

WATERFORD—Charitable Bequests

The late Mrs. Fanning, of View Mount, Waterford, by her will bequeathed £500 to each of the following charities:—Convent of the Good Shepherd, Hammersmith; Nazareth House, Hammersmith; Crusade of Rescue, Harrow road, London, and St. Francis' Home for Boys, Shefford, Beds. To the Aged Poor Society she bequeathed £600.

GENERAL**The Irish Leader**

Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., has had a cordial reception on his return home from the United States. He arrived in Waterford on October 16 from Queenstown. The hon. member was met by the Mayor and several members of the Corporation and representative citizens, and was presented with an address.

The Necessity of Special Knowledge

His Eminence Cardinal Logue, at the annual distribution of prizes and conferring of degrees, which took place in Maynooth College on October 14, delivered an important address to the students. He said any person sitting there and listening to the immense amount of distinctions they had gained in every branch—the Faculties of Arts, Theology, and Literature—must have been deeply impressed with the opportunities which the young gentlemen of that great establishment possessed, and with the good use which they had made of those opportunities. They should remember that a thorough knowledge of their professional duties, and especially of the duties that included all the fundamental and important and leading truths of Holy Faith, was necessary for the pastors of the people. They were bound to keep the light of Gospel truth and of theological science burning before the people, who depended on them for all that religious knowledge necessary for the sanctification of their lives, and to enable them to achieve the means of securing the reward of their piety in the world to come. If ever there was a time when that special knowledge was required in the priesthood, it was the present day. Men's minds seemed to have gone astray latterly. They seemed to have got a bend in the wrong direction, a direction which led men into many errors; and those who were not actually led into the ways of error were trembling on the brink of the precipice. They were the very persons destined by Almighty God to keep those wandering souls from falling into the pit. All modern errors, by which the truth of Jesus Christ was assailed, should find in them mighty and determined opponents, so that the people committed to their care might go safely through all the dangers that arose from the free-thinking and inexact and erroneous views of the present day.

The Pensions Act

Stories regarding the working of the Pensions Act are many. In a remote part of Connaught an aged man travelled about eight miles to the Post Office, and applied for his 'paper.' He was known to the postmaster, who was aware that the applicant was well over seventy years of age. The 'paper' was duly filled, and then the venerable gentleman said he wanted another paper. 'For whom?' asked the postmaster. 'For my father,' he said. The official was astonished; but the facts were undeniable. The old man's father still lived, and was as hale and hearty as could have been expected, considering that his age was ninety-five.

Groundless Fears

Mr. Lindsay Talbot Crosbie writes in the London *Daily Graphic*: 'In a recent issue you say that England might for her own peace and quiet be willing to rid herself of Irish troubles by allowing Irishmen to manage their own affairs, but that she would not be prepared to abandon the loyal minority in Ireland to be subjected to a Catholic ascendancy. As one of the "loyal minority," I can assure you we do not in any way share your apprehensions, and if this is the only barrier to the fulfilment of Irish National aspirations, it may at once be swept aside. We are tired of being exploited by Orange lodges and the Tory press for their own political objects; and so far from the scattered Protestants of the south and west living under civil or religious disabilities, I challenge the production of a single case in which a Protestant has, on account of his religion, suffered either in purse or person from the action of his Catholic neighbors.'

People We Hear About

The infant Pu Yi was crowned Emperor of China in the Royal Palace last week. The coronation was attended with great ceremony. The Emperor toddled to the throne without assistance, and received the kow-tows of the princes and officials. Prince Chun, the Regent, will direct the Emperor's education and upbringing on modern lines.

Mr. John McCormack, the Irish tenor, who, it is said, has been engaged to accompany Madame Melba in her next American tour, was born in Athlone in 1884. He studied for the Civil Service, and did not turn his attention seriously to music till 1902, when, at a friend's advice, he took part in the National Irish Festival, where he won the gold medal for tenors. In 1903 he joined the choir of Marlborough Street Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, and sang at the St. Louis Exhibition in 1904. He studied with Sabatini at Milan 1905-6, and in 1907 he appeared in important roles at Covent Garden.

Sir Edward Elgar, the distinguished composer, of whom his fellow-Catholics of England are so justly proud, has decided, in consequence of the delicate state of his health, to resign the chair of music in the Birmingham University, which he has held for nearly five years. During recent years it has become necessary for him to spend the winter months in Italy, and this prolonged absence, he feels, is calculated to impair his usefulness to the University. He has accordingly placed his resignation in the hands of the University Council. Sir Edward, who has just turned fifty, takes the chief place amongst the musical composers of our day. In him the artistic talent is hereditary, for his father was a musician of considerable gifts.

Mr. Hugh Mahon, M.H.R. for Coolgardie (W.A.), who is Minister of Home Affairs, was Postmaster-General in the Watson Ministry (says the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*). Mr. Mahon was born in 1858 at Tullamore, King's County, Ireland, and spent his early years in the United States and Canada. Returning to Ireland on a visit, he became associated with the Parnell movement, and shared the Irish leader's imprisonment in Kilmainham under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, when it was not necessary for the Coercion regime to establish any charge at all against a reputable citizen in order to imprison him without trial. Mr. Mahon's health having suffered, he was released, and came to Sydney in 1882. Here he was attached to the literary staff of the *Daily Telegraph* and other journals, and in 1895 he went to West Australia, where he conducted newspapers of his own on the gold-fields. He won high opinions from the staffs of the postal and telegraph department when he was Federal P.M.G.

Emperor William of Germany is as prominent a devotee of strenuous life as is President Roosevelt. His regular working schedule for a single day, according to *Leslie's Weekly*, is as follows:—The monarch rises at 5 a.m., and sometimes earlier, if the press of business is unusually heavy. At 6 o'clock he reaches his work-room, drinks a cup of tea or bouillon and eats a sandwich, and then he seats himself before a great desk and commences his labors. At 7 o'clock the Emperor receives reports from his adjutants and Ministers, devoting three hours to this task. During this interval he also audits bills for household supplies, scanning the accounts of tradesmen with great care. At 10 or 10.30 a.m. the Emperor breakfasts with his family, his favorite morning meal consisting of oatmeal, bacon, and eggs. After breakfast the Emperor usually goes for a stroll, but by 2 o'clock at latest he is back at his office, where he puts in three hours' or more work with his secretary, going over written reports submitted to him, disposing of correspondence and handling many details of administration. It is the Emperor's rule to clear up the business of each day and let nothing go over to the morrow, no matter how late he must remain at the desk. As a rule, he dines with his family at 5 o'clock, but the hour is later if he has not then completed the work of the day. The evening he devotes to social enjoyment or to public functions.