

Irish News

ANTRIM—A Generous Response

Seventy thousand pounds have been raised in response to the appeal for the better equipment of Queen's College, Belfast.

CORK—Discordant Elements

Very Rev. Canon Sheehan, when distributing the prizes to the pupils of the Christian Brothers' Schools, Doneraile, delivered an able address, in the course of which he said that by that singular perversity which seemed to characterise the proceedings of all their public Boards of Education, there was no connection between the different grades of education in the country. Each stupid department had its own curriculum, its own management, its own programme, and to that perversity the best interests of the country were sacrificed. It was just as if outside the broad edifice of education, ladders were placed for access to each landing or storey, instead of a broad, spacious staircase, or elevator, by which a boy could pass by easy gradations to the summit of the educational edifice. Some day, perhaps, a genius like Pestalozzi would arise and harmonise all the discordant elements of the system.

DERRY—A College for Gaelic Students

At a conference in Derry of delegates from the Gaelic League in Ulster, a committee was appointed to select a site for the college for Gaelic teachers, the establishment of which in Donegal has been suggested by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe.

A Successful Student

A student of St. Columba's College, Derry, Mr. James M'Grory, has been awarded first prize for elementary drawing at South Kensington, London.

GALWAY—Fiddaun Castle

The report of the Commissioner of Public Works on the preservation of Fiddaun Castle reminds the 'Freeman's Journal' that the Castle was one of three belonging to the O'Shaughnessys, who were chiefs of the tribe named Kineal Aedh na Achte; one of them, Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy, was created a baronet by Henry VIII., A.D. 1545. The O'Shaughnessy Estates were in part confiscated in 1697, the then owner, Col. Wm. O'Shaughnessy, having been attainted and obliged to fly to France, where he died A.D. 1744. The Castle was inhabited continuously by members of the O'Shaughnessy family until 1729, when Lady Helena O'Kelly died there. She was the widow of the last resident O'Shaughnessy, and had married O'Kelly after her husband's death. There are many Castles in County Galway, but few of them have so large an enclosed 'bawn' or courtyard surrounding them as Fiddaun. The space enclosed is 127 feet 10 inches by 79 feet 6 inches, and the enclosing walls average 5 feet in thickness and 12 feet in height, with steps on the inside to give access to the top for purpose of defence. They are loopholed for musketry. The position is in the centre of a low level plain adjoining the small sheet of water called Lough Doo. It is about two miles from Tubber Railway Station on the line between Athenry and Limerick. The Castle itself measures 39 feet by 28 feet 6 inches externally. It was originally in seven stories, including the ground floor and attic, and rises to a height of 77 feet from the ground.

KERRY—Intermediate Board Mismanagement

The Most Rev. Dr. Mangan, Bishop of Kerry, when distributing the prizes to the successful pupils in St. Brendan's Seminary, Killarney, said that though they were entitled on the passes of the students to over £700, they had received only £552 10s. His Lordship had not full information as to the reason for this disappointing state of things, but he hoped he was not going too far in attributing it to the mismanagement of the Intermediate Board, to whose working this year His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin had called the attention of the public.

Death of a Religious

At Tralee towards the end of December Brother Walsh passed away in his seventy-fifth year. For over half a century he taught successively in Dublin, Limerick, Dungarvan, Westport, and Athy. The last five years of his life were spent in Tralee.

Congratulations

On hearing of the promotion of Rev. T. Harrington to the pastorship of Bonane and Glengarriff, the

people of Brosna, in which the rev. gentleman spent many years, met and adopted a resolution congratulating him upon his promotion.

LIMERICK—An Explanation

The Bishop of Limerick has received a letter from the Commissioners of National Education in answer to a protest recently made by his Lordship against the operation in his diocese of their rules relating to the amalgamation of schools. The Commissioners say that they do not advocate mixed education in general, but that as one-teacher schools are on educational grounds unsatisfactory, they have decided that their number should be diminished by all reasonable means.

The Meaning of Devolution

Lord Dunraven, speaking at Limerick the other day, said the object of the Irish Reform Association was Devolution in Irish affairs and the procuring for Ireland of the greatest possible amount of self-government compatible with the supremacy of Parliament and the maintenance of the Legislative Union. They had now a Government in office willing to help them, and the Irish people should keep the Government acting in this manner. He thought that all might yet be well.

A Distinguished Visitor

A despatch from Abbeyfeale, under date December 20, says:—The President of St. Thomas's Ecclesiastical College, St. Paul's, Minn., U.S.A., Very Rev. Dr. Moynihan, is at present on a visit to his friends in Abbeyfeale. Dr. Moynihan was for a considerable number of years secretary to Archbishop Ireland, who appointed him to the presidency of St. Thomas', the leading ecclesiastical training college in the Western States.

Proposed Exhibition

At a largely attended meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Limerick it was decided to hold an Industrial Exhibition for Munster and Connaught in that city in the coming year.

MAYO—The County Council

The Mayo County Council at a recent meeting passed resolutions denouncing jury packing at Sligo, and protesting against the retention of Sir Horace Plunkett in office.

TIPPERARY—Retirement of the Late Member

Mr. P. J. O'Brien, who had been M.P. for North Tipperary for some years, intimated to his constituents before the general election that he would not be a candidate, as he considered they should be represented by a younger and more active man.

Discovery of Copper

A rich copper mine has been discovered near Borrisoleigh. Experts have visited the place recently, and it is understood that some of them are in communication with the owner of the lands, with a view to purchasing them for mining operations.

WEXFORD—Death of a Priest

The death occurred recently at New Ross of the Rev. W. P. Dundon, O.S.A., after a brief illness. Deceased was a member of an old County Limerick family, being born at Jockey Hall, Patrickswell, in 1843. Ordained to the priesthood at Wexford in '67, in company with the present Bishop of Sandhurst, the Most Rev. Dr. Reville, O.S.A., he returned to his native county some years afterwards, and attached himself to the Augustinian Church, where he ministered until quite recently. He then again revisited County Wexford, where he remained until his death.

WICKLOW—The Miltown Art Collection

The application heard the other day by the Master of the Rolls with reference to the delivery to the Governors and Guardians of the National Gallery of the celebrated Miltown Art Collection will recall the circumstance (says the 'Freeman's Journal') that that collection is now at the seat of the Earls of Miltown, Russborough House, Blessington, County Wicklow, which is one of the most magnificent residences in the Kingdom, and can be seen on the tram line to Blessington by the visitors to Poulaphuca Waterfall, Russborough. It was built in the early half of the eighteenth century, and was designed by Bindon, who was renowned both as an architect and a painter. It is of the Italian style, and is of a construction similar to Carton, the seat of the Duke of Leinster, and to Castletown, the house of the Conollys. Bindon painted three portraits of Dean Swift, of which all are extant. One in the Deanery House, St. Patrick's, of which the portrait in the Examination Hall of Trinity College is a copy, is the property of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, and was preserved from fire, when the