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## Dublin Notes.

(From contemporaries.)

A SNOWSTORM of intense severity swept over Dublin towards the end of week ending January 12. On Saturday traffic was out of the question, and business was completely suspended. The snow was knee deep in many places and pedestrianism quite impossible. Telegraph and telephone wires were blown down, and communication with the outer world cut off. The resources of the charitable institutions have been almost exhausted in endeavouring to relieve the sufferings of the poor. Sir John Arnott, with his usual generosity, has contributed £100 towards a relief fund. A few small subscriptions have been sent to the daily papers for the same purpose, but no organised action has been taken so far.

That the education imparted by the Christian Brothers is second to none in the land is acknowledged on all sides. The latest to bear public testimony to this fact is the new Bishop of Clogher, the Most Rev Dr Owens, who, previous to his consecration, filled a professional chair in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, with much distinction. Speaking on Friday, January 18, to a large representative assemblage of the Catholics of Monaghan, his Lordship gave expression to his views regarding the exclusion of this excellent teaching body from any share in the money granted by the State for primary education in Ireland. As Dr Owens pointed out this glaring injustice becomes greatly aggravated when we find it sustained by a Government professing itself friendly to the claims of these schools—by a Government that is itself kept in power by the vote of Catholic Ireland.

Mr Justice Monroe has actually released his grip on one Irish estate. He has accepted the offer of the Land Commission to purchase on behalf of the tenants the estate of Glounallogha and Shasavoher in the parish of Kingwilliamstown, County Cork. But it took five years to complete the negotiations, so the landlords need not tremble at the Landed Estates Court judge will flood the market. The peasants of Glounallogha and Shasavoher were encouraged to persevere by the sound advice and unflinching assistance of their patriotic pastor, Rev Denis J. O'Riordan, P. P. The price, we understand, is a fair one, and it may confidently be expected that the emancipated peasant proprietors will profit by their release from Mr Justice Monroe's tender mercies.

We (*Freeman*) have received from a Dublin man in Melbourne, Mr Michael Connolly, a strong protest against the statement of Mr John Redmond that the enthusiasm of the Nationalists of Australia in the Irish cause is on the wane. A more unfounded statement, he declares, was never uttered. "The same feeling exists now," writes our correspondent, "as existed when he was here; but I can tell him it does not exist towards himself politically. He would find it out if he but showed himself at present in Melbourne." If the Irishmen of Victoria and their descendants are not showing the same measure of support to the cause at home now as formerly it is due to the deep depression of all business in the country. But "the same intense love of the National cause prevails now as at all times." "I trust and hope," concludes this Dublin exile, "that the Irish people will relegate Mr Redmond to that obscurity from which he should never have arisen to deal destruction to the best interests of our beloved land." Coming from one who helped to the measure of his ability to make Mr Redmond's mission to Australia in 1883 a success, this expression of the honest opinion of one of the rank and file deserves to be recorded.

Mr Morley the other day received a deputation with reference to the Erasmus Smith Endowments. Mr T. M. Healy, M. P., who introduced the deputation, and Father Humphries, who is a thorough master of the subject, placed the matter in the clearest light before the Chief Secretary, who acknowledged that the state of things required an immediate remedy. He was unable, however, to hold out any hope that a Bill dealing with the question would be intro-

duced during the next Session of Parliament. Among the adventurers who came to Ireland with Oliver Cromwell was Erasmus Smith. He, of course, plundered the unfortunate peasantry, a highly laudable act in his master's estimation. He died extremely wealthy, and in his will bequeathed a large sum of money for the education of the tenants on his property. Those only who forsook the old faith, however, were to profit by the money thus left for educational purposes. As they were few and far between, nineteenth-tenths of the tenants have received no benefit whatever from the bequest, and nearly three millions have been lost to the cause of primary education. This monstrous state of affairs cannot continue much longer, however.

Mr William O'Brien draws a terrible picture of the condition of affairs in some parts of the West of Ireland. On the one side hunger has laid its heavy hand upon the people. On the other the landlords have showered legal processes upon them for rents which they cannot pay. Hunger and wretchedness are the order of the day. The bitter ram and downright famine must soon follow unless something is done to help the people and stay the rapacity of the landlords. In all the congested districts of Ireland there is some distress of a similar kind, but the most acute stage has been reached in Mayo, and where the distress is most acute, there, above all other places, the landlords seem to be most insistent on their rents. At first we find the landlords supporting the Nationalist public bodies who called out for Government aid. In order, as they hoped, to raise up difficulties for Mr Morley they testified to, and even exaggerated, the failure of the potato crop. But when as a natural consequence it is suggested that now is an appropriate time to make reductions in their rents they suddenly forget that any distress exists at all. There is very little use in talking of Land Acts with reference to these poor tenants. They seem out of reach of any possible Land Act. They have been driven into the glens of Mayo, where they have settled down in miserable villages upon miserable patches of land, on which they are co-tenants, and for which the landlords try to make them pay rent. This is the history of many isolated spots in Ireland, but it is the history of nearly all the West. The tenants who cultivated the moderately good land on the plains were driven out to be replaced by land grabbers, and settled down as squatters, without rent, upon the almost barren slopes of the mountains. Here, after a while, they made patches of potatoes grow, and the moment the landlord saw crops down he came with a demand for rent for the land which the people had actually made the soil. When the potato crop fails no rent can be had. But then there is generally seed relief potatoes, and the landlord can seize the seed, which he very often does. Then if there are relief funds and relief works, ten to one he gets some of the money intended to keep the life in the people, and they starve on willingly in order to keep the roofs over their heads. The Irish party have over and over again begged of Parliament to do something for these poor people. Parliament could apparently never be got to understand the case, and the result is that every Executive that has ever ruled in Ireland has, at some period of its existence, heard the wail of famine go up in the West. Whatever is to be finally done to cure the evils of the West something must be done now, and immediately, to relieve the present necessities of the people.

Mr Gawne, of Dunedin (says the *Southland Times* of April 13, 1891), has just been on a visit to Invercargill to push business a little. Not that it wants much canvassing, for since he commenced the manufacture of his Worcestershire Sauce, the demand has kept pace with his capacity to supply it. He makes a really good thing, indistinguishable from the famous Lea and Perrin's, which he places upon one's table at a much lower price, and trusts to that to secure a steadily growing trade. Those who have not yet tried the Colonial article should put their prejudice aside for a time and test the question with a bottle or two.—ADVT.

A ritual for Holy Week, a birthday present from Louis XVI to the Princess de Lamballe, bearing the arms and cipher of the king, and containing his autograph and that of Marie Antoinette, was the book that brought the highest price in 1894. It was sold in Paris for 6,600 lols.