

Dublin Notes.

(From contemporaries.)

THE residence of Mr John Gairdner, J.P., Lisbeg, county Galway, has been totally destroyed by fire. Lisbeg was one of the largest and most imposing residences in the county, and beautifully situated in the midst of picturesque surroundings. It was more of a castle than a house and contained endless suites of reception and bedrooms, all furnished in modern style. Its cost when erected 25 years ago was £20,000.

I have just seen a letter which helps to show how apt is D'Arcy M'Gee's oft-quoted refrain in his "Salutation to the Celts":—

"One in name and in fame
Are the sea-divided Gaels."

It is from the island of Jersey, where, as in the other Channel Islands the inhabitants enjoy Home Rule, but having no representation in the British Parliament are unable to help the Irish cause by their votes. They manage to do so in other ways. From the letter we learn that a large force of Irishmen in Jersey had arranged to meet to consider how best they could help the London executive in clearing off the heavy liability incurred in connection with last year's registration. A collection has been determined on, and, in addition, in order to further help the executive with the proceeds, a celebration of the national anniversary is to be held in the largest hall in the island.

The following letter from "An Irish nun in England" has appeared in the *Irish Catholic*:—"Will you allow me, through the columns of your valuable paper, to make one request to the Irish clergy who, at home or abroad, leave nothing undone to promote the welfare of the people; and to Irish parents, to warn off and keep away from the polluted shores of Great Britain the young, simple, innocent girls of Ireland? They come to this country as pure as angels, yet homeless and destitute of friends and money and unacquainted with vice, they easily become the prey of those who are raised above the level of the brute creation only through fear of the law of the land. These young girls are then piteously cast aside to want and shame, although their falls may be one per cent to those of other nations, for they still retain too much conscience to do away with the offspring of their guilt. I write from experience, as I am a member of an active Order for nearly 32 years in these countries, and I never fail to impress upon people of other nationalities that things are not as they say amongst the Irish in their own land nor would they be tolerated there."

The Most Rev Dr MacCormack in a pastoral says:—"It is said that there has been a loosening of the firm old bonds of love and loyalty that kept the Irish clergy and people together in weal and woe during the ages of trial and persecution. A strain there has been, no doubt—but, thank God, that strain has not led to sundering. Scenes were enacted, and language used during the general election that brought the blush of shame to every true Irish Catholic at home and abroad. True it is that hostile newspaper literature, anti-clerical harangue, and free liquor bars were contributing causes of that disgraceful conduct; but even these causes could not stir up such a sink of iniquity if its foul elements had not pre-existed. We refer to this matter now, even at the distance of time, because we had no earlier opportunity of doing so in this form, and because the scandal deserves the reprobation of all times. We exhort the faithful then to keep to the old landmarks of their forefathers, and not to be led away from their allegiance as true and loyal children of the Church, to be respectful to their pastors and obedient to the laws of our Holy Mother the Church. The reading of bad journals is another source of danger to which we would call your attention. We beg of our flock not to receive or retain publications gratuitously distributed through the post, publications which propagate heretical opinions and assail Catholic doctrines. We cannot wonder that the anti-Catholic Press of Dublin and Galway have been borrowing from the *Diritto* tit-bits so much in keeping with their well-known hostility to everything Catholic. We would suggest to our people not to receive such publications, but to return them to the Post Office as contraband parcels.

Much of the old joyousness of the Irish has vanished. The old stories and legends are rarely told now; politics and trade absorb all the conversation. The crossroads are deserted where in the long summer evenings the boys and the girls gathered to dance to the fiddle's never-tiring music. You may still see the girls milking the cows in the crofts morning and night, but you hear no more the plaintive ballad and come-al-ye to make the *dhrimin dhu* let her milk down easily. To the non-politician it seems as if this were due to the all-pervading political taint. It appears as if the plan of campaign has banished the "good people," the rise and fall of the butter market put the milking song out of tune, and discontent made the heart too heavy for the heels to be light. To the less sentimental observer

the signs are of brighter omen. If the people have less of the old gaiety, they are growing steadier. If they are discontented, it is not mere grumbling siffleness; they want something higher than they have, and that, with the power of saving money, is what brings men and nations to the top of the tree.

Alluding in a recent speech to some arguments of the London *Times* Mr John Dillon spoke as follows:—"Whenever," said Mr Dillon, "the people are quiet and there is no agitation, no matter how great the grievances of the people, no matter how many evictions and how great cruelties are practised on the people, then the Tory newspapers say: 'Oh, they have nothing to complain of. They are not murdering anybody. Everything is quiet. Land agents are not shot and, therefore, the people are perfectly content.' It is impossible to please these English gentlemen. If you shoot agents, or if there is a disturbance in the country, they say: 'It is a nation of savages; they must get no concessions at all.' If the people keep quiet, they say they have nothing to complain of, and, therefore, they must get no concessions. Now, let me tell these gentlemen in London that, were it not that we believe the present Government intends to do justice to the people, they would hear a good deal of agitation in Ireland. Why is Ireland quiet to-day? Not because of the landlords. I don't think there ever was a year when the landlords were more unreasonable or outrageous in their conduct. We are quiet in Ireland and we are patient in Ireland because we believe that Mr Morley and Mr Gladstone mean to do justice; because they have pledged their honour, and they are doing their best to give Home Rule to Ireland, and to reinstate in their homes the evicted tenants of Ireland; but if the English Parliament or the House of Lords reject these measures, then there will arise in Ireland an agitation such as the landlords never had to face before."

In a Pastoral Letter his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Armagh says:—"I should fail in my duty to those with whose spiritual welfare I am charged, did I not warn them against a danger which appears to me present and real. Though, through God's blessing, there is still much good to be found among men, still, we may say with St Paul, that the 'Days are evil.' Of all the causes which tend to propagate and intensify this evil, none appears to me more active than indiscriminate and dangerous reading. There seems to be much self-deception in this matter. Many, relying on their strong faith, their tried virtue, their superior intelligence, their ripe judgment, believe they can read with impunity anything and everything which comes in their way. When there is question of literature of an openly immoral or doubtful tendency they very soon find that tried virtue is very little protection. But literature of this class is not the chief danger, as there are very few indeed, still calling themselves Christians, who would voluntarily and unnecessarily indulge in it. The real danger is in publications which, while preserving an appearance of decency, conceal a secret poison which is insensibly instilled into the mind; in publications which, if they do not openly assail the truths of faith, treat them with ridicule or openly ignore them as myths which are not to be reckoned with; in publications which endeavour to bring religion and its ministers into contempt, to destroy the salutary confidence and mutual sympathy which should exist between the faithful and those who are divinely appointed to instruct, direct, and guide them. Such publications cannot fail to undermine virtue, weaken faith, breed contempt for sacred things, shake the hold which religion has on the minds of the people, turn them into scoffers, and, as a consequence, into apostates: for the apostate is ever found next door to the scoffer. Let no one say, whatever be his knowledge, his intelligence, his judgment, that he can habitually give himself to the perusal of such productions without experiencing the pernicious effects which they are calculated to produce."

The London *Speaker*, in an article on "Balfour and Home Rule," says:—"Does any capable political thinker believe that the Irish people, having seen a bill conferring self-government upon them passed through the House of Commons under the auspices of an Imperial Government, will ever be satisfied until at least the experiment of autonomy has been tried; or that a question which has gone so far as this can be stopped moving until it has gone further? We make bold to say that Mr Balfour, who is educated in the science of politics and who is a man of intellect, believes no such thing. Mr Morley's present peace is simply an object-lesson of what we may hope for in the future under the due conditions. He enjoys tranquillity because he is governing with the consent of the governed. But he does not boast of his state, or say the question is settled, because he knows he only holds that consent upon a promissory note, and that until that note is honoured by the establishment of a Constitution in Ireland satisfactory to the wishes of the majority of the Irish people, the future will be as menacing and doubtful as Mr Balfour assured his constituents it was this week. Here is one of the arguments which are bringing Mr Balfour to the position occupied by Lord Rosebery, and which Lord Rosebery predicted would be eventually occupied by both political parties. Lord Rosebery says he is not an enthusiastic Home Ruler. The kinsman of Pitt would