

## THE RUINS OF MAYNOOTH.

And though Kildare tower haughtily, there's ruin at the root,  
Else why, since Edward fell to earth, hath such a tree no fruit.—DAVIS.

JUST outside Maynooth College gate stands the old castle of the Geraldines—a splendid ruin, covered (rather too much) with ivy, and which presents an appearance rather cheerful and hale than dilapidated and tumbling. The present Duke of Leinster has set down the story of this Castle of Maynooth briefly and succinctly. Maurice Fitzgerald obtained the manor from Strongbow just seven hundred years ago. He built the castle, and was wont to hold it against the native incursions, which were then unpleasantly frequent. In the beginning of the fourteenth century the Kildare branch of the Geraldines lived in the castle, and the first Earl of Kildare died there. The castle was subsequently left to the daughter of the Red Earl of Ulster, and sister to Robert Bruce's wife. It was then a pretty place, but it was further strengthened and enlarged in 1426. Silken Thomas, after a successful struggle with the English at Clontarf, sent his prisoners to the stronghold, which was then the most celebrated in all Ireland. Silken Thomas having renounced his allegiance, went into Connaught for soldiers, and he left the care of the castle to his foster-brother, one Parese. Hollingshed tells a very curious story of the siege conducted by the Lord Deputy against this fellow Parese. Sir William Brereton, the Deputy's deputy—the system seems to be very old—summoned the defenders to surrender, and was laughed at. After considerable pommelling, and while there was no sort of danger, Parese decided to sell the place. Of course he made his men drunk—he “caused such as kepte the ward to swill and boil so much as they snorted at the night like grunting hogges”—and at the proper time—when “none of them could discover his beddes bead from his beddes feete”—he allowed Brereton in. The Lord Deputy called Parese before him, and told him that the king was delighted with such service, and with a view of knowing what honour should be done him he begged him to recount all that Silken Thomas had done for him. Thereupon the caitiff related all, great and little, that Fitzgerald had done for him, and the Deputy answered, “Why, Parese, couldest thou finde in thine harte to betray his castell who hath bin so good a lord to thee? Truly thou art so hollow to him wilt never be true to us.” He then gave Parese his reward in money, and having thus discharged his conscience, he cut off his head. In this castle Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell held their meetings and planned their uprisings against the English. A stone table, at which councils were held, is now in the garden at Carton—a curious piece of work inscribed confusedly. Finally, the castle came to grief in 1631, and in 1648 Gen. Preston took it and dismantled it. Few old ruins have a more interesting history, and as the visitor sits in the chair which the old Duke placed at the vantage point, he can run over in his mind the fortunes of the walls which tower above him.

## RELEASED.

THE *Weekly Freeman*, London, Friday January 4, says—To-day I had an opportunity of an interview with Sergeant M'Carthy and John O'Brien to hear from them the story of their release. Before I describe the men let me tell the story of their release. They were set to their work in the ordinary way on Thursday morning—Sergeant M'Carthy in the Tailoring department of the Chatham Prison, and John O'Brien in the carpenter's shop. They had breakfast as usual and went back to work. Sergeant M'Carthy was the first called away—at 9.20 a.m.—when a warder came to him and told him he must come to a separate cell. He went with the warder, and in a few minutes the clerk of the prison entered. He began the subject so momentous to the prisoner by asking him in an offhand way, supposing the Government was inclined to release him what would he do—where would he go to live? Sergeant M'Carthy replied in effect that he had so little knowledge of anything outside in the world, had so long been separated from his friends, that he hardly knew; but for the present all he could say was that if released at any time he would locate himself temporarily in London. Without further information he was dismissed, and the warder ordered to bring the other one. The same formality was gone through with O'Brien, who also said that if he were released he would go to London. Immediately afterwards the governor of the prison went to each, and curtly informed them that the Government had ordered their discharge, and that they would be liberated that afternoon. They were then denuded of their prison clothing and supplied with a suit of clothes each, and having each been supplied with the order of release and its conditions, were photographed. Brought to the clerk's room, they were each asked what were their “marks,” meaning bodily marks. M'Carthy replied that his marks were wounds (three) which he had received in the service of the British Empire. O'Brien, asked the same question, replied that he would be known by the marks of the chains he had worn round his legs for six months, and was jocularly reminded by a warder who was glad to get rid of him, apparently, that they would wear out in time. The further information was given to them that they were to receive on their entrance to the railway carriage the sum of £1 19s. 10d. each, and would receive an additional £1 on reporting themselves to a police-office [named] in London. Then they were handed the ticket of leave.

A cab awaited them at the prison gates, in which, accompanied by a warder, they were driven to Strood Station, where, let us hope, for ever they bade farewell to the jail. The ticket-of-leave in O'Brien's case only differs from that of Sergeant M'Carthy in the statement of the offence, which is described as “desertion and mutinous conduct,” date of the trial and the sentence, “penal servitude for life.”

Sergeant M'Carthy bears a singular likeness to Cardinal Manning, the same worn, ascetic expression being quite as noticeable in the contour. Only forty-four years of age, he looks nearly, if not quite sixty. As for young O'Brien, he is thin, but also looks worn, and both are cropped so closely as to give the appearance of baldness.

## A CATHOLIC PUBLIC OPINION.

It would be useful to form in every congregation of the country a Catholic public opinion on certain moral subjects. It is true, Catholics cannot be up to the level of Puritan civilization, wherein the code is “Thou shalt not be found doing anything disreputable.” But still there are very many calling themselves Catholics, over whom a healthy Catholic public opinion would have a very wholesome influence. Let us instance: 1. The mass in every congregation look upon the pastor as the ambassador of God. Their respect for his sacred character prevents any particular inspection of his personal qualities. To them he is the offerer of the Mass, the dispenser of the Sacraments. But there are also in every congregation a few to whom the pastor is an adventurer, come to make a living of them, a few silly young people who observe and discuss his physical appearance, his walk, dress, and manner of speaking. These people simply wait to see what profit or amusement they can derive from the priest. Now in every congregation the public opinion of those who have faith might be concentrated so as to awe into silence, or drive to where they belong, the whitened sepulchres to whom piety is nothing, and the success of the Church among them a mere source of gain or entertainment. 2. There should be a concentrated Catholic public opinion on the practice of cursing and blaspheming. Profane people often excuse themselves on the ground of company and habit; so that if it were made the fashion among Catholics to abhor the abominable practice, and taboo those who indulge in it, it would be wiped out. In like manner, could the extirpation of the vices of drinking and hanging about houses of riot and sin be accomplished. Let the real Catholics of every congregation be united and outspoken for both faith and virtue, and a great change for the better will follow.—*Catholic Columbian*.

## DUNEDIN CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

THE meetings of this favourite institution keep up to their usual standard of excellence and attendance, and the meeting on Friday evening last was no exception to the rule. Bro. W. Cunningham occupied the chair, and a large amount of business, chiefly dealing with monetary matters was disposed of during the evening. Mr. James Connelly was elected a working, and Mr. Hall an honorary member of the Society, two nominations were received for the following meeting. On the motion of Bros. Corrigan and Daniel it was resolved, that a set of vestments be presented to the late spiritual director the Rev. Father Crowley as some slight return of gratitude for past favours. The motion was carried unanimously, and the numerous complimentary remarks made by the members, testify to the high esteem, in which they hold the Rev. Father, and the deep sense of gratitude they feel is due to him. We understand that arrangements were made, whereby the Rev. Father would be placed in possession of the vestments on the following day.

On the motion of Bros. Daniel and Cotter, a vote of thanks was accorded to St. Joseph's Branch of the H.A.C.B.S., for part payment of Mr. Macedo's claim on the old Juvenile Contingent Library, it was resolved that the D.C.Y.M.S pay the balance. After certain members had (in accordance with the custom) been deputed to visit the Industrial School on the following Sunday, for the purpose of catechising the Catholic inmates, the business proper of the Society, viz., mutual improvement, was entered upon. A paper by Bro. Eager, detailing the history of tobacco pipes from the earliest times to the introduction of meerschau, was very well written, and a deal of curious information with reference to the habits of smokers of the olden times was derived from it. We strongly advise Bro. Eager to practice essay writing, for we feel sure, if he does so, he will be able to produce papers of a highly creditable nature. A recitation and reading rendered by Bros. J. Daniel and R. A. Dunne respectively, received full justice at their hands.

During the course of the evening, the secretary suggested that correspondence be opened with the various Young Men's Societies throughout N.Z., with a view of interchanging essays, or like papers of an interesting nature between the various societies. He thought that this scheme would tend to bring the societies into more intimate relationship with each other, would offer an additional inducement to each individual member to excel in essay writing, and would also place the whole Catholic talent of New Zealand at the disposal of each society. After a short time, if the scheme worked smoothly, it might be made to embrace Victoria, and, in fact, all Australasia. The suggestion was well received, but owing to the lateness of the hour no discussion as to its merits and demerits was entered upon, it being thought advisable to postpone it until the following meeting. We hope the scheme will not be allowed to fall through, as the many benefits to be derived from it must be apparent to the most casual observer.

**HISTORICAL:** Vide “Jurors Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition.” Jurors: J. E. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. G. Skinner. “So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, a most useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSCH, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George-street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair, and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded. Honorary Certificate, 29: Gustav Hirsch, Dunedin, for specimens, of Dyeing in Silk, Feathers, &c.

THE Empress of Russia is enjoying the hunting season in Northamptonshire, in the centre of the Pytchley county. While passing through London she visited the Sisters of Charity in Carlisle-place, Victoria-street, Westminster, along with the King of Naples and the Crown Prince Archduke Rodolph.