

Here Father Kenrick erected a beautiful church in the former village at the cost of several thousands of pounds. He was a personal friend of his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam and of Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe. Father Kenrick endeared himself to everyone who had the pleasure of his acquaintance by his grace of manner and his kindly, genial disposition.

### GENERAL

#### Land Purchase Operations

The Report of the Estates Commissioners for the year ending March 31 last has been laid before Parliament. It states that under the Land Act of 1903 applications were lodged for advances with regard to direct sales of 1080 estates during the year, making a total since the act came into operation of 4555, representing a total purchase money of £41,197,682.

#### Prison Statistics

The number of prisoners committed in Ireland in 1906 was 31,866, and the daily average in custody 2541—a decrease of 873 in commitments, and of 60 in the daily average, as compared with the previous year. Eight children under twelve years of age were dealt with during the year, and, in addition, the Governor of Mountjoy Prison calls special attention to the cases of four juveniles, aged between fourteen and fifteen, who were committed to his custody during the year, two of them for playing football in the street, and the other two for bathing in the public view, the sentence in each case being a shilling fine, or four days' imprisonment. Ninety-seven prisoners were committed as debtors, or under civil process, during the year, being an increase of 22 on the previous year.

#### The Fontenoy Memorial

An impressive ceremony took place in Fontenoy on August 25, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Irish monument commemorating the gallantry of the Irish Brigade at the battle of Fontenoy on April 28, 1745. The special train brought a party of 200 Irish visitors, under the conduct of Mr. J. P. Nannetti, M.P., Lord Mayor of Dublin, and Mr. R. Barry O'Brien. An enormous crowd had gathered to receive the party, which included many ladies. The Communal Secretary welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Communal authorities, and thanked the members of the committee for the erection of the monument. Mr. Walsh, on behalf of Mr. Nannetti, thanked the people of Fontenoy for the sympathetic reception accorded to the Irish visitors. The monument, he said, was a memorial of an event which constituted a crisis in the history of England and of Ireland. A procession was then formed, and proceeded to the site of the monument, which is in the form of a Celtic cross. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr. Nannetti. Mr. O'Brien delivered a patriotic address in Gaelic, and Mr. Walsh thanked the people for the manifestation of their sympathy with Ireland. A resident of Antoin, a village near the battlefield, made a speech on the character of the celebration, declaring it to be at once patriotic and Catholic. The men of the Irish Brigade were equally heroic and pious, attached to their faith as to their country. The greatest enthusiasm marked the proceedings throughout. The ceremony was followed by a fete in honor of the Irish visitors.

#### The Landlords' Party

The most cursory glance at the list of the names of the 'noble lords,' who are proposers of amendments to the Evicted Tenants Bill (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), will prove the truth of the estimate of the late Lord Salisbury. When speaking in the House of Lords on March 18, 1888, he said in an interval of candor:—'We belong too much to one class, and the consequence is that with respect to a large number of questions we are too much of one mind. Now that is a fact which appears to me to be injurious to the character of the House as a political assembly.' Lord Salisbury on that occasion deplored the preponderance in the House of Lords of persons 'whose wealth and power depend upon landed property.' The 'amenders' of the Evicted Tenants Bill consist of landlords such as Lords Clonbrock, Barrymore, Midleton, Londonderry, Donoughmore, and such like, or the professional camp followers of the landlord party, who aspire to be the handy men of the Irish landlord class, such as the Law Lords of the Atkinson or Robertson type, who have been the Law Officers of the Crown in the House of Commons to reactionary class Governments, and owe their seats and their salaries in the House of Lords as Life Peers to these Governments for political purposes.

## People We Hear About

M. De Papparent, the celebrated French geologist and mineralogist, who has just been elected secretary of the Academy of Science, is a member of the Central Council of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Paris.

Sir Jenkin Coles has been Speaker in the House of the South Australian Assembly for over 17 years, and he has never been absent from his place in the chair on a single day of session during that period. Sir Jenkin is a Catholic.

The activity of the Kaiser is well known. He looks after the music, the painting, the literature, and the morals of Germany; but that is only his diversion, for above all that, he is the German Emperor. As Kaiser his work falls under three heads—foreign affairs, home affairs, and the army and navy. He never signs any despatch without reading it, and generally blue-pencils his remarks in the margin. In this way, many a State paper has been rendered useless, and it is calculated that since the beginning of his reign, he has signed at least 31,000 documents. He has also a great number of verbal reports made to him, and it is probably this over-work that renders him so nervous on occasions, and leads him to speak out things, that he had better have confined to his thoughts or to his confidential correspondence.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran is now in his 78th year (says the 'Catholic Press'). His working day commences shortly after 6 o'clock in the morning, and his Eminence is hard at it until bed-time, and does not appear to feel the heat wave half as much as young Australians. Vigorous old age, however, is characteristic of the Irish, the world over—in hot climates as well as cold—and usually when some country boasts of possessing a remarkable old man or woman you find that the sprightly veteran hails from the old sod. Sir Frederick Darley, Chief Justice of the New South Wales Supreme Court, is only two days' younger than the Cardinal, and he still takes his seat on the Bench, and only vaguely talks of retiring. He, too, was born in Ireland—in Wicklow, to be precise. He is not so strong now, but is still tolerably erect, and many an Australian of 60 might envy his activity.

A cable message received last week, informed us of the death of Lord Brampton, better known as Sir Henry Hawkins. Lord Brampton was a convert to the Catholic Church, and gave evidence of his faith by contributing £10,000 to the building fund of one of the Chapels of the Westminster Cathedral. Lord Brampton, who had reached the venerable age of 91, had had a professional career covering nearly seventy years, and it is nearly fifty years since he 'took silk.' The son of a solicitor, he was one of the few cases of a greatly successful man, who, at the very start of life, struck the line in which his natural powers best fitted him to excel. His success was not, however, rapidly attained. During the earlier part of his career, his income for many years did not exceed £100 per annum. It grew slowly and steadily until, on his election to the rank of Queen's Counsel, it reached the huge figure of £16,000. His elevation to the Bench cost him over £10,000 a year as his official salary was only £5,000. Readers of his memoirs will remember some of the many excellent stories concerning him. Here is one of the best of them. A prisoner pleaded guilty, then withdrew his plea, and declared himself to be innocent. Said Baron Brampton: 'Prisoner, a few minutes ago you said you were a thief. Now the jury say you are a liar. Consequently you are discharged.' Equally good was his retort to a Bishop, who claimed that the episcopal office was superior to the judicial, inasmuch as the most a Judge could say to a man was 'You be hanged' while a Bishop could say, 'You be damned.' 'Yes,' replied Lord Brampton, 'but when I say to a man 'You be hanged' he is hanged. Lord Brampton was a humorous character, despite his reputation for judicial severity, and was hail-fellow-well-met with all sorts and conditions of men. He was wont to tell a tale at his own expense of how he once joined a party of countrymen at a wayside tavern in a game of skittles. Getting warm, he took off his hat, so revealing the fact that he wore his hair unfashionably short. One of his temporary acquaintances refused to continue the game. 'I like to be neighbourly,' he remarked, 'but I don't play no skittles with no 'bloomin' ticket-of-leave man.'

You wish you were rich. This is not so hard. He who is satisfied is rich. He who is dissatisfied is poor, no matter what his possessions.

**DOUGLAS RAMSAY, SOLICITOR, No. 7 Joel's Buildings, Crawford Street, Dunedin.**  
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