteemed. During his seven years in Kilkeel Father Hamill labored in season and out of season for the welfare of his flock. Quite recently he had been engaged in various works for the improvement of the churches in his parish, and had brought these works to a successful conclusion. He erected three beautiful altars in the rural church at Atticoll, and added a belfry and bell to the church; renovated and decorated the interior of St. Colman's, the parish church at Mass Forth, Kilkeel; and completed the tower of this same church and erected therein a beautiful bell, the tones of which he was not destined long to hear.

THE DERRY RIOTS.

Commenting upon the Derry riots, the *Westminster Gazette* states:—Ireland may be a place where things happen differently, but it really cannot be as topsyturvy as the *Times* would have us believe. A correspondent of that journal thinks that the Constabulary has almost exhausted its usefulness, and in Derry has failed in its duty. He tells of the Protestant 'prentice boys' procession which 'did, undoubtedly, before being attacked, display a certain amount of bravado.' 'It was firing revolver shots in the air and playing party tunes long before it had reached Waterloo square, where the first disturbance took place.' Now, we put it to ourselves, what would be the duty of the police in London if a procession of unemployed, say, began to fire revolver shots in the Strand? The police would have, as quickly as possible, to break up the procession and capture the people with revolvers. Transfer the scene to Ireland, and what does the *Times* tell us? 'The police failed in their first duty, which was to protect the processionists against assault.' 'If, in a place like Derry, party processions of this kind are to be allowed at all, the rowdies on the opposite side must be hemmed into their own quarters.' When the law is broken in Ireland the argument seems to be, you must not arrest the law-breaker, but you must devote all your energies to holding down the man who is threatened by the revolver of the law-breaker.

CENTENARY OF A CHURCH.

August 17, the centenary of the opening of the parochial Church of St. Mary's, Westport, was celebrated with great and impressive solemnity. The occasion was one of very exceptional interest, and must ever remain a memorable day in the annals of Catholicity in the great archdiocese. As the eloquent preacher of the day, the Most Rev. Dr. Higgins, pointed out, it was not to be wondered at that at this unique event in the history of their church, the Catholic people of Westport should have made such special efforts to beautify and adorn the holy edifice, which a hundred years after its foundation stands to-day as firm and solid and substantial as when first dedicated to the worship of God. It was to the zeal of the Most Rev. Oliver Kelly in 1813, then the administrator, of the parish, and subsequently Archbishop, that they owed this church, of which the people of Westport had always been so justly proud. His Lordship dwelt upon the fact that if the church could speak it could tell them of the extraordinary progress the Catholic religion had made during these 100 years. The church has recently undergone extensive improvements, and the sacred edifice is now one of the most perfectly equipped in the country.

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People We Hear About

Colonel Cody, the famous aeronaut, who was killed recently, though himself a native of Texas, was the son of an Irishman, as indeed his name would imply. He was related to the older Colonel Cody, more popularly known as 'Buffalo Bill.'

One of the candidates for the Mayoralty of New York is Mr. P. Mitchel, the son of John Mitchel, the famous Irish patriot and historian. Mr. Mitchel is already Collector of Customs in New York. Another candidate is Mr. James O'Gorman, who represents New York in the U.S. Senate.

The Most Rev. Dr. Dunne, Archbishop of Brisbane, as well as his Coadjutor, Archbishop Duhig, celebrated their birthday anniversaries last month. His Grace Archbishop Dunne was born on September 5, 1830, at Clonmel, and is therefore in his 84th year. Archbishop Duhig was born in Drumcolloher, Limerick, on September 2, 1871, so that his Grace is now in his 43rd year.

The village of Pitthem, in Belgium, is about to erect a monument to one of the most remarkable of the Jesuit missionaries, Father Ferdinand Verbiest, who went out to China in 1667. Father Verbiest constructed some remarkable astronomical instruments, which were used in the Pekin Observatory until the time of the Boxer Rebellion, when they were removed by the Germans to Berlin.

Father Bernard Vaughan (says the *Freeman's Journal*) is one of the best-known priests in England at the present day. Born at Courtfield in 1847—a memorable year in the sad history of Ireland—he was the twelfth of fourteen children—eight boys and six girls. Of the former six became priests, including the late Cardinal Vaughan. As a preacher Father Vaughan has attracted to his sermons and addresses in various parts of Europe all sorts and conditions of men. In Dublin he is probably best known in connection with the several addresses he has delivered in the city from time time to time in aid of charitable and philanthropic movements.

The Very Rev. Thomas Esser, O.P., who for more than fifteen years has been Secretary to the Sacred Congregation of the Index, was recently on a visit to the United States. Father Esser is one of the most scholarly Dominicans in the world. For several years he was professor of philosophy at Maynooth College. He also taught philosophy and theology at Vienna and at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. For five years he taught canon law in the Eternal City. The present Apostolic Delegate to the United States was his pupil. Father Esser is one of the best linguists in Rome, his knowledge of languages being practically necessary for his office of Secretary to the Index.

Miss Emily Henrietta Hickey, who was recently decorated by the Pope with the gold cross, 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice,' is an Irish lady, the daughter of the late Rev. Canon Hickey, Protestant rector of Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, her grandfather being the Rev. Mr. Hickey, rector of Mulrankin, who wrote a popular series of handbooks for farmers under the *nom de plume* of 'Martin Doyle.' Miss Hickey joined the Catholic Church some seven years ago, and has devoted herself since to Catholic social and philanthropic work. One of her first volumes since she became a Catholic, *Thoughts for Creedless Women*, has been the means of attracting more than one of her scholarly friends to join the Catholic Church. Miss Hickey holds Cambridge University first-class honors, and has published more than a dozen volumes.

Lord Stafford, who took his seat in the House of Lords recently, has not been in any hurry to exercise his privilege as a hereditary legislator. It is twenty-one years now since he succeeded to the title on the death of his brother. His Lordship, who is in his eightieth year, is a Catholic.

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