

altar apparently in his usual health, and after the reading of the first Gospel he turned round to address the congregation. As he uttered the words 'Dearly beloved,' it was noticed that he had become faint, and he at once fell on the altar. Dr. Hassett, the local medical officer, who happened to be in the church, rushed to the altar, and, having examined the good priest, announced the sorrowful news to those present that their pastor was no more. He attributed death to failure of the heart's action.

The Redmond State

Some time ago it was stated that Mr. John Redmond had sold the estate which he inherited from his uncle, the late General Redmond, at a very high figure to the tenants. The facts of the case, as set forth in a letter from Mr. Redmond's solicitors in the columns of the 'Freeman's Journal,' show that the Chairman of the Irish Party dealt very generously with the tenants. Inter alia, they say: Mr. Redmond made no offer of terms to the tenants. They held meetings on their own initiative, and unanimously agreed to offer certain terms to Mr. Redmond, and these terms he accepted, and, as a matter of fact, in many cases modified them in favor of the tenants. It has been stated that the estate has been sold to the tenants at 24½ years' purchase. This is untrue. No single farm on the estate has been sold at this price. The actual figures are as follows:—No. of tenants, 94; rental, £1579 0s 11d; amount of purchase money, £33,779; average number of years' purchase on rents, 21.3; percentage of reduction of rent in the future annuities, 30.7. These included a large number of second-term rents. Forty-six tenants bought at 18.3 years' purchase.

GENERAL

A Reminiscence

The visit of the Duke of Norfolk to Ireland will recall the circumstance that his father, the fourteenth Duke of Norfolk, sat as Earl of Arundel for an Irish constituency. Lord Arundel had been returned at the General Election of 1837 for the family borough of Arundel, for which he sat continuously till 1850. Then his father resolutely supported the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill; the son, however, opposed it, and when it became law he resigned his seat for Arundel, but was at once returned as member for the City of Limerick, its representative, John O'Connell, the son of Daniel O'Connell, retiring in his favor.

The National Programme

Mr. William O'Brien, in a letter to the Westport District Council, acknowledging receipt of a resolution passed regarding his recent utterances, says that he has not the slightest desire to press his views on the country except so far as these views may coincide with the practical experience of the Irish people during the past nine months. A resolution of the Cork Executive, Mr. O'Brien says, puts the issue squarely before the country. That resolution sets forth without offence to anyone the conditions in which it is possible to re-establish the power of the Irish movement. These conditions are a return to the programme which the country had pledged itself to and submission to the decision of a competent National authority duly pronounced. Mr. O'Brien concludes that the question is one deeply affecting the future happiness of the people, and whatever decision the country may come to, for his part he will do his best to get clear from any rancorous personalities which convince nobody and only sicken decent Irishmen.

The Language Movement

In the new movement for the preservation of the Irish language there is perhaps no healthier token than the remarkable development of the annual festival known as the Oireachtas. In seven years a wonderful change has come to pass. At the beginning of that period it seemed almost impossible to awaken general interest in the Oireachtas. The press, which measures every event by the popular view, paid scarcely any attention to the festival. Now the columns of the Irish papers are filled with accounts of the proceedings. The institution has developed into an affair of national importance at which the Irish people, wherever residing, desire to be represented. The sum of £500 is expended in prizes, for which there are about a thousand competitors. The festival is, as it were, an expression of concentrated energy. Unquestionably it must exercise a powerful influence in favor of the old tongue. The competitions alone stimulate talent in a notable way, and thus tend to enrich Irish literature with lasting contributions.

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People We Hear About

The Rev. E. C. Hawkins, who is said to be about to retire from St. Bride's Anglican Church, Fleet street, London, is a brother of Lord Brampton (aforetime known as Mr. Justice Hawkins), a convert late in life to the Catholic Faith. He possesses another distinguished relative in the person of his son, A. H. Hawkins, whose novels and plays ('The Prisoner of Zenda,' 'Rupert of Hentzau,' etc.) are signed 'Anthony Hope.'

Sir William Butler, when the jingo war fever was at its highest, was prevented from taking command of the troops on the occasion of Queen Victoria's visit to Bristol, but at Swansea recently there was no one, with the exception of their Majesties, who was so lustily cheered through the streets as the man who would not allow Lord Milner either to bend or break him. The general rode in the Royal saloon to the docks, and as he left the King was heard to remark to the Queen, 'What a charming fellow Butler is.'

The Most Rev. Dr. Alexander, Protestant Archbishop of Armagh, who called upon Cardinal Vannutelli whilst the Papal Legate was the guest of Cardinal Logue, has just celebrated his 80th birthday. He was made Bishop of Derry and Raphoe in 1867 under the Derby Ministry—although there was considerable heart-searching over the appointment on account of his having supported Mr. Gladstone at the University election at Oxford in 1865. His Grace is a brilliant speaker, and no mean poet. 'Mrs. Alexander, who died seven years ago, was also a well known writer of verse—chiefly for children.

When the King went to Swansea recently to cut the first sod of the King's Dock, he found himself, as he not uncommonly does (says the London 'Tablet'), on like occasions, very much in the hands of 'believers in that creed which the Coronation Oath repudiates in unmannerly fashion. General Sir William Butler, Commander of the Western District, had come from Devonport to control the military arrangements; and the Recorder of Swansea, his Honor Judge Bowen Rowlands K.C., was presented to his Majesty, and read to him the addresses from the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the County Borough of Swansea.

The finance accounts of the United Kingdom for the last financial year, 1903-1904, were issued the other day. Among the figures which have some popular interest are those relating to pensions to public men. There are seven considerable pensions paid in respect of naval and military services. In the case both of Lord Rodney and Earl Nelson the pension will be continued 'to whom the title shall descend.' In four others the pensions are 'for life of the present' peer; while Viscount Hardinge's is described as being 'to the present viscount.' The seven recipients are:—Lord Rodney, £2000; Earl Nelson, £5000; Lord Seaton, £2000; Viscount Hardinge, £3000; Viscount Gough, £2000; Lord Raglan, £2000; Lord Napier of Magdala, £2000. The six political pensions are:—Lord Cross, £2000; Lord G. Hamilton, £2000; Sir M. Hicks-Beach, £1200; Mr. H. Chaplin, £1200; Sir J. Gorst, £1200; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, £1200. The retired judges—Sir Edward Fry, Lord Field, Sir Arthur Charles, Lord Brampton, Sir Ford North, and Sir J. C. Day—take £3500 a year each.

The Duke of Norfolk, who was (with the Duchess) the guest of Sir John Ross of Bladensburg at Rostrevor House, his seat in County Down, for the consecration of Armagh Cathedral, is an old friend of his host. Sir John, then Captain, Ross, was attached as secretary to the mission, of which his Grace was the head, sent 17 years ago by Queen Victoria to Rome to congratulate Pope Leo XIII. on his Jubilee. He fulfilled the same office two years later, when Sir Lintorn Simmons was sent by the British Government to negotiate with the Pope on the subject of Maltese marriages. The family has used the surname of Ross of Bladensburg for 90 years, the license to do so having been granted by George III. to Sir John's grandfather, General Robert Ross, who defeated the Americans at Bladensburg in 1814, and took Washington shortly afterwards. Sir John himself has seen service with the Grenadier Guards, but retired some years ago, and lives most of the year at his charming home under the shadow of towering Slieve Ban. He is especially interested in horticulture and planting, and many rare and beautiful trees and shrubs flourish in the mild and sheltered nook where Rostrevor stands. Sir John is the grandson of Viscount Ferrard, who married Viscountess Massereene in her own right; and he himself married his cousin, a sister of the present Lord Massereene and Ferrard, some years ago.