

## LIMERICK—Primary and Higher Education

Speaking at Limerick on December 12, Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., said that the Irish primary system of Education was defective and the intermediate system required amending. With regard to the University Education, he rejoiced that the long struggle was about to be settled at last on lines satisfactory to all concerned. This would be about the greatest miracle ever performed in Ireland.

## A Military Chaplain

In the cemetery attached to Mungret College, Limerick, on December 12, the mortal remains of the Rev. William Ronan, S.J., were laid to rest in a quiet spot which deceased himself had chosen for his last resting-place long before his death. Father Ronan, who had attained the age of eighty-two years, was born in the County Down and made his ecclesiastical studies at Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1848. After a few years on the mission Father Ronan joined the Society of Jesus, of which he remained a zealous and distinguished member ever since, working tirelessly and successfully for the salvation of souls. During the Crimean war he acted as chaplain to the British forces, ministering day and night to the sick and dying. Speaking to Sir William Butler, who regarded him as a saintly old veteran of the highest and truest type, a few days before he passed away, Father Ronan said that in the hospital near Scutari more than one thousand poor soldiers were prepared for death by him and he never doubted for one moment that every one of their souls went to Heaven. Returning home he ministered in many houses of his Order, in some of which he was Superior. While in Limerick he founded the Irish Apostolic School, since transferred to Mungret, a college that has sent soldiers of the Cross all over the world. Some twenty years ago he travelled extensively in the United States to procure funds with which to put on a secure basis the Apostolic School, which hitherto had depended on the support of the clergy and laity of Ireland. Back again in Ireland, he entered with zest into missionary work until failing health compelled him to retire to Mungret, where he spent the declining years of his life as Spiritual Guardian of the house. The attendance at the obsequies was a touching manifestation of the love and esteem in which deceased was held.

## SLIGO—Land Purchase

At a meeting of tenants on the Ashley estate held at Grange, to consider the terms of purchase, the Very Rev. Father Hynes presided. The terms agreed upon between the representatives of the tenants and the landlord were approved of. There are about 500 holdings on the estate.

## WATERFORD—Death of Religious

The death has taken place in the Presentation Convent, Carrick-on-Suir of Sister Mary Ursula Murphy. The deceased religious was a daughter of the late Mr. Philip Murphy, Waterford. In the Mercy Convent the death has taken place of Sister Mary Emlida Cullinan. The deceased lady was a native of Carrickbeg, Carrick-on-Suir.

## A Successful Bazaar

The recent bazaar in aid of the Christian Brothers' Schools, Mount Zion, Waterford, was very successful. At the drawing of the prizes in the Art Union Rev. Brother Mullan, Superior of Mount Zion, announced that the gross receipts in connection with the bazaar amounted to £3560. The expenses amounted to £1325, and their net profit was £2235. The result amply repaid all the labor and anxiety connected with it.

## GENERAL

### A Definition

A Bridge of Weir gentleman, having asked Mr. John Redmond, M.P., what he meant in his recent Glasgow speech by Autonomy or Home Rule for Ireland, has received the following reply:—'Our position has never changed since 1886. We then accepted Mr. Gladstone's Bill, and though not wedded to its details, we claim a measure of Autonomy in the sense that his Bill provided Autonomy, and are willing to accept such a measure now as we were then. Of course, all we ask is Autonomy in purely Irish affairs.'

Residents in Timaru and district are reminded that Mr. S. McBride is a direct importer of marble and granite monuments from the best Italian and Scotch quarries. Mr. McBride's motto is good workmanship and moderate charges....

## People We Hear About

The three unmarried sisters of Pius X. live very quietly indeed in a little flat over some shops on the Piazza Rusticucci, close to St. Peter's. They lead by no means idle lives, but work for the poor and receive the numerous visitors who call upon them.

Lady Frances Trevelyan, whose death is announced, was the widow of the late Lord of the Manor of Seaton, Devonshire, Sir Alfred W. Trevelyan, of Colverley Lodge, Seaton. A fervent Catholic, she was greatly respected. Lady Trevelyan was a daughter of Chief Justice Monaghan, Common Pleas, Ireland.

There was an impression abroad that Francis Thompson, the Catholic poet, who recently died in London at the age of forty-four, was a brother of Lady Butler and Mrs. Meynell. But beyond a similarity of name, congenial literary talent, and a close friendship, there was no connection between them. Father O'Connor contributes a fine eulogy to the 'Catholic Times' on 'Our Lady's Poet,' who in his day charmed the cultivated taste of Coventry Patmore and H. D. Traill. Patmore said that 'The Hound of Heaven,' a poem in his first book (1893), was one of the four greatest odes in English literature.

King Edward VII. possesses many extraordinary powers and privileges which few persons are aware of, and which even his Majesty himself probably does not realise. He is the sole proprietor of the beds of all British tidal rivers, such as the Thames, the Mersey, the Dee, the Tyne, and many others. That part of the shore all round the coast which lies between high-water and low-water mark also belongs to his Majesty, and he may put it to any kind of use which he thinks fit, while theoretically every inch of ground in the kingdom belongs to him and not to the landlords.

Mme. Marconi, the mother of the famous inventor, is a most charming woman, who has had a life filled with romance. She is Annie, daughter of Mr. Andrew Jameson, of Daphne Castle and Fairfield, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, Ireland, and was a brilliant beauty with a marvellous soprano voice, which she decided to train for grand opera against the wishes of her family. She ran away to Italy to study music. She met Signor Marconi, an Italian banker of Bologna, who fell deeply in love with her. The marriage took place at once, thereby depriving the world of a queen of song. Mme. Marconi spends a great deal of her time in Ireland.

At twelve years of age Mr. Keir Hardie, who was here the other day, could neither read or write, and the only kind of schooling he received was a rough drilling in the elements of reading, which he obtained by studying books and notices in shop windows. Writing and shorthand Mr. Hardie taught himself, practising the latter in the coal mine with the aid of a white stone blackened with smoke from his pit-lamp, and used as a tablet upon which he scratched the symbols with a pin. At twenty-two he left the pits and became secretary of a miners' union, and two years later he obtained a position as sub-editor of a local newspaper at Cumnock, the town in which his present home is situated.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, who is about to pay a visit to New Zealand, was born at Leighlinbridge, County Carlow, on September 16, 1830, so that he is now in his 78th year. At the age of twelve he accompanied his uncle, Cardinal Cullen, to Rome. Cardinal Cullen was at the time Rector of the Irish College in the Eternal city. There he remained until 1866, successively as student, professor, and vice-Rector of the Irish College. He was ordained in March 19, 1853. During the quarter of a century that he resided in Rome he made a special study of the archives of the early Irish and British churches, with the result that he is now the foremost authority in this department of antiquarian research. In 1866 he returned to Ireland as secretary to his uncle, Cardinal Cullen, who had been appointed Archbishop of Dublin. On March 5, 1872 he was consecrated Coadjutor Bishop of Ossory, and in August of the same year he was installed at Kilkenny as Bishop of that See, where he remained until March, 1884, when he was translated to the vacant Archdiocese of Sydney, at the request of the Bishops of the Province. He arrived in Sydney in the September following. A few months later he was summoned to Rome, where on July 27, 1885 he was created Cardinal. Under his able guidance the church in the Archdiocese of Sydney has made remarkable progress during the past three and twenty years. There are now in the archdiocese 183 churches, served by close on 200 priests. The Catholic population is about 175,000, with 23,000 children in Catholic schools.