

For neatness, cleanliness, excellence of repair, and efficiency of instruction, the Irish convent schools are a healthy and pleasant contrast to the so-called 'National' schools that are vested in the Commissioners. So, in effect, wrote Inspector F. H. Dale, of the English Board of Education, in his Report on Primary Education in Ireland. 'It is noteworthy,' said he, 'that the 292 convent schools paid on the English system by a lump sum from the State, for the proper distribution of which the community conducting the schools is primarily responsible, are at once the least expensive to the State, and among the most efficient and best-managed schools in Ireland. The average cost of maintenance to the State per child in average attendance at these schools was only £1 17s 11½d., as against £2 8s 5d in the ordinary National schools; yet they are far better furnished and provided with a more adequate staff than the ordinary schools. I have already had occasion to comment on the admirable cleanliness and neatness of the premises and the excellence of the equipment; but these are only a few among the many advantages of the careful supervision and management which are the indispensable conditions of the success of our elementary school. I was impressed in every convent school that I visited, by the knowledge and interest shown by the conductors, even when not actually teaching in the school, with regard to all the details of the school-work and organisation, and by their readiness to consider, and, if possible, to adopt any changes in the curriculum or organisation which the Central Office might consider would render their schools more efficient.'

### How Orangemen regard their Oaths

Had the following, the report of which we take from the Dublin 'Weekly Freeman' of October 21, occurred in any part of Munster, and had the reproof been addressed to Catholic jurors, the cable-crammer would be sure to have sent it, as a choice tit-bit, to these colonies.—

On Tuesday at Monaghan Quarter Sessions his Honor Judge Craig, K.C., heard a case in which a great amount of interest was evinced, and during which his Honor expressed himself in a strong manner. Robert Wilson, a respectable-looking man, residing at Silverstream, near Monaghan, was charged with having unlawfully wounded one Robert Mayclim on the 13th July last.

The jury retired, and after forty minutes' absence, returned, when the foreman announced they could not agree.

His Honor (hotly)—You will have to go back, and if you don't agree then I will discharge you some time later, and then you will all have to come back to-morrow, because I won't stand it. It is a most scandalous proceeding; it is utterly a disgrace to the county. Is it because you are Orangemen of the county that you won't do your duty?

The Foreman—I don't think it is.

His Honor—I think it is a discredit to the Orange Lodge and to the society generally to think that because a brother Orangeman is charged with committing this offence he is to get off scot free. If you respect yourselves and the county in which you live you will go back and find this man guilty.

The foreman—I don't think there is any possibility of an agreement.

His Honor (hotly)—Then you will have to go back and sit there, and I will keep you there as long as I can. I suppose some friends of these parties are among you, and I won't tolerate it. There must be an end to this sort of thing—disagreements in a plain case. If the prisoner is acquitted to-morrow I will send him to the Assizes, and possibly he will get a more severe sentence than I might pronounce.

The jury then retired at five o'clock, and returned to court at ten minutes to six o'clock, when the foreman said they could not agree.

His Honor—Go back again; you will remain there.

The jury again returned to Court, when the foreman announced they could not agree.

His Honor (warmly)—Go back out of that. It is a shame.

The jury were sent for at half-past six, when his Honor asked if they had agreed to their verdict.

The foreman—No, sir; we can't.

His Honor—It is a scandal and an outrage. I will discharge you to-night. All the common jurors summoned for these sessions must come here to-morrow (Wednesday) morning at half-past ten o'clock. I will call the list of names, and any juror not present will be fined £1.

The prisoner was then put back.

On the following day before Judge Craig, K.C., and a new jury, with William M'Adoo foreman, the hearing of the charge against Robert Wilson was resumed. When the court opened the jury panel was called, and five did not answer. His Honor mulcted them in £1 each.

His Honor, addressing the jury, said that if any one of them came into the box that day with apprehension in his mind that the result of this case, whether there was a conviction or not, would affect the Protestant good name of the County Monaghan or the Orange movement in County Monaghan, he appealed to them to dispel that apprehension.

The jury brought in a verdict of guilty of wounding, with a strong recommendation to mercy on the ground that there had been a lot of drinking going on on the occasion.

His Honor thanked them for their verdict. Under the circumstances he would go to the extremest limit of consideration, and sentence him to one calendar month with hard labor.

### AFTER FORTY YEARS

#### PARDON FOR A POLITICAL PRISONER

Amongst the Fenian prisoners transported to Western Australia nearly forty years ago was Mr. James Kiely, a soldier in one of the Foot regiments then stationed at Carrick-on-Suir. His sentence was penal servitude for life, but after some ten years he was released on ticket-of-leave. The conditions of the license were somewhat irritating, as it implied continual police supervision. Apart from this, Mr. Kiely desired to see the Old Land again for which he had suffered. On being made aware of Mr. Kiely's circumstances, Mr. H. Mahon, M.P. for Coolgardie, approached the Federal Government with a request that the King should be asked to grant Mr. Kiely a free pardon. Mr. Mahon's efforts have been successful.

In May last Mr. Mahon wrote to the Right Hon. the Premier of the Commonwealth bringing under his notice Mr. Kiely's case, and the circumstances under which he was convicted, and suggesting that as Mr. Kiely is now 77 years, the exercise of the Royal prerogative in his case would be an act of graciousness and justice calculated to give great satisfaction throughout the Empire. After some further correspondence between Mr. Mahon and the Prime Minister, the latter wrote to say that the Governor-General had been requested to intimate to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the Commonwealth Government would be glad if clemency could be extended to Mr. Kiely.

On November 21 the Prime Minister forwarded to Mr. Mahon the following copy of a despatch received by the Governor-General from the War Office, under date October 11:—With reference to the copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, dated 27th June, last, which has been transmitted to this Department by the Home Office, relative to James Kiely, now residing in Perth, W.A., I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that this man appears to be identical with James Kiely, 53rd Foot, who was sentenced by a general court-martial at Dublin on the 18th June, 1866, to penal servitude for life, and was subsequently released on license in January, 1878. On this assumption, the case has been submitted to the King, and his Majesty has been graciously pleased to remit the remainder of the sentence of penal servitude. A notification of the remission has been sent to the Home Office.

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