

A COUNTY CORKMAN AMONG INDIANS.

The following thrilling narrative (says the *Bruce Herald*) which we extract from the *Cork Examiner*, will be read with interest by all, especially by the friends and acquaintances of the Rev. T. Lenahan, R. C. Priest of this district, whose brother, the hero of the incident, was Military Chaplain through the American-Mexican war. Although present during some of the hottest engagements, he escaped unhurt. When peace was restored, he returned home, taking with him many mementoes of the war, amongst others the memorable dagger of Cortes, the original conqueror of the land of the Montezumas:—

The Rev. John Higginbotham, who was military (R.C.) Chaplain to the Forces in the North Canadian provinces, and in Bermuda, Aldershot, etc., for many years, related to me the following interesting incident, which I give in his own descriptive way:—

"About the year 1832 I was riding across the prairie. After a long journey I found evening approaching, and, to my great relief, I espied smoke in the distance, which, from experience, I knew to be the fire lighted by the Indians, as it was a blue colour, as they burn but one kind of wood, different from that used by white men. I made at once for the wigwam and found a hearty welcome from the chief, whom I noticed as being one of the handsomest men I had ever seen. Though dark-skinned he had not the thick lips of the Indian, but in all other respects he was a veritable chief. His wife was most kind, and immediately set to work to provide a good dinner for me, and set up a tripod under which she placed a young deer. Being hungry and tired I made a hearty repast, and soon fell asleep on a large bundle of deer skins, feeling sure that I was safe for the night, and my horse well cared for. The following day when I prepared to depart the chief came to me and spoke to me so earnestly in the Indian language to stay another day that I was sorry I was compelled to go on very pressing business. Just as I had my foot in the stirrup he came close to me, and, to my intense astonishment, said in a broad Irish accent—"For God's sake stay, Father, as I want you to do the work of God—marry me to the woman you saw within and baptise my children. I will just tell you my history. Many years ago when I was only a lad I was a soldier in an English regiment. Two generals crossed the prairie with two battalions of soldiers. I was hot headed, and when we encamped for the night a dispute arose amongst the men—the argument was so great that it ended in blows, and the two belligerents rolled over each other, and then used their poniards; most unfortunately one was killed, and the other ran away, and hid in the long grass of the prairie, and was lost to them for ever, as they could not delay to seek for him. Having dug a hasty grave for the dead man the two regiments departed on their expedition, and the man who fled from them was myself, and after having wandered a whole night and a day I made my way to where I saw the blue smoke of what I suspected was the Indian settlement. I was well received there by the old chief. Day after day I stayed till, with fear of detection if I went back to civilisation, I determined to remain as long as I could. Before long I became quite initiated in their ways, and as the old chief was near his end he urged my taking his daughter as a wife, and that I should be elected as chief. To this I willingly assented, as I liked her, and found her as good as any woman could be. And, now, Father, that you know all this you must stay and do as I asked you, for it is in answer to my prayer that the good God sent you. Willingly I remained, performed the wedding ceremony, baptised seven children, and was astonished to find that even the youngest of them knew their prayers, and even their catechism. They need not have been afraid of the Bishop's visitation and examination. The day was pleasantly spent with this peculiar family, and the good wife set to work and made a pair of beautiful slippers of the rough inside skin of deer, which she had prepared previously. I was interested seeing her working so hard, and found on my departure they were intended for me. I have since presented them to the museum in Dublin,—and having taken leave of the chief I asked him if he had any message to old Irish friends. He informed me that he came from Buttevant, County Cork, and was of the family of the Magraths." So the good priest told me that he made his way there in years after his return, and that he found a great many people of the name; but none of them recollected the relative who became an Indian Chief. Father Higginbotham was a great lover of curiosities, and had a splendid museum in St. Louis. He became, in some way that I cannot remember, the possessor of the dagger of Cortes, which he brought home, and gave it some time before his death to the Museum in Dublin, or National Gallery. Father Higginbotham was born in Clonmel.

Zeal for the destruction of the power of the Roman Catholic Church will induce extreme Protestants to applaud the attack on the Propaganda. What would be said were our Government to suppress the Bible Society and General Theological Seminary in this city and to seize the property of both?—*New York Times*.

The position of the Irish race in Iowa, says the *Iowa Messenger*, is a source of pleasure to witness. The evidences of their industry and frugality meet you on your entrance to any of the principal cities of Iowa. The great growth of the Catholic Church in Iowa during the last few years, is also evidence of their piety and devotion to the old Infallible Church of their fathers. You will be convinced of these facts as you walk around the young and prosperous city of Emmetsburg, the county seat of Palo Alto county. Its inhabitants are mostly Catholics, Irish, or of Irish descent. They have reached the highest positions in political, commercial and social life.

In *Truth*, Mr. Labouchere, M.P., says that he recently sent the following advice to the National Party in Egypt: "Organize a refusal to pay the land tax so long as one British soldier remains in your country. If the fellahs one and all enter into a 'no tax' association it will be impossible for the Government to expropriate them, and European employees and European soldiers will be starved out. Therefore organise. Let 'no tax' do for Egypt what 'no rent' has done for Ireland."

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

ACCORDING to a telegram from the Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*, the following letter from Sir Julius Vogel has appeared in the *Evening Post*:—I have been asked by so many friends my opinion on the proposed dissolution, that I seek through your columns the opportunity of writing a few words on the subject. The Queen's representatives are usually very reluctant to grant to defeated Colonial Governments the dissolution for which they almost invariably ask. Each case is generally dealt with according to constitutional precedent. There is no force whatever in the allegation that the Opposition itself desired a dissolution, since the constitutional mode of obtaining an opinion of the Opposition is to ask one or more of its leaders in succession to form a Government. On their declining or failing to do so, then it is usual to fall back on the Government in office. The present Government have no claim to a dissolution, as you clearly proved in your issue of Thursday last. There is nothing in the position of the Opposition to confer on the Government more than its ordinary rights. The Opposition is generally divided into several sections. Now there seem to be only two divisions. The sending them to the country is not nearly so likely to heal their differences as the throwing on them the responsibility of the action they have taken. Besides, nothing could be more mischievous than that the Queen's prerogative should be exercised irregularly because of some fancied good to arise from the procedure. Least of all is a departure from constitutional practice does the end justify the means. So obvious are these considerations, and so unusual is it that there should not be some recorded correspondence on the subject, that it seems improbable that His Excellency can have more than conveyed this impression to Major Atkinson: "You tell me the House wishes a dissolution, and that you can obtain supplies. If you prove this to me, I will grant it; but please to let the Opposition understand that my failing to summon them in the usual way is not meant as an affront, but is due to your representations."

Bain has been falling at Napier since Saturday, the registered rainfall being 9 inches. The Ngararoro River at Waitangi has been gradually encroaching upon the public road and the railway. Some £3000 has been spent by the County Council and the General Government in an endeavour to open the old mouth of the river. At present the flood has swept away the road, and yesterday the crumbling bank of the river was within two feet of the railway-line. If the flood continues, it is feared the Ngararoro will break into the upper end of the Ahuriri lagoon, and find an outlet at Napier. Should these fears be realised, enormous damage will be done to town and suburban properties.—In Canterbury recent rain has caused a breach in the northern railway-line near Balcairn, sufficient to stop the train from Waikari yesterday morning. The up train was sent on from Rangiora to bring down the passengers, who were about an hour and a-half late in reaching Christchurch. Repairs were completed in time for the midday train. The punt at the Upper Ferry, Woodville, was washed away on Wednesday whilst crossing with a flock of sheep, owing to the wire rope breaking, through the flooded state of the Manawatu River. The men got off safely through canoe and swimming, and the punt and sheep went ashore about a mile south of the ferry.

The Government having received no information from Parihaka this month it is surmised that the ordinary monthly meeting of Te Whiti's follower's fell through.

In the House of Representatives yesterday the Hon. Major Atkinson moved—"That the House go into Committee of Supply." Mr. O'Callaghan moved as an amendment—"That this House, while willing to grant Her Majesty's supplies for a reasonable period, desires to place on record its disapproval of the course adopted by Ministers in recommending His Excellency to grant a dissolution without first affording the Opposition a chance of forming a Ministry having the confidence of the House, inasmuch as Parliament has thereby been prevented from passing measures which it is desirable should be passed before a general election, and also the expense of a double session being unnecessarily incurred." After a lively debate, the motion for going into Committee of Supply was then put. The House divided—Ayes, 37; noes, 37. The Speaker gave his vote with the "ayes," with the view of getting the matter relegated to the country as soon as possible. The House went into Committee of Supply. The Hon. Major Atkinson at once moved to report progress, which was carried, and the House rose at 12.30.

SATURDAY.

Furious gales prevailed at Gisborne on Thursday night. Early this morning the buoy on Pinnacle or Luna Rock, fixed three years ago by Captain Crisp, broke adrift, and was found on the beach this morning. One beacon at the entrance to the harbour was also swept away. No tidings have yet been received of Mr. Downes, deputy returning-officer, who left last Sunday for Mahia. Constable Tronson went in search, returning yesterday afternoon without any traces. It is now generally believed the poor fellow is lost. The deputy returning-officer at Mohaka was also nearly drowned. He was swept off his horse and under a bridge. A Native, who was passing, threw a tether-rope to him, and saved him.

Five chains of the railway line have been washed away at Waitangi by the encroachment of the Ngararoro River. Traffic was partially suspended. The Ngararoro has broken through at its old mouth, and further damage to the railway-line is thus averted. It is, however, evident that some permanent works will have to be undertaken to prevent further encroachment by future floods. More than half of the beach between the sea and the lagoon has been washed away.

At the Auckland Crown Lands board meeting Mr. Tole, the chairman, called the attention of members to a surveyors' blunder of a remarkable character. A certain piece of land at Whangarei (89