

**TYRONE—A Centenarian**

Mr. George Fletcher, of Killary, Pomeroy, County Tyrone, died on April 21 at the age of 118 years. The deceased was some time ago presented by the King with a gold snuff-box, Fletcher being the oldest British subject.

**Departure of a Priest**

Much regret is felt by the people of Dromore, County Tyrone, at the departure of Rev. Father Maguire to Tempo. He was the pioneer of the Irish Revival in Dromore and the surrounding country. During the past eight years he inaugurated several movements for the betterment of the people among whom he lived.

**WESTMEATH—A Well-known Lady Passes Away**

On April 20 the death occurred of Charlotte Mildred Marquise de la Bedoyere, Rosemead House, Delvin, County Westmeath. The deceased lady was well known in the local life of the district, and much regret is expressed at her death. She was a member of the Delvin Rural District Council and of the Board of Guardians of that Union. She had been ailing for some time. Her two sons, Count and Viscount de la Bedoyere, were with her in her last hours. She was the daughter of the late Lord Greville, of Clonyn Castle, Delvin, and sister of the present Lord Greville and of the Hon. P. E. Greville-Nugent, Clonyn Castle. Her mother was heiress and daughter of the Marquis of Westmeath.

**GENERAL****Priests Pass Away**

Two well-known Northern priests passed away the other day—the Rev. Patrick Magee, Upper Badoney, County Tyrone, and the Rev. Terence Coulon, Donaghmoynne, Carrickmacross, diocese of Clogher. The former was forty years pastor of the parish in which he died, and the latter about eleven years pastor of Donaghmoynne. Both have left many memorials of their zeal in the sacred ministry in the shape of improved schools and churches.

**The Police**

According to a return presented to Parliament with reference to the Royal Irish Constabulary, the Catholics are 75 per cent. among the constables, 67 per cent. among the acting sergeants, 72 per cent. among the sergeants, 67 per cent. among the head constables, 29 per cent. among the district inspectors, and only 11 per cent. among the county inspectors. There is thus shown in the clearest way how as the policeman ascends the ladder of promotion the fact of his being a Catholic tells against him in increasing ratio. The Ulster Unionists probably resent the fact that there should be any Catholics in the force at all, while the Nationalists certainly loathe a system in which promotion is so clearly determined by belonging to the faith of the minority.

**Labour Members and Ireland**

Mr. James O'Grady, Labor Member for East Leeds, has written a notable letter to Mr. John O'Callaghan, of Boston, secretary for the United Irish League of America, in which he declares that the Labor movement will throw its whole influence and voting strength on the side of Irish aspirations. In the very first division that took place, Mr. O'Grady says, twenty-eight of the Independent Labor party voted on the side of the Irish cause. He himself made his maiden speech, in accordance with instructions from his leader, Mr. Keir Hardie, on the question of Home Rule for Ireland. 'The Irish Party can now be said,' according to Mr. O'Grady, 'to have a total of 112—eighty-two Nationalists and thirty Independent Labor men.' 'I venture to say,' Mr. O'Grady continues, 'that within the next six years, if the Liberal Government remains in power that length of time, measures will be carried for Ireland of such a character that the steps to ultimate Home Rule will be very short.'

His mind imbued with noble thought—  
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**People We Hear About**

General Funston, on whose shoulders fell the heavy task of looking after the ruined city of San Francisco, is the son of Donegal parents and has many relations living in Ireland.

The appointment of Madame Curie to the Chair of Chemistry at the Sorbonne, Paris, is an adequate recognition of her services to science as co-discoverer of radium with her late husband. She is herself the daughter of Professor Sklodawska, and is thirty-nine years of age. She has won high distinction in physics, mathematics, and science, and has published valuable books on her researches, especially in regard to radioactive substances.

According to a calculation made by the 'British Temperance Advocate,' there are 118 English, 26 Welsh, 21 Scotch, and 29 Irish members of the House of Commons who are total abstainers. The greatest proportion is amongst the Welsh M.P.'s, of whom the teetotallers form 86.6 per cent. of the total population. The Scotch percentage is 29.1, the Irish 28.1, whilst England shows the smallest proportion, which is 25.4. Altogether the 194 teetotal members are 29 per cent. of the whole assembly.

A curious version of the origin of 'Uncle Sam' has been discovered in an old almanac published in Lesangton, Ky., in 1814. The phrase is explained in the following words: "'Uncle Sam' is a cant phrase significant of the United States, as John Bull is significant of England. The origin of it seems to be this: In the year 1807 there was authorised by law the raising of a regiment of light dragoons. When the company first appeared their caps bore the letters U.S.L.D., signifying the United States Light Dragoons. A countryman, seeing the company on dress parade, asks a bystander what the letters stand for. "Why," was the answer, "that means Uncle Sam's Lazy Dobs." Since that time the use of the term has become general.'

The Baroness Burdett-Goutts, who is still hale and hearty, on April 21 entered on her ninety-third birthday. She is one of the few persons living—and certainly one of the few well-known persons—who were born before the year of Waterloo. She was only 23 when she inherited what was regarded in those days as untold wealth from her grandfather. She was a beautiful girl, and it was thought that her riches would, perhaps, turn her head, or simply make her the wife of some needy nobleman. She kept her head as well as her heart, and from the first used her money most judiciously in every philanthropic and charitable cause of which she approved. 'For many years (says a writer in an English paper) the Baroness was courted by Queen Victoria as a friend. Indeed I have always understood that the peerage, conferred in 1871, was suggested by her Majesty, though the offer was made through Mr. Gladstone, who was then Prime Minister.' Through the late Father Davis she was the good angel of the fishing village of Baltimore, in County Cork, which, over 20 years ago, she lifted out of poverty by giving the inhabitants a chance of carrying on their industry with some hope of success, by lending, on easy terms, the necessary money to buy proper modern boats and to start a net-making and technical school.

The Most Rev. Dr. Murphy, Archbishop of Hobart, will enter on his 92nd year on Monday. His Grace was born at Belmont, County Cork, on the day of the battle of Waterloo. He was ordained priest in 1838, and at once volunteered for the foreign missions in India, proceeding with Bishop Carew to Madras in 1845. Subsequently he was appointed Coadjutor to Bishop Fennelly, successor to Archbishop Carew, translated to Calcutta, and was consecrated by the Most Rev. Dr. Murphy, Bishop of Cork, in October, 1846, in the parish church at Kinsale, of which his brother was parish priest. In 1848 Dr. Murphy was appointed Bishop to the newly-erected Vicariate-Apostolic of Hyderabad, Deccan, India. During the Mutiny in 1857 he manifested great prudence, and secured from the Nizam several stands of arms for the boys of the Catholic college, who were drilled in expectation of a mutiny arising in the State. In consequence of failing health Pope Pius IX. transferred him from India to Tasmania in 1865, appointing him Bishop of Hobart in succession to the late Dr. Willson. He arrived at Hobart in April, 1866. He attended the Ecumenical Council at the Vatican in 1869, and paid another visit to Rome from Hobart in 1882. In 1888, on the occasion of the golden jubilee of his priesthood, Hobart was erected into an archbishopric, and he became the first Metropolitan. Cardinal Moran invested him with the Pallium on May 12, 1889. His Grace, who is the oldest prelate in the world, is still in excellent health.

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