

Irish News.

ARMAGH.—The Cathedral Fund.—The indefatigable efforts that are being made on the part of his Eminence Cardinal Logue for the completion of the National Cathedral of the primatial see of Armagh are receiving practical sympathy, not only from Ireland and the sister Kingdom, but from every part of the world where the Irish Gael has found a home. Generous donations are coming in from America, South Africa, and the distant colonies of the Empire. The most recent list of contributions to the Cathedral Fund include donations from Cardinal Vaughan, £25; his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, £100; his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. McEvilly, Archbishop of Tuam, £20; while the names of the Bishops of Cloyne, Arlough, Kilmore, Elphin, and Capetown appear as contributing handsomely to the noble work which the Cardinal Primate of all Ireland has so zealously at heart.

CORK.—Proposed Memorial to a Priest.—The movement to erect a suitable memorial to Rev. Father Peter O'Neill is proceeding with gratifying success in Ballymacode, the parish over which the brave priest ruled. Meetings have been held all over East Cork, with the result that those in charge of the project are already assured that the memorial will be as splendid as the occasion deserves.

DUBLIN.—Death of a Christian Brother.—The death is reported of Brother Francis Luke Holland, Director of the Mother House of the Institute of Christian Brothers, Clontarf, Dublin. The deceased had attained the age of 61 years, and was in the 47th of his religious life. He was one of the most distinguished, best known, and esteemed members of the great teaching Community with which he was so long associated. He was a native of Galway and belonged to a leading Catholic family. By his death the Community has lost one of its most distinguished members and the country a teacher of rare ability. The remains were interred in the pretty little cemetery in the grounds attached to the institution.

An Extraordinary Law Case.—The ending of an extraordinary law case extending over a century's time (says the *Dublin Freeman's Journal*) is announced. It is that of the bankruptcy of Mr Robert Smyth, of King's County, who, as a brewer in that ancient Dublin landmark, Smockalloy, failed in the year 1797. His affairs were thrown into bankruptcy, and a substantial dividend paid, but the estate would not yield enough then or since to pay the full 20s in the pound. Four generations of the creditors have in turn spent the intervening century in seeking it. Their experience, or rather that of the survivors of them, is happily now the converse of that of Jarndyce v. Jarndyce; for a small sum invested at the time by the court, too trifling for distribution, has, by the accumulation of compound interest in a hundred odd years, developed into four figures—enough to pay off all the old debts plus law costs. Strange to say there is a claimant for every penny due in 1797, and in a short time Mr H. F. Gibson, the Bankruptcy Deputy Registrar-General, will have to perform the delicate task of distributing a few thousand pounds amongst the inheritors of the bankrupt brewer's debts.

Death of a Journalist.—Mr Edmund T. Murray, of the *Irish Times*, died on January 8, after a short illness. Mr Murray joined the staff of the *Irish Times* as a reporter over thirty years ago, and was ever since connected with that paper. He filled several responsible positions both in the managerial and literary departments of the paper, and was held in the highest esteem and affection by all who knew him. He was an intimate personal friend of the late Sir John Arnott, and was also in the closest touch with the present baronet. Mr Murray's death will be deeply regretted, not only by the members of the Dublin Press, but by a wide circle of friends throughout Ireland.

Extending the Lighting of the City.—The Dublin Corporation is about to expend the additional sum of £250,000 in extending the lighting of the streets of the city by electricity, 412 new lamps are being put up.

The late Sir John Gilbert's library.—There is a probability of the unique library of the late Sir John Gilbert being acquired by the Dublin Corporation. It is to be hoped that the probability will become a reality, as it would be an irreparable loss to the city if this splendid collection of books and manuscripts were to be scattered broadcast here and abroad, or bought by any institution outside Ireland. As might have been expected from so diligent and erudite a collector, the library is rich in rare and curious Irish volumes. It is believed that many of them are quite unprocurable, and even were they still to be occasionally bought, the copious annotations of so learned an editor as Gilbert render even the commonest books of great value to Irish readers.

GALWAY.—The Gort Industries.—Among the most generous of the many benefactors of the admirable industries under the auspices of the nuns of the Gort Convent are Viscount and Viscountess Gough. Some time ago the Viscountess sent from Munich several exquisite samples of drawn thread work to be used as patterns in the workrooms, and the Viscount having heard that the Galway County Council had voted the sum of £2000 for new buildings, immediately wired congratulating the Superioress, and adding that he would be happy to give the site at a nominal rent.

KILDARE.—A Popular Nobleman.—The young Earl Clonmell, Bishops court, Kili, North Kildare, who has (writes a correspondent) won golden opinions since he took up residence in Ireland, after coming to his majority last year, gave an example of exceptional charity at Christmas time. He had distributed amongst his labourers and all hands at Bishops court a carcase of prime beef

and sums of money, and even the surrounding poor were considered in a large-hearted spirit. His Lordship visited the respected parish priest of Kill (Dr. Gowing), and left him a donation of £5 for the Catholic church.

LONGFORD.—Sensible Talk by the Hon. Edward Blake.—In the course of a speech to his constituents at Longford the Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., said that the Local Government Act was not in his opinion a bar to the progress of the Home Rule movement; it was rather a further and striking proof of the incompetency of the Imperial Parliament to legislate for Ireland, and so of the need of Home Rule. But Home Rule could not be won with disunited forces, and Irish strength and credit had been shattered in wretched quarrels and dissensions. He then went on to enforce the lesson that the agitation must be peaceable and constitutional, and the following declaration should go far to silence those who have indulged in wild talk of an Irish-American invasion of Canada: 'There are limitations to the supreme right of resistance. First, after exhaustion of all efforts, it should be manifest that there is no hope of peaceful redress; and next, there should appear at any rate some desperate hope of national advantage from the stroke. Neither of these conditions exists with you to-day. As to the second, no one seriously suggests even the possibility of armed resistance. In her present strain, while almost friendless in Europe, Britain rightly feels quite safe in sending the bulk of her troops out of Ireland into Africa. And it is a chief boast of the United Irish League that it is a crimeless and crime-averting organisation. I notice, indeed, reports that some Irish-Americans propose to accomplish Home Rule for Ireland by invading Canada; and that one of their objectives is Toronto, which I call home. Doubtless the policy of these persons is governed by far higher considerations. But it does seem rather an odd way of stimulating the sympathy of Canadians with the Irish cause to threaten with war and devastation a country whose House of Commons has on three occasions, by overwhelming majorities, given its support to Irish Home Rule, and a people which, up to the very last, years after America and Australasia had closed their purses, after you yourself had stopped payment, continued to subscribe liberally to the cause. Why, that very city of Toronto, only a couple of years ago, gave me a thousand pounds for Ireland! If I thought these threats serious and capable of substantial execution, why, gentlemen, I should not have been here to-day. I should have borrowed a Mauser from someone who seems to have plenty to spare, learned the new rifle practice (for mine is fifty years old), and taken passage to help defend my wife and children and grandchildren from my brother Home Rulers. But as you see, I have not borrowed a rifle or taken my passage. I have no doubt that, if any such attempt were made, my townsmen would give a good account of themselves, and would need no old man's help. But I think that the threats are not serious, that they are only bravado, or at most an obvious ruse. They do not at all disturb such a robust Home Ruler as myself. I stand exactly where I have always stood. But you can well understand that, with the masses of the Canadian people, even those of Irish descent and still more with those of other blood, whose sympathies are, of course, less fervent, nothing is more calculated to chill zeal than threats like these. And so the harm that a few persons may by such threats inflict on a constitutional agitation like ours, in which one important factor is a world-wide sympathy, may be greater than at first sight appears.'

MEATH.—A Memorial to the Late Bishop Nulty.—After the anniversary Office and High Mass celebrated recently in St. Mary's Cathedral, Mullingar, for the repose of the soul of the late Bishop Nulty, a public meeting of the clergy and laity was held in connection with the proposed memorial to the late prelate. At a meeting held early last year it was decided that a memorial should be erected, and on that occasion a subscription list was opened and a committee appointed to confer with the Most Rev. Dr. Nulty's successor as to the form the memorial should take. From the statement which was read by the Rev. P. Daly, it appeared that up to the present a sum of £164 10s had been subscribed, while promises of considerable further support had been received. The Most Rev. Dr. Gaffney said that, in his opinion, one of the best forms which a memorial could take was the establishment of a house of industry in Mullingar, to be called the Nulty Institute. What led him to think of that was that Dr. Nulty was inclined that way himself; and there was no more practical necessity of the time than to have some institute where farmers' daughters and others could be received and be trained in those different departments that would give them a decent livelihood hereafter. It was a universal complaint that people could not get good servants competent to do their work. That complaint is not local, it is universal; and he thought if there was such an institute built of this description, and under the charge of the nuns, and if they had the training of the servants in it, it would be a great boon for the public. His Lordship also announced that at no distant date the task would have to be undertaken of building a new cathedral at Mullingar to take the place of the present sacred edifice, and stated that after consultation with the Vicar-General and others, he had come to the conclusion that the memorial to the late Bishop should take the form of a Virgin's Chapel and Virgin's Altar, properly equipped and decorated, and forming part of the proposed new Cathedral. This happy suggestion found instant favour with the meeting, and was at once adopted.

WEXFORD.—Death of a Nun.—The announcement of the death of Sister Mary Xavier Richards, of the Convent of Mercy, Wexford, which took place in the early part of January, was received with deepest regret. Sister Xavier had spent 46 years in the convent, and during that lengthened period had applied herself with zeal and earnestness to establishing the success of the many charitable works undertaken by the institution. For a considerable time she had been in charge of the servants' registry office attached to the convent, and had been the means of obtaining during the past