

a priest of the diocese of Derry, who is returning to Ireland from Melbourne; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Verga, of Melbourne, and Mr. W. O'Connor, of Indianapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Verga are benefactors of a church in Melbourne, and Mr. O'Connor is a nephew of Mgr. Carr.

O B I T U A R Y.

FROM recent London files we learn of the death of Miss Maria Roche of 29 George street Hanover Square. The *Weekly Sun* says of the deceased lady:—She was indeed a remarkable woman. Arriving in London an unknown Irish girl, in a few years she became one of the leading dressmakers of the greatest city in the world. She made all the mourning of the ill-fated Empress Eugenie. She made for princesses, duchesses and countesses, and all sorts of grand dames. And with her success she never lost either her good sense, or her good heart or her independence. She was a devoted child to the old Irish mother in Kerry waiting for news from her daughter. A *Requiem* Mass was celebrated for the repose of her soul and the funeral took place at the Abbey-dorney cemetery, Ireland, the family burial ground. The deceased lady, it may be mentioned was a sister of Mr. James Roche of Mandeville, and Mr. David Roche of Invercargill.—*R.I.P.*

MRS. CARR, SENR., OF WESTPORT.

(From our own correspondent.)

It is with very deep regret that I have to record the death of a very widely-respected Catholic lady, Mrs. Carr (senr.), who passed away early on the afternoon of Friday, the 17th ult. She had been ailing for some time, and her son, Mr. R. Carr, who presided at the public meeting on Thursday evening, was hastily called the same night, when it was found that the condition of the deceased was most critical. The late Mrs. Carr was a native of County Cavan. Her maiden name was O'Reilly. She was the eldest daughter of Philip O'Reilly, and cousin of that distinguished Irishman, John Boyle O'Reilly. Her eldest son, Mr. Robert Carr, contributed to the *TABLET* under the nom-de-plume—'Old Identity.' He is a printer at the *Times* and *Star* office and a borough councillor. Mrs. Carr was a good, practical Catholic mother, and attended Mass on the Sunday previous to her death. Father Costello, whose health I am grieved to say is not all we could desire, administered the last sacraments, and offered up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of her soul on Sunday morning. The good Sisters of Mercy attended on her during her last illness and invested her with the habit and shroud. From then up to the time for closing the coffin there was a continual stream of mourners wishing to look for the last time on the face of one who was so much respected by all. Very Rev. Father Walshe arrived from Karamea late the previous night in time to conduct the funeral services for one of his oldest and most respected parishioners, first at the church—Miss Pain playing the 'Dead March' on the organ while the procession moved round the church—and afterwards at the grave. The mourners followed the corpse a distance of three miles to the grave, although the afternoon was wet and disagreeable, anxious to show all the respect possible to the deceased and her family.—*R.I.P.*

JAMES CONAGHAN.

With sincere regret we announce the death of Mr. James Conaghan, of Balfour, Southland. The deceased gentleman was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and arrived in Dunedin in 1863. He was carrying in Otago for many years. Deceased was married in 1881 and came to Southland as a farmer. He remained in the district ever since. Deceased was a devout Catholic, always willing to assist the Church, and was highly respected by all who knew him. He leaves a wife, four daughters and five surviving sons. He was interred in the new cemetery at Balfour. Father O'Dea read the burial service at the grave.

'98: AN APPRECIATION.

THE *Wellington Post* had the following admirable sub-leader on the Centenary of Ninety-Eight:—'The citizens of Wellington will be asked on Friday next to join in honouring the memory of the courageous patriots who one hundred years ago defended their principles, even to the death. Primarily, the celebration concerns Irishmen whose ancestors fought and died manfully for the national cause, but the principles which the Irish leaders then upheld belong to all places and all times. It is not rebellion for its own sake that we honour, for, unless it be absolutely necessary, rebellion, like war, is a deadly crime against humanity. But the rising of 1798 was forced upon the Irish by the arbitrary and unjust tyranny of the English Government. On the side of England were numbers, wealth, and power, but on that of the rebels were honesty, courage, and devotion. The three ideas which prompted the insurgents to take up arms were noble ones, and deserve especial honour in a free democratic community like our own. They were, first the union amongst all creeds and classes for the common good. In 1798, landlord stood by tenant and Protestant by Catholic for a common object, while Pitt and the English Government wished to spread disunion in order to consolidate English supremacy. The second idea was that which William Ewart Gladstone so eloquently advocated during his closing years—namely, the full and free representation of all creeds and classes in an Irish Parliament. The third of the guiding principles of the rebellion was perfect religious liberty. Looked at from this standpoint the 1798 celebration gains broad and noble proportions, which raise it above the mere Irish patriotic display to the larger plane of human efforts towards progress and light.'

THE WAR.

WHAT THE CABLES SAY.

THE hostilities between Spain and America have of late been confined to some skirmishing in Cuba, but during the past few days the turn of events has assumed an entirely new, if not extraordinary phase. The Spanish authorities have despatched a fleet on what seems to be a mad expedition, namely to the Philippines by way of the Suez Canal. The squadron has already been sighted at Port Said, and reports from Washington state that if the Spanish vessels enter the Suez Canal the best ships of Admiral Sampson's fleet will be despatched to bombard the Spanish Mediterranean ports and the Canary Islands. A later telegram conveyed the intelligence that six vessels under Commodore Watson have actually been ordered to proceed to the Spanish coast and after bombarding the coastal towns to pursue the Spanish fleet which has sailed for the Philippines. There appears to be every prospect, therefore, of the hostilities assuming in the immediate future a much more exciting nature than has been the case in the past. Meanwhile some further sharp fighting is anticipated before Santiago, the objective point of the attacking parties is reached. The Spanish forces are gradually falling back on Santiago, which is reported to be strongly defended. A spy who came into the American lines declares that the Spanish fleet which is cooped up in Santiago harbour is damaged and without coal, but the defenders of Santiago have been augmented by marines which have been landed from the ships. The Cuban insurgents assisted the Americans greatly in cleaning the country in their advance on Santiago. A serious blunder was made in connection with an attack by cowboys to dislodge the Spanish from the Savilla heights and which resulted in the Americans suffering considerable loss. It is stated that the attack was made without consent or knowledge of the general commanding and there is some talk of the men responsible for it being court martialled. The following detailed particulars concerning the engagement are given in the cables from Washington:—

Mr. Roosevelt's cowboys commanded by Colonel Wood and a detachment of regulars under General Young started to dislodge the Spanish troops under General Linareas from the heights of Savilla. The heat was intense. Many of the troops were prostrated, and the heavy equipment had to be abandoned. The cactus bushes and thick undergrowth rendered marching a difficult operation. When the thickest part of the jungle was reached the cowboys fell into an ambush. An invisible enemy fired upon them, killing Hamilton, Fish, and Captains Capron and Luna. This momentarily demoralised the Americans, causing them to fire on their comrades in the confusion. Mr. Roosevelt and Colonel Wood soon rallied the men. After an hour's sharp fighting they found the Spaniards with a mule which was carrying only a Hotchkiss gun. The mule bolted into the bush and could not be utilised. Seventeen Americans were killed, including several New York swells. Roosevelt was slightly wounded in the eyes and ears. Mr. Marshall, the correspondent of the *New York Journal*, was mortally wounded in the spine, but calmly smoked a cigarette while he dictated an account of the battle for his paper. General Young's further advance was conducted with greater caution, the enemy being completely defeated.

From another source we learn that Mr. Theodore Roosevelt resigned his place as Chairman of the Board of Naval Strategy and Assistant Secretary to the Navy, in order to raise the regiment of cowboys. He refused to accept the colonelcy, because, as he thinks, he is not technically equal to the place, but took the position of second in command. It is Roosevelt's regiment all the same, however. So many were the applications for enrolment that two regiments had to be formed instead of one.

MANILA NEWS.

Manila news of June 7 states that the natives under Aquinaldo several times defeated the Spaniards and captured 1,200 prisoners.

The Governor of Batanzas completely surrounded the town, and a number of other towns are in the hands of the rebels, who from other provinces are marching on Manila.

Two thousand five hundred American troops are expected to arrive on June 16, and it is understood that they will reduce the Ladrone Islands *en route*.

The Americans have raised some of the Spanish ships sunk during the battle at Manila.

The rebels are daily increasing in strength. Many of them are armed with magazine rifles.

When the mail left Manila was in such straits that it was expected that the city would surrender before the arrival of the American troops.

The rebels murdered three priests.

NOTES ON THE WAR.

RELATIVE EXPENDITURE ON FLEETS.

ACCORDING to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Great Britain spends £37,500,000 on her army and £26,000,000 on her navy, a prodigious total of over £63,000,000. We are tempted to say so with two-fold emphasis, says the *Melbourne Argus*, when the disbursements of other countries are taken into consideration, with the result that the naval expenditure of France, Germany, and Russia combined is found to be only £25,558,000, or practically the same sum yearly devoted by Great Britain to the building, armament, and maintenance of her fleet. The detailed totals as regards our rivals are as follows:—France, navy £11,185,000, army £24,902,000; Germany, navy £6,083,000, army £29,143,000; Russia, navy £7,990,000, army £30,579,000. Thus not one even of the great military countries which have converted themselves into armed camps pays for its