

### The Late Dr. Birmingham

The funeral of the late Dr. Ambrose Birmingham took place from the University Church, St. Stephen's Green, to Glasnevin Cemetery. There was a very large attendance. His Eminence Cardinal Logue sent a letter of sympathy to the Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack, Bishop of Galway, uncle of the deceased Professor.

### A Successful Year

The report of the 'Freeman's Journal,' Ltd., for 1904 has been issued to the shareholders. The directors recommend that the ordinary shareholders be paid a dividend for the half-year ended December 31, 1904, at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, and that a balance of £1300 17s 11d be carried to the next account.

### FERMANAGH—Election of Coroner

Mr. James Mulligan, J.P., Maguiresbridge, has been elected Coroner for South Fermanagh in place of the late Major Winslow.

### KERRY—Small Damages

In the action in which Mr. John Murphy, M.P., sued Messrs. Quinnell for damages for libel published in the 'Kerry News,' the jury found that the publication complained of was a libel, that it was not fair comment, and that it was not published with malice, and they awarded the plaintiff one farthing damages.

### Death of a Nonagenarian

The death has occurred at Brosna, County Kerry, of an old woman named Catherine Lyons, who had lived upwards of 90 years. Deceased belonged to a most respectable family, and possessed her faculties up to the last. Her reminiscences of the many stirring episodes and incidents characteristic of the Fenian Rising of '67 and the famine period of '48 were interesting and vivid.

### KILDARE—Parliamentary Vacancy

The candidature of Mr. John O'Connor (ex-M.P.) for North Kildare has been entered on under the best auspices. The Bishop of the diocese has approved the resolution passed by the Naas District Council adopting Mr. O'Connor as candidate, and Mr. Redmond has written to say that Mr. O'Connor's candidature will have the utmost support of himself as Chairman and of the Irish Party generally.

### KILKENNY—A Distinguished Visitor

The Most Rev. Dr. Howley, Archbishop of Newfoundland, who was returning from Rome, arrived at Kilkenny early in February, on a visit to Mr. J. Smithwick, Birchfield House. His Grace was accompanied by his nephew, the Rev. Alexander Howley, D.D.

### Local Industries

It is stated that following up the starting of the shirt and collar factory in Waterford by a few enterprising citizens other local gentlemen interested in the milling industry have conceived the idea of starting, or rather restarting, milling industry on the County Kilkenny side of the river.

### SLIGO—A Peaceful County

In opening Sligo Quarter Sessions recently Judge Wakely congratulated the Grand Jury on the peaceful state of the county.

### WICKLOW—A Reminder of the Penal Days

Amidst the ease and comfort with which we can at present worship (writes a Dublin correspondent), we are apt to forget what it cost in former days to preserve the faith. Now and again, however, some relic is discovered which gives a clear idea of the severity of the struggle for the preservation of the faith in penal times. The other day, for instance, Mr. J. J. Clancy, M.P., who appeared in the Land Commission Court, Dublin, as counsel for the vendor in the sale of the estate of Mr. Pierce O'Mahony, County Wicklow, referred to the existence of such a relic. A fee-farm rent of £51 a year had to be redeemed, and Mr. Clancy mentioned that amongst the reservations to the landlord was the proviso that he was entitled to exact a penal rent 'for every Papist found on the land.' Despite this persecution, Wicklow is still Catholic, but we can easily imagine from the imposition of this condition in connection with land tenure how determined were the efforts to crush the Church in Ireland and what those who adhered to it had to bear. Reproaches are occasionally levelled at Irish Catholics because they are not as wealthy as Protestants. It should, however, be borne in mind that the effects of spoliation and intolerance are felt for centuries.

## People We Hear About

Mrs. Elizabeth Meagher, widow of General Thomas F. Meagher to whom a monument is being erected in Helena, Montana, has been invited by the memorial association to be present at the unveiling of the statue next July 4. The president of the Association, James H. Lynch, is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Meagher thanking the association for their efforts on behalf of the monument. Mrs. Meagher now resides at Rye, N.Y.

Referring to the Most Rev. Dr. O'Reily, Archbishop of Adelaide, the 'Pall Mall Gazette' says he possesses an accomplishment unusual in an Archbishop. He can set up type. He was editor of a weekly paper before he became a Prelate, and his compositors went out on strike. In the emergency he took to the case himself, and industriously acquired the art of type-setting. He afterwards called the strike a blessing in disguise, as it saved him the trouble of writing any more leading articles. Thenceforward he put them in type straight from his head.

Mr. Thomas J. O'Brien, the prominent Irish-American citizen, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who has just been appointed by President Roosevelt as Minister to Denmark, is a leading lawyer of his native State, and was largely instrumental in piling up a Republican majority in Michigan at the late Presidential Election. Born in 1842 in Michigan, his father was a native of County Cork, a circumstance which the new Minister to Denmark has not forgotten, seeing that Irish National objects have always been aided by him in his native State. It may be mentioned that in legal matters touching railroad affairs in the State Mr. O'Brien is esteemed one of the most valued interpreters thereof in America.

The death was announced recently of the distinguished novelist, Miss Emily Gerard, who was best known in England under her maiden name, though she had been married for more than thirty years to the Austrian General Ritter von Laszowski. By a pathetic coincidence Madame von Laszowski survived her husband barely five weeks, his death having occurred in the early part of December. Emily Gerard was a member of an ancient and honorable Scottish Catholic house, being the eldest of the four daughters of the late Archibald Gerard, of Rochsoles, Lanarkshire, a cadet of the Gerards of Bryn, in Lancashire, who were raised to the peerage in 1876. The present head of the Rochsoles family is the eminent Jesuit scholar and divine, Father John Gerard; but the estate belongs to his younger brother, General Sir Montague Gilbert Gerard, a soldier of much distinction, who was knighted two years ago for his long services with the Indian army. Miss Gerard published her first book, 'Reata,' in collaboration with her sister Dorothea (now Madame Longard de Longarde), as well as several subsequent works; but she wrote also many novels on her own account. She had a wide knowledge of German, and was for some years critic of German literature for the 'Times.' Miss Gerard and her two younger sisters all married Austrian officers of high rank. The deceased lady's home was in Vienna, and it was at her house there that her lamented death occurred.

Canadian exchanges contain details of the celebration on February 1 of the seventieth birthday of Hon. John Costigan, who has represented Victoria County in the House of Commons at Ottawa continuously since 1867. Mr. Costigan was born of Irish parents at St. Nicholas, Quebec, February 1, 1835, and was educated at Ste. Anne's College. In his long and honorable public career he has occupied various Cabinet positions, and while particularly close to the hearts of the Irish Catholics of Canada, has earned at the hands of all classes and creeds the reputation of being an honest man. Mr. Costigan has always taken an active interest in all matters concerning the Catholic people in Canada. His name will be for ever identified with the Catholic opposition to the New Brunswick school law, with remedial legislation for Manitoba Catholics and with the Irish Home Rule movement. While he was always aggressive when the rights of Catholics were involved, he was never offensive. He honestly believes that those who differ from him in race or religion think none the less of a man for not being wishy-washy in the advocacy of the claims of his people. His great popularity among all classes and creeds shows the correctness of his judgment in that respect. Mr. Costigan was the recipient of congratulations from all parts of Canada on the occasion of his anniversary. He is the father of the House of Commons, and the Liberal members of the House took advantage of the occasion and presented him with a cabinet of solid silver cutlery. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on behalf of the party, made the presentation,