

## GENERAL

**Resolutions of the Hierarchy**

At a meeting of the Irish Hierarchy, held at Maynooth, a series of resolutions were passed dealing with Irish in the National schools, the Treasury, and the Board of National Education, the attendance of Catholics at non-Catholic schools, and emigration and its attendant evils.

**The Gaelic League**

Some idea of the progress which the Gaelic League is making, even among non-Catholics, may be formed from remarks made by the Protestant Bishop of Clogher at a Church Conference held in Derry. He was not, he said, a member of the Gaelic League, and he did not see his way to become one, but he thought they should be careful in their treatment of the enthusiastic movement that was being made to revive the Irish language. If they could not join the Gaelic League, they might consider whether they could not have a Gaelic League of their own. They might at least take an interest in the Irish language, and let it be known that they were not out of sympathy with the Irish language and Irish history.

**The Appeal of the Hierarchy**

The Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland have issued the following appeal on behalf of the sufferers from the recent disastrous earthquakes in the South of Italy:—We have lately received from the venerable prelates of the South of Italy many pitiful letters making earnest appeal to the Irish Bishops to come to the aid of their afflicted people in the midst of the terrible calamity which the recent earthquakes have brought upon their dioceses. We believe that the Irish people, many of whom are themselves no strangers to suffering, will not be insensible to this earnest appeal, and we confidently hope that those especially to whom God has given more abundant means will send some effective help to the afflicted people of Southern Italy. It is an act of the highest charity, and the Bishops throughout Ireland will gladly take charge of any subscriptions they may receive for this purpose, and will duly transmit them, through his Eminence Cardinal Logue, to the Holy See.

**The Temperance Cause**

There are drawbacks and discouragements in the state of Ireland (says the 'Catholic Times'), but there are also signs of vitality and vigor that fill the breast with hope for the future of the country. It would take long to record the benefits conferred on the people by the Catholic Hierarchy, yet we doubt whether they ever took a measure more advantageous to the general interests than when they committed the guidance of the temperance movement to the Capuchin Fathers and directed them to give it a national character. We feel perfectly confident that the good results achieved by Father Mathew will be repeated throughout the land. The Capuchin Fathers are animated by his spirit, and all they needed was scope for their labors and the approval of the ecclesiastical authorities for a national crusade. Now that they have received both they will go as temperance missionaries to every part of Ireland, from Donegal to Kerry, and enrol the masses in a great temperance army. They are, we rejoice to see, commencing with the toilers. If the working population be enlisted in the movement, all others will soon fall into line with them. The gratitude of all lovers of Ireland is due to the Bishops for having brought forward this grand project, and to the Capuchin Fathers for having taken it up with such determination and enthusiasm.

**Bacon-curing Industry**

Mr. James O'Mara, M.P. for South Kilkenny, has supplied figures which cannot fail to draw attention on the Irish pig trade. Twenty years ago, he says, the pigs killed by the firms of Limerick, Cork, and Waterford ranged from 15,000 to 20,000 per week. Now the killings of these firms have fallen to from 5,000 to 10,000 a week. In 1885 the Danes did not kill more than 5,000 a week, now they kill from 25,000 to 40,000 per week. There were no killings in Canada 20 years ago, while now they amount to from 25,000 to 35,000 per week. Ninety per cent of the Danish and 80 per cent of the Canadian curings come to the English market. The Canadian can grow his hog for 32s per cwt, and the Dane for 35s per cwt, dead weight, while the Irish breeder says he cannot profitably grow his pig under 10s per cwt. The question of freight also comes in. Mr. O'Mara says that from their packing house in Palmerston, Canada, his firm can bring bacon to London for 31s per ton. Without cold storage in the winter months the freight from Canada is 20s per ton. The freight from Limerick to London by any route is 31s 2d per ton. The average freight from Denmark to London is 25s per ton.

**People We Hear About**

Mr. Richard Thomas Gillow, probably the oldest justice of the peace in the United Kingdom, died at his residence, Leighton Hall, Carnforth, Lancashire, in his 99th year. Deceased was a prominent Catholic.

There is something uncommon about the fact (says an exchange) that the catastrophe in Calabria was predicted by Father Alfani, of the Society of the Pious Schools, one of the staff at the Osservatorio Ximenesiano at Florence. This humble religious foretold the earthquake a month beforehand, and guided the observations and studies of scientists during the outbreak and after.

The Very Rev. John Stanislaus Flanagan, Dean of Limerick, who died recently at his residence, Adare, in his 85th year, was at the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Paris, when the revolution of 1848 broke out, and he had to make his way out of the city in lay disguise. For some years he was a member of the Birmingham Oratory under Dr. Newman, with whom he always remained on terms of the closest friendship, and he assisted Dr. Newman by preparing some of the theological matter for the 'Apologia pro Vita Sua.' The present Bishop of Limerick was the Dean's curate for some years.

Sir Thomas Esmonde's mother was a daughter of Henry Grattan's eldest son and biographer, who had the same name as his father, and was for more than a generation a member of the House of Commons. Another great-grandfather of Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. John Esmonde, was executed for high treason in 1798.

Viscount Hayashi, who opened the bazaar for Father Berry's Homes at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, the other day, has everywhere won golden opinions for his unflinching tact and urbanity as a member of the politest of nations. His wisdom, keen observation, and shrewdness have become proverbial. He speaks in English and French as well as in Japanese.

Sir Henry Irving was married to a Dublin lady, who survives him. She was the daughter of Surgeon-General O'Callaghan and the niece of a famous Irish man of letters, John Cornelius O'Callaghan. Mr. O'Callaghan had a crabbed and unpleasant style, but his books, 'The Irish Brigade' and 'The Green Book,' are vast storehouses of interesting information, which will, we hope, be made picturesque by some writer of the future. Mr. O'Callaghan, a ballad of whose appeared in 'The Spirit of the Nation,' lived up to a couple of decades ago, and was until shortly before his death a well known figure in the enclosure of Mountjoy Square. All the contributors to the 'Spirit of the Nation' are now dead save the venerable author of 'Who Fears to Speak of '88?'

October, the month of the falling leaves, which has witnessed the death of Sir Henry Irving, witnessed also the death of Lord Tennyson, who died on October 6, 1892, whose dramas Irving arranged for the stage, whose 'Philip' in 'Queen Mary' was one of Irving's principal creations, and in whose 'Becket' Irving appeared, literally within an hour of his death. Quite a number of eminent men have died in October—Swift, Parnell, Palmerston, Derby, Sir William Harcourt, among politicians; Walter Raleigh and Nelson among English popular heroes; Hogarth among painters; William Morris, Edgar Allan Poe, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Tennyson among literary men, and the record of these deaths in October by no means exhausts the lists of men who have occupied the first rank in the shining bands of fame to whom this month has proved fatal.

The 'Westminster Gazette,' commenting on the Pope's countenance to atheism, tells an interesting tale of the late Archbishop Croke and his devotion to physical culture.—Some surprise has naturally been expressed at the Pope's sanctioning and patronising a sports gathering within the precincts of the Vatican, but it should be remembered that he was once an ardent athlete himself, and attained distinction as an Alpine climber. While athletic Popes may be rare, prelates and priests devoted to open-air sports in their leisure hours have been by no means uncommon. The late Archbishop Croke, for instance, took a leading part in the revival of the old Gaelic sports in Ireland. He was a prominent athlete in his prime, and even after he became a prelate he kept up some of his old physical activities. While he was Bishop of Auckland, in New Zealand, he was greatly admired by the Maoris for his jumping feats. There is a picturesque legend that he once converted a whole Maori village by some prodigious jumps over fences, but the story should be carefully verified by the ecclesiastical historian.