

**WATERFORD—Serious Fire**

A serious fire broke out at Waterford at the shop and stores of Messrs. Robert Poole and Co., Ltd., chemists and oil and color merchants. By the efforts of the fire brigade and the military, the flames were confined to these premises, which were completely destroyed. The outbreak is said to have been caused by an explosion of motor spirit. The damage is estimated at £5000.

**WESTMEATH—More White Gloves**

At the opening of the Mullingar Summer Quarter Sessions County Court Judge Adye Curran, K.C., was presented with white gloves, there being no criminal business.

**WEXFORD—A Memorial of '98**

A great demonstration of Nationalists of South Wexford was held in New Ross on June 10 to promote the movement to complete the memorial to the men of '98. The day was beautifully fine, and the attendance was enormous. Sir Thomas Grafton Esmonde, M.P., Mr. Peter French, M.P., and Alderman Cole, of Dublin, were amongst the speakers. The last-named wore the picturesque garb of an Ancient Gael.

**WICKLOW—Charitable Bequests**

By the will of the late Mrs. Amelia Phelan, St. Joachim's, Meath-road, Bray, bequests have been made to charitable institutions as follows:—High Park Convent, £300; the Orphanage, George's Hill, £100; St. Mary's Asylum, Doinybrook, £100; St. Joseph's Orphanage, Mount-joy street, £100; Children's Hospital, Temple-street, £100; St. Mary's, Cabra-road, £200; Female Orphanage, North William-street, £300; Catholic Boys' Home, £100; Male Blind Asylum, Drumcondra, £300; St. Joseph's Institution, Cabra, £200; Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, £300; St. Vincent de Paul's, Glasnevin, £200; St. Vincent's Hospital, Stephen's Green, £300; St. Vincent's, Goldenbridge, £100; St. Monica's, Belvidere-place, £300; Mater Hospital, £200; St. Joseph's Asylum, Portland-row, £100; St. Joseph's Night Refuge, £400; Female Blind Asylum, Merrion, £200; St. Vincent de Paul Society, Upper Sackville-street, £300; the Catholic Orphanage, Stradbally, £200.

**GENERAL****Laborers' Cottages**

A Parliamentary return shows that up to the present 20,634 laborers' cottages have been built in Ireland, and that 887 are in course of construction. The loans sanctioned amounted to £3,415,280 of which £3,107,404 has been issued, whilst £151,898 is the amount which has annually to be raised in repayment. The rents paid by the laborers for their cottages and plants realise £47,480, whilst the annual exchequer grant is £41,610.

**Temperance Activity**

On all sides (writes a Dublin correspondent) there is evidence of temperance activity. His Eminence the Cardinal in Kildress, Dr. Healy in Roundstone, Dr. Henry in Downpatrick, Dr. O'Neill in Dromore—all have just been speaking in denunciation of intemperance, and the Archbishop of Cashel declared at Ballinacinch that 'Drink was the root of all evil. Many a great man was pulled down by drink, and the smallest child could point to a drunkard as nothing else than a drivelling idiot.'

**The Pledge of Total Abstinence**

Very Rev. Father Paul, O.S.F.C., in the course of a paper read at the annual meeting of the Father Mathew Union of Total Abstaining Priests, held in Sligo, said not only in Ireland, but in the United States and in Australia, priests were now realising the wonderful results of the movement for pledging children to total abstinence from the time of their Confirmation until at least their 21st year. There were thousands of fine, valiant, virtuous young men in the country that day who knew not the taste of intoxicants, and who were proud to proclaim that they would never touch the moral poison. These young men, the joy and hope of the future, owed their vigor, health, and uprightness to the pledges they took from their Bishops on the day of their Confirmation.

Small boy,—little pool,  
Oh joy,—no school,  
Felt wet,—bad cold,  
Home get,—mother scold,  
Boy sick,—nearly dead,  
Cure quick, doctor said,  
Don't wait, but secure  
WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE.

**People We Hear About**

Princess Elizabeth of Belgium, wife of Prince Albert, heir-apparent to the throne, is probably the most accomplished and versatile of Continental Princesses. She is the daughter of Duke Charles Theodor of Bavaria, the famous oculist.

President Roosevelt has written as follows to Mrs Davitt: 'It was my good fortune to number among my friends your late husband, Mr. Michael Davitt. I valued him, and for that you will accept my most sincere sympathy in your great bereavement.'

A deputation, representing the British colonies in Madrid, Barcelona, and other Spanish cities was on June 9 received by Queen Victoria, and presented her with a handsome jewel in the form of a true lovers' knot in diamonds and pearls, which the Queen accepted.

In 'John Bull,' a new weekly journal, edited by Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., occurs the following:—'If we were asked to say who were the best Parliamentarians in the House of Commons we should unhesitatingly say the Irish Party. The way in which they get the last ounce out of the rules of procedure is an educational treat for a new member.'

The old ivy-mantled cottage at Eccleston Hill, near St. Helens (says the 'Catholic Times'), where Mr. Seddon first saw light, is still in existence. Curious stones have been found in the little garden by which it was fronted, with carvings and inscriptions, as well as a fine old cross, and it is generally supposed to have been an old burial ground connected with a Catholic mission of the sixteenth century. Its known history dates from the middle of last century, when Mr. Thomas Seddon, the father of the statesman, opened a small village school there.

Fitzgerald Murphy, a playwright, poet, and actor, who died recently in New York, was born in Cahirciveen, County Kerry, Ireland, in 1868. The rudiments of his education he received at the monastery of the Christian Brothers. In 1881 he went to America, landing at Castle Garden when 12 years old with but half a sovereign between him and destitution. The following year he had the good fortune to meet the Irish poet and patriot, John Boyle O'Reilly, in Boston, and this generous fellow-countryman gave him a position on the Boston 'Pilot.' While connected with the 'Pilot' young Murphy wrote a number of poems, soon graduating into regular journalistic employment.

To the John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial in Boston there is presently to be added a monument to another great Irish Bostonian, General Patrick A. Collins, who died a short time ago while he was Mayor of Boston for the third time. The monument will be erected on Boston Common or in one of the city's fine parks. Five sculptors have already prepared designs, three of which have already been submitted to the Memorial Committee. General Collins was well known in Dublin in the days of the Land League, and until the old Land League Offices were sold his portrait hung over the mantelpiece in the hall of that building. Although he achieved a fine position in Congress and was given high office, he never lowered the flag of Irish Nationality Irishmen all over the world will be proud, indeed, to know that his American and Irish townsmen are about to erect a monument to his memory.

Mr. Labouchere, writing in 'Truth,' has a notable appreciation of Michael Davitt. 'Ireland,' he says, 'has given birth to many high-minded and devoted patriots, but to none more worthy of unqualified respect from friends and opponents than Michael Davitt. He had not the natural gifts of O'Connell or Parnell, and he has not made for himself any place in history. But his abilities were of no mean order, for he was entirely a self-educated man, and he made himself master of all the knowledge needful for his work, and much besides, as well as of all the requirements of an effective speaker and writer. That he had achieved this after he had lost his right arm is a striking proof of his resolution and strength of character. But the most notable points about him were his unswerving devotion to the interests of his country, as he understood them, his absolute sincerity and purity of motive, and true nobility of disposition, which raised him above all the baser elements and influences of party strife, and made him a strenuous fighter, though he was one of the gentlest and most amiable men, and most honorable and unvindictive of political opponents.'