

# Irish News

## ARMAGH—The Enemies of Religion

His Eminence Cardinal Logue in the course of his Lenten Pastoral, in describing the dangers that beset religion, dwells on the persecution in France and the attempts to imitate it in Italy. Perhaps writes his Eminence, the most striking proof of what irreligion can attempt and effect in Rome itself, still overwhelmingly Catholic, at least as far as native Romans are concerned, and the centre of Catholicity, you have had a past Grand Master of Freemasonry enthroned in the capital, with Freemason assistants to do his bidding and heap insults and disabilities on the Catholic inhabitants. It was only when all restraint was laid aside and the religious sense of the people shocked, that the politicians found themselves brought up short against a determined resistance to which they must yield. Nor could they promise themselves immunity from these evils because the danger was remote. It was not remote: it was gradually approaching and its symptoms were becoming more sensible. Some movements now going on in England, which seemed to have won sympathisers in Ireland, savored strongly of those symptoms. They all knew the conflict which their co-religionists in England were forced to maintain against secularism, avowed or modified, in order to preserve the Christian character of the schools in which their children were educated. That was a conflict at which they could not look on unmoved. With all those whose dearest interests were at stake, they were united by their common faith, and with most of them by bonds of kindred and country. Undefined Biblical teaching he strongly condemns. He ventures to say with all reserve that for Catholics, provided the teacher honestly and honorably confined himself to his secular work and did not tamper with the faith of his pupils, pure secularism would be preferable to the proposed scheme.

## DUBLIN—The Progress of Temperance

General Sir William Butler in his speech at the annual meeting in connection with the Father Mathew Memorial Hall, Dublin, illustrated the progress the total abstinence cause had been making by recalling some incidents of former days. He quoted from a letter descriptive of a public banquet in Dublin one hundred and thirty years ago. He told how a duke—doubtless the Duke of Rutland—put in an appearance at an early hour, and yet contrived to be as drunk as any of his predecessors. Another account of a public dinner at the same period which was quoted by General Butler relates how after the Duke had gone the bumpers went round very fast and those that were left got very drunk. The inevitable quarrel then occurred and swords were drawn. Scenes of the kind were pretty common at that date and the people who figured in them, instead of losing the respect of those amongst whom they lived, won admiration for what was regarded as a symptom of good-fellowship. General Butler gave encouragement to the temperance advocates whom he addressed by reminding them of the change for the better which has come over public opinion since those days; but specially heartening was his language when he recounted how Father Mathew, single-handed, had in six years brought down the committals to prison from twelve thousand to seven thousand. To-day the Irish Capuchins are worthily treading in the zealous friar's footsteps and inducing thousands to choose the safe path of total abstinence.

## Pernicious Literature

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin in his Lenten Pastoral, strongly denounced vendors of immoral and irreligious books, newspapers, and other publications. It is, he remarked, the duty of the clergy to bring them, if possible, to a sense of the awful responsibility they incur in lending themselves to the diabolical work of undermining the morals of the people through the dissemination of debasing and seductive literature. The Archbishop proposed an effective remedy. Catholics living in a city such as Dublin, have it in their power to deal a severe blow to the infamous traffic. They can, as his Grace advised, take care not to leave a penny in any bookshop or other place in which demoralising publications are exposed to view or are known to be on sale. The shops in which are displayed pictorial advertisements appealing to base instincts deserve the same treatment. By rigorously pursuing this course Catholics will speedily put an end to the evils of which the Archbishop complained. The withholding of custom is a

form of punishment to which people who live by vending are keenly sensitive.

## GALWAY—An Alleged Outrage

The 'Irish Weekly' of March 7 reports that a few days before Mr. John Redmond in the House of Commons asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland if he was aware that in March 1905 a telegram was received by the authorities in Ireland from Mr. Henry Persse, of Woodville, County Galway, to the effect that an attack had been made upon his house by a band of moonlighters, that several shots had been fired into the house, and that he had returned the fire and pursued the moonlighters, whether a police investigation was held into the matter; and did the authorities, as the result of this investigation, arrive at the conclusion that no such attack had, in fact, been made, that no shots had been fired at or into the house, and that the whole statement contained in the telegram was untrue.—Mr. Cherry—An attack was alleged to have been made on Mr. Persse's house on the night of the 2nd of March, 1905. On March 3 Mr. Persse wrote to the Under-Secretary stating that the men came up to his very door the night before and committed a very daring outrage. The ordinary investigations were made by the police authorities in the matter, but no special inquiry was held. As a result of these investigations the authorities arrived at the conclusion that a stone had been thrown through the fanlight of Mr. Persse's hall door by some person, but that there was no evidence to show that more than one person was concerned in the matter. The police on protection duty were at Woodville house at the time of the occurrence. So far as they were aware the only shots fired on the occasion were fired by Mr. Persse himself. The police on hearing the shots, at once came to the front of the house, but found no persons there but Mr. Persse himself, and one of his servant men. A second servant man was found on the lawn, about one hundred yards away. A police patrol which was approaching Woodville heard the shots, and hastened to the place, but they also saw no strangers about.—Mr. J. Redmond—I may gather, I presume, that the inquiries made by the authorities satisfied them that the story, published so widely, not only in this country, but all through the world of a moonlight attack on this house was quite unfounded.—Mr. Cherry—That appears to me to be the only inference.

## KERRY—A Sad Event

In Killarney Cathedral on Sunday March 1, the Most Rev. Dr. Mangan, Bishop of Kerry, made touching reference to the death of Mrs. Stokes O'Callaghan and the serious illness of her sister, Miss Stokes. Next day Miss Stokes died. The remains of both ladies were interred in the family vault, Muckross Abbey.

## MEATH—Only Two Bills

The Spring Assizes for the County of Meath were opened at Trim on March 2 by Chief Baron Palles and Mr. Justice Johnson. On the arrival of the train the judges were received with military formalities. Chief Baron Palles subsequently sat in the Crown Court, and Mr. Justice Johnson in the Record Court. The Chief Baron, addressing the grand jury, said their duties at the present Assize would not be very onerous. Two bills only would be presented for their consideration.

## MONAGHAN—Death of a Canon

Very Rev. Canon Meegan died on February 25 at the Parochial House, Castleblayney. The Canon, who had reached the age of sixty-seven, was for several years in charge of Castleblayney parish, where he was highly esteemed, not only by his own co-religionists, but by the members of other denominations in the district.

## ROSCOMMON—A Timely Hint

By a timely hint which he throws out in his Lenten Pastoral, the Bishop of Elphin endeavored to avert what may prove bitter strife. As the Chief Secretary has publicly intimated, the Government are resolved to bring relief within the next few years to the congested districts in Ireland. The realisation of the project will involve the acquisition, by some of the administrative departments of State, of the untenanted grass lands, especially in the Western province. Under the circumstances the Bishop suggests to the occupiers of those lands that it would argue prudence and wisdom on their part if they surrendered them for distribution amongst the surplus population of the congested localities, securing at the same time full compensation. If they decline to do this, they cannot, his Lordship points out, expect that the people, who have been taught for years to look forward to the division of untenanted lands, and have been encouraged in their