

The Rector of the Irish College

For the second time since the foundation of its Institute of Higher Philosophy the University of Louvain has conferred an honorary doctorate in this science. The recipient of this so marked distinction is the Very Rev. Dr. O'Riordan, Rector of the Irish College.

Italy and Ireland

The King of Italy the other day received in private audience Count Salazar, Italian Consul in Dublin. His majesty displayed much interest in Ireland's condition, which the Count described as flourishing. The King also inquired as to the lace and linen which will be sent to Milan Exhibition. Italy will be represented at the International Exhibition in Dublin, 1907.

Church Property Insurance

The following is the fourth annual report of the Irish Catholic Church Property Insurance Company:—The directors beg to report that, after payment of reinsurances, the income of the company for the year 1905 was £3879 9s 11d. The payments for fire losses amounted to £206 19s 4d, the general expenditure to £729 12s 4d, and the directors' fees to £250, making a total of £1186 11s 10d, and leaving a surplus of £2692 18s 1d. Out of this surplus the directors have allocated £500 to payment of dividend on the paid-up capital of 5 per cent. for the year. They recommend that the balance of £2192 18s 1d be placed to the credit of reserve, which will then stand at £6186 11s 4d.

The Emigration Evil

The Irish hierarchy have issued a joint pastoral condemning emigration, and those who do emigrate are cautioned against the dangers of promiscuous acquaintance in travelling. In the course of the pastoral the bishops say: For many years past the saddest aspect of Irish affairs has been reflected in the stream of emigration from every part of the country. Hence, on more than one occasion, we have publicly appealed to our young people not to allow themselves to be allured by the enticements with which letters from America are so frequently filled, to rush into the dangers of life in foreign cities, where too often the measure of success falls far short of the high expectations of the emigrant, and a considerable proportion of those who leave us do not succeed at all. In the earnest advice the best heads of our people on the other side of the Atlantic have not failed to express their complete concurrence. But still the process of national exhaustion continues almost unaltered, and whilst it is not our present purpose to dwell on the pressing need of utilising the land and the other resources of the country so as to employ the people at home, or to insist on the extent to which our Irishmen, charged with responsibility and fitted with means and authority to open up the latent sources of wealth, could find a remedy for this ruinous depletion, in the existing state of things the duty devolves upon us of warning youthful emigrants against certain perils, which, though not inherent in emigration, have been only too frequently associated with it in the past.

A Local Veto Bill

The text of Mr. William Redmond's Intoxicating Liquors Local Veto (Ireland) Bill has been issued. The measure is backed by Mr. Deane, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Smith, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Glendinning, and Mr. Russell. It consists of fourteen clauses, and opens with the preamble:—'Whereas the traffic in intoxicating liquors is one of the main causes of poverty, disease, and crime, depresses trade and commerce, increases local taxation, and endangers the safety and welfare of the community; and whereas it is expedient to confer powers upon local government electors in wards, county boroughs, in urban districts, and in rural districts in Ireland to prohibit and control such traffic, be it, therefore, enacted,' etc. The measure proposes to empower one-tenth of the voters in any district to obtain a poll as to whether (1) the sale of intoxicating liquors be prohibited, or (2) the number of licenses be reduced, or (3) no additional licenses be granted. The result of the poll would be conclusive, subject to a two-thirds majority.

Land Sales

By a return issued by the Land Commission it appears that the applications for advances to the end of October numbered 73,981, and the amount applied for to £28,127,220. In addition £589,457 had been applied for for 2431 sales under the old Acts and to the Congested Districts Board. The latter Board had also applied for £540,522 for the purchase of 49 estates, of which eight had been purchased, at a cost of £170,421. The total amount applied for under all the Acts was therefore £29,257,199.

People We Hear About

There are sixteen Jewish members in the present House of Commons.

Mr. Michael Davitt, who is called the father of the Land League, celebrated his 59th birthday on March 27.

Cardinal Vincent Vannutelli will enter on his 70th year next December.

Mr. Charles Santley, the celebrated singer, who is still popular with English audiences, has entered on his 72nd year.

Mr. William Marconi, of wireless telegraphy fame, celebrated his 31st birthday on April 25, and was in his 21st year when he took his invention to England.

Ex-Judge Foster, of New South Wales, treasures in his home the despatch-box which his grandfather used in the old Irish Parliament that sat in Dublin before the Union. His grandfather was Speaker in those days.

When under examination in the witness box by the late Sir Frank Lockwood, Henry Labouchere remarked that he had spent between £40,000 and £50,000 in law costs. 'Then,' said the jocular Sir Frank, 'on behalf of the profession, Mr. Labouchere, I must thank you.'

Madame Adeline Patti celebrated her 63rd birthday on February 19. She made her debut at the Academy of Music, New York, in November, 1859, and, according to a leading English daily, her incomparable voice still retains much of its early power and beauty.

Constable Francis P. Quirk, an officer of Sydney police, who studied in his spare time and won his B.A. degree at Sydney University, is about to leave for Glasgow, to pursue his studies in medicine.

One detail of Princess Ena's trousseau (says the 'Freeman's Journal') has a particular romance about it—the lace which it is understood her mother intends to give her. For this lace belonged to Queen Katharine of Aragon. It was found some years ago, according to an English paper, in a walled-up cupboard in St. James's Palace. Queen Victoria gave it to Princess Beatrice, and thus after some 400 years an English Princess takes back what a Spanish Princess brought.

A phenomenon which I daresay rather startled the young member when he entered the House for the first time (writes 'T.P.') was the warm exchange of greetings between old members who are separated from each other as the Poles by their political convictions. As Colonel Saunderson entered the House he found time to shake hands with Mr. Redmond; Mr. Walter Long, standing at the Bar, exchanged greetings with Mr. John Dillon, and there was some friendly chaff over the fight between him and the Nationalists in South Dublin.

His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington entered on his 66th year on the 8th inst., having been born at the Lower Hanyard, Tixall, Staffordshire, on April 8, 1839. He arrived with his parents in New Zealand in November, 1842. The late Mr. H. P. Redwood settled soon after his arrival in the Colony in Nelson, and the future Archbishop studied there for a while under the late Archbishop Garin, S.M., and afterwards in France and Ireland. He was ordained priest at Maynooth College on June 6, 1865, and was consecrated Bishop of Wellington by Cardinal Manning on March 17, 1874. Dr. Redwood was appointed first Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan of New Zealand on May 13, 1887.

The South African papers announce the death of Mr. Moses Cornwall, of Kimberley, one of the most prominent Irishmen in South Africa. Mr. Cornwall went out to the Cape very early in life. He came of a good stock, one of his ancestors on his mother's side having been hanged as a United Irishman. On this side he had a distant connection with the Parnells. Mr. Cornwall was one of the pioneers who created the present city of Kimberley, of which he was three times Mayor. He was a staunch Home Ruler, and was the representative of South Africa at the Irish National Convention held in the Leinster Hall in Dublin in 1896. On that occasion he expressed himself very strongly in favor of Irish National Self-Government, in a speech which was warmly received by the delegates. During his residence in Kimberley Mr. Cornwall was the means of sending £2000 to the Irish National funds.