

George Skeffington Usher, Esq., eldest surviving son of the late Lieut-Colonel John Usher, formerly of H.M. 66th, and subsequently of H.M. 50th and 95th Regiments, was solemnly baptised and received into the holy Catholic Church by the Rev. Father Benvenitus Gay, O.S.F.C., in the Franciscan Capuchin Church of St. Mary of Angels, Dublin, on Sunday, 19th April last. The return of this gentleman to the true fold is all the more remarkable, as he is the lineal descendant of the famous Archbishop Usher, of Armagh, formerly Protestant Primate of All Ireland, who was so distinguished for profound learning and historical research. Mr Usher's conversion is eminently the result of long, silent years of study and reflection, fostered by God's holy grace and protection.

The making of the first concrete block for the foundation of the new harbour at Bray took place on Monday before a large assemblage of the people of the township. The event is of the highest importance to the future of Bray, and is certain to increase its attractions as a watering place. A well-deserved compliment was paid to Mr Sexton, M.P., who was the first to urge on the Commissioners to rely on their own exertions to build a harbour without Government assistance. The people of Bray are to be congratulated on the energy with which they have pushed forward the project without the guidance of such a Government body as the Board of Works, which has left monuments everywhere of incompetency and mismanagement. The harbour will be a great advantage to the fishermen, and, as mentioned by Mr Breslin, the townspeople will benefit in the matter of coal alone two shillings per ton. This small item means a saving to the town of £4,000 per year. We need not enlarge on the great advantages that must assuredly result from the building of the harbour, and we have every reason to anticipate that a splendid structure will be erected, as there is no fear of the blighting influence of the Board of Works.

**Galway.**—Messrs Wright and Tangye, both of Birmingham, have called on Dr Rice, J.P., to make inquiries regarding Messrs O'Brien and Dillon, and expressed themselves well pleased to learn that the health of the distinguished prisoners is all that could be desired. Mr Tangye belongs to an eminent firm of engineers, and has been engaged in the erection of an iron building for the better accommodation of operatives in what is expected very soon to become an extensive basket-making industry in Connemara. They are about starting in Birmingham a journal in the Home Rule interest. Messrs O'Brien and Dillon intend, on leaving prison, to reside for some time at Louisburg and Clare Island, where houses are said to be already engaged for their accommodation. Mr O'Brien's object, it is supposed, being a desire to complete his novel amongst the scenes with which it deals, and which are some of the most beautiful in the country.

**Kerry.**—At a special Court at Tralee, Mr Cecil R. Roche, B.M., resumed the hearing of the case against Michael Lynch and thirty others, who were charged by the Board of Fishery Conservators, Limerick, that they, not being the owners of a several fishery, did on the 5th June shoot, draw, or use a net for taking salmon within half a mile inwards from the mouth of the river Owenmore, in the common estuary of the rivers Glenahoo, Scoid, and Owenmore, in the county of Kerry, contrary to the provisions of the 13th and 14th Vic. 88, section 44. After much legal argument, his Worship imposed a fine of 21s in each case. Mr Broderick intimated his intention of applying for a *mandamus* to compel his Worship to state a case on the points raised by him.

**Kildare.**—On Sunday a Parnellite Convention from the National League branches of Kildare was held in the Town Hall, Newbridge. The attendance was small, and very little public interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr James Leahy, M.P. for South Kildare, and John Kelly, League organiser, addressed the meeting.

The Kildare Grand Jury awarded £680 compensation to owners of horses maliciously poisoned at the training establishment at Cellbridge. Sir Charles Cameron, Public Analyst, proved that the animals died from arsenical poisoning. A veterinary surgeon who had been arrested in connection with the affair died in prison while awaiting trial.

**Leitrim.**—In the Land Judges' Court on Tuesday, before Mr Justice Monroe, in the matter of the estate of La Touche, situate in the County Leitrim, Mr William Kenny, Q.C., on the part of Messrs Lefroy, the petitioners, applied for a rule of the Court giving sanction to an offer of the tenants for the purchase of the first lot of the estate through the Court of the Land Commission for £24,385. The estate is mortgaged for over £32,000, and the petitioners are tail incumbrancers for £15,000. Mr Ball appeared for the owner to oppose the application. Judge Monroe granted the motion sanctioning the tenants' offer.

**Limerick.**—An enthusiastic and largely-attended meeting of the Limerick Branch of the National Federation was held on Sunday. The High Sheriff (Mr P. E. Bourke) presided. Mr David Bogley, T.C., proposed—That we offer our heartfelt congratulations to the true men of Carlow, who have signally vindicated the fair fame of our beloved country by the overwhelming victory of the

National candidate at the polls on Tuesday last over the unnatural combination now opposed to Home Rule and the best interests of Ireland.—The resolution was passed amid applause.

A Parnellite convention was held at Limerick this afternoon for the stated purpose of organising the county and city, with a view to opposing the return of Messrs Finucane, Abraham, and O'Keefe, members of Parliament. Messrs M'Donald, Pierce Mahony, and Edward Harrington, M.P.s, were present during the proceedings, the initial stages of which were conducted in private. There were only thirty branches of the League represented, and not a single Catholic clergyman attended. The names of these selected to contest Limerick city and county were not made public. The Mayor of Limerick, Alderman P. Riordan, presided at the public meeting held subsequently. Speeches were delivered by Messrs. Mahony, M'Donald, and Harrington, the general purport of which was an attack on the Catholic clergy for interfering in politics. Mr Mahony asked why was no action taken by the Bishops until Mr Gladstone's letter appeared. A delegate immediately called for groans for Gladstone. Mr Harrington said if the priests stood aside from one election, and left it to the people to decide should Mr Parnell be hunted from public life, they would be satisfied.

Owing to the statements made at the Parnellite Convention held in Limerick on Monday that Dr O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, was not in unison with the other bishops of Ireland on the points set out in their recent manifesto directed against Mr Parnell's leadership, his lordship has addressed the following important letter to the Vicar-General of the diocese, Dr Moloney, on the subject:—"My dear Vicar—Some remarks of speakers at a convention held in this city on Monday last, which may lead my people astray, compel me very reluctantly to interpose in the strife which is now agitating this country, for the purpose of defining to some extent my personal position in relation to it. It is hardly necessary to affirm that I am not a supporter of Mr Parnell. A sense of National decency would be alone sufficient to save me from that. From the commencement I have felt that no honourable Irishman could hold up his head before the world if we were so wanting in self-respect as to maintain as the leader of the nation a man stained with offences against the moral law of which Mr Parnell has been convicted, nor can I imagine a condition of things in which political expediency would render such action on the part of a Catholic nation even tolerable; and hence, so far from holding any opinion on this different from my brother bishops, I most heartily concur in the resolution adopted by them at their recent meeting at Maynooth.—I am, my dear Vicar, yours faithfully in Christ, † EDWARD THOMAS, Bishop of Limerick. The Palace, Corbally, 15th July, 1891."

**Mayo.**—A curious case of alleged manslaughter was tried at the Mayo Assizes, Castlebar, on Tuesday. Patrick Reilly pleaded not guilty to the charge of having killed Mrs M'Dermott, Castlebar. Prisoner, who had a reputation for curing cancer, had applied a plaister to the deceased, who was suffering from that malady. Medical evidence showed that the deceased suffered from arsenical poisoning absorbed from the plaister. The jury brought in a verdict of "guilty of negligence," which the judge refused to accept, as it required gross negligence to substantiate a charge of manslaughter. The jury retired, and after long deliberation, being unable to agree, were discharged.

**Monaghan.**—A meeting of the Unionist and Orange electors of North Monaghan was held in the Town Hall to-day, for the purpose of selecting a gentleman to contest the seat at the forthcoming general election. The Protestant Bishop of Clogher presided. Captain the Hon Peter Westmore, brother of Lord Rossmore, was selected, and it is stated that a canvass of electors will commence immediately. The names of several other persons were put forward at the meeting.

**Tyrene.**—On Sunday evening a Parnellite meeting was held at the Old Cross of Aghaboe, situated about eleven miles from this Stewartstown. It was announced that Mr Parnell, Dr Fitzgerald, and Mr Blane would be present, but only the latter put in an appearance. The entire affair proved the most miserable of *fiascoes*, there being only about a hundred persons present.

At the usual meeting of the New Ross Board of Guardians on Saturday, Mr James Dooley, chairman, presided. When the ordinary business had been transacted, Mr Patrick Doyle proposed the following resolution:—"That we warmly congratulate the priests and people of Carlow on their splendid victory over the Parnellite nominee, Kettie, and hail this crushing defeat as a sure omen of the speedy collapse of the reign of disorder and disunion, inaugurated by Parnell in his insane efforts to retain a leadership of which he has repeatedly proved unworthy. The resolution was carried, there voting for it—Messrs M'Grath, Hunt, Doyle, and the chairman. 4. Against, Messrs James Doyle and John Nechan, 2.

**Wicklow.**—In March last the member for West Wicklow was adjudicated a bankrupt. It was formerly the case that a member might in such circumstances retain his seat for twelve months. Under Mr Chamberlain's Act of 1883 the term was reduced by one-half, and unless Mr Byrne is, in the meanwhile, able to satisfy his