

Gaelic Literature

Over two thousand copies of the publications of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Languages were sold during the half year ending on the 20th of June last.

The Potato Crop

In reply to Mr. O'Malley, the Chief Secretary for Ireland said the potato crop had partially failed in some parts of the West of Ireland. The extent of the distress likely to arise could not at present be foreseen, but the Government were paying the closest attention to the matter, and were considering the action proper to be taken.

An English Opinion

Mr. William Wrathall, an English merchant, who has just concluded a holiday in Ireland, says in the course of an enthusiastic eulogy of the country: 'I have travelled the wide world over, and were I able to retire to-day from the cares and turmoil of business I would come to live in Ireland on account of its beautiful scenery, its salubrious climate, its courteous people, and its wonderful opportunities for sport. The hunting is of the best, the shooting is most varied; there is excellent fishing, fine opportunities for yachting, and some of the best golf links in Great Britain. In fine, it is, in my opinion, an ideal spot and leaves nothing to be desired.'

Catholic Scholarships

Five first-class scholarships in Modern Literature offered by the Catholic Scholarships Committee have all been won this year by pupils of the Christian Brothers, as well as Mr. Sweetman's scholarship for excellence in Irish. Mr. Kelly's scholarship in Classics has been won by Clongowes, and in mathematics by St. Colman's, Fermoy. Among girls' schools, the first-class scholarship in Modern Literature goes to Loreto College, St. Stephen's Green; three of the four second-class scholarships to the Dominican Convent, Eccles street; and the fourth to the Loreto Convent, Wexford.

A Candid Opinion

'The Statist,' reviewing Irish finance since the famine, sums up the story thus: 'When everything is said, the fact remains that the decay of Ireland during the past 65 years is mainly the result of the policy of England—a policy adopted not, of course, to injure Ireland, but to benefit England; still, a policy which incidentally has had the result of, in the first place, destroying the one great Irish industry, and, in the second place, of burdening Ireland with a taxation altogether out of proportion to her resources.' This candid verdict from a leading British financial journal shows how the light is spreading even through the opaque obstruction offered by the prejudice and interest of the British financier.

The National School Teachers

A vigorous agitation (writes a Dublin correspondent) has been set on foot for reform of the system under which teachers of primary schools in Ireland suffer. In their demand for justice the teachers have the sympathy of people of all creeds and classes, and will receive the earnest support of the Irish Parliamentary party. Large and thoroughly representative meetings in furtherance of this object were held in Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Kildare the other day. Strong speeches were delivered, and letters of encouragement from friends unable to attend were read. Very Rev. Canon Ryan, P.P., presided at the Tipperary meeting. The Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly wrote a letter, in which he said the initial salaries were entirely too low. He hoped the meeting would rivet attention on the fact and demand that the equivalent grant be devoted to its proper uses. At Kilkenny, Very Rev. Canon Doyle, P.P., presided, and a letter from Rev. Dr. Brownrigg, Bishop of Ossory, was read, in which he said the Irish teachers writhe under the galling knowledge that they are the worst paid class in the British Empire; the managers of schools might apply for grants to repair them, or to replace them with new buildings and new equipments, but each application for relief only afforded an opportunity for a game of shuttlecock between the Commissioners in Marlborough street and the officials of the Treasury in London. At Kildare, Very Rev. Dr. Cole, Protestant Dean, presided. He criticised the action of the Government in appropriating the £185,000 voted for education to the floating of Land Stock, and declared that it should be applied to the purpose for which it was voted, and to no other. A domestic servant with from £15 to £20 a year and board and lodging was better off than the male and female teachers commencing at £56 and £48 a year respectively.

People We Hear About

Sir John Madden, Chief Justice of Victoria, has been telling a Cork interviewer that his visit to Cork is the first after fifty years' absence. He lived in Ireland till 1851. In my early youth, said Sir John, I was the play-fellow of Dr. Tanner, of the Irish Parliamentary Party, whose father lived next door to my father at Blackrock, but my father went to England in 1851, and I went there to live with him for a little while, but was sent to school in Beauchamp, near Lille, in France, where I stayed for two years. At the end of 1856 I left for Australia with my father, and, mark you, he was a Young Irelander, and an intimate friend of the gifted and eloquent Thomas Francis Meagher—Meagher of the Sword—and indeed you will get an idea of his political predilections and of his patriotism when I tell you that he secured and cherished as his dearest possession the sword of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, a relic that is still kept by my family in Australia.

The election of Mr. Stephen Gwynn for Galway (says the 'Freeman's Journal') has naturally turned the thoughts of Irish patriots to the career of his grandfather, the illustrious William Smith O'Brien, who held Mr. Gwynn as an infant in his arms. Smith O'Brien's father was a gentleman of the highest and purest patriotic principles. He represented the County of Clare in the Irish Parliament at the time of the Union, and his wife was a sister of the Countess of the great Earl of Charlemont, the Leader of the Irish Volunteers. Sir Lucius O'Brien was approached with the offer of a peerage and a bride in return for support of the Union—offers which he spurned with loathing abhorrence and indignation. Mr. Whiteside in defending Smith O'Brien on trial for his life in Clonmel in 1848 referred to this episode. He said that his client had heard from the lips of his father, an Irish senator whom bribes could not purchase, whom a peerage could not lure, whom threats could not coerce to betray his country, that Ireland's Parliament had been destroyed, and that its destruction had been compassed by a combination of force and fraud for which the records of history presented no parallel.

The new Lord Arundell of Wardour is the Rev. the Hon. Everard Aloysius Gonzaga Arundell, who was born on September 6, 1834, educated at Stonyhurst, graduating B.A. at London University. He is a secular priest, and is now resident in Bournemouth, being attached to the Mission of the Sacred Heart, Richmond Hill. His cheery and affable manner to everybody, rich and poor, Catholic and non-Catholic (says an English paper), has won for him no end of friends in all classes of the community. Interviewed, Father Arundell said he hardly knew what his future arrangements would be. 'Of course, your lordship will be going away from us now?' 'Don't be too sure of that,' replied his lordship. 'It does not follow by any means that I shall be leaving you,' and added, 'Remember that the successor to the Baronetcy of Sir Wm. Heathcote, who was a Jesuit priest, preferred to go on with his work amongst the poor and needy rather than take over the management of the estate with its farms and lands. One thing is certain, whatever happens, I shall have nothing to do with the estate at Wardour; in fact, it is left to the Lady Arundell for life. I shall have an allowance, and, of course, a seat in the House of Lords.'

The election of Mr. Thomas Hughes as Sydney's Chief Magistrate for 1907 (says the 'Freeman's Journal') gives that gentleman a record similar to the famous Sir Richard Whittington, who was 'thrice Lord Mayor of London.' Readers of this journal are familiar with the advent of Mr. Hughes into municipal politics in his native city. Reform on progressive and creditable lines came in with him and such as he, and will continue so long as the citizens show the same hearty appreciation of their efforts as they did at the recent elections. The late Lord Mayor signalized his tenure of office by an activity in the higher interests of Sydney worthy of all praise. He leaves the Mayoral seat with a record which savors of no single unpleasantness deserving of permanent remembrance, and his last action in the election of his successor counts for chivalry in a quarter little remarkable for that quality. In that successor the citizens are assured of a career no less energetic in progress than that of Lord Mayor Taylor, with the further assurance that to a superb ability for finance Mr. Hughes will add a less sanguine attitude towards pet schemes and a thoroughly convinced mind on the subject of a Greater Sydney.