

# Irish News.

## OUR IRISH LETTER.

(From our own correspondent.)

Dublin, March 31.

### A CHILD'S LOGIC.

The other day I heard a good story of a little lassie who occasionally indulges in 'tantrums,' especially when she is left alone with grandmamma. On this occasion Lottie had a regular field-day; her grandmamma said she had never seen her so bad, so at bedtime the mother examined Lottie's conscience for her. 'Wasn't there a great, big battle fought at the war to-day?' asked the young person. 'Yes.' 'Weren't there thousands and thousands killed?' 'I suppose so.' 'Well, then, don't you think God Almighty was too busy judging so many out there in Africa to mind what I was doing here?' Mother quite understood how it had been a field-day at home.

### CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS AND THE NAVY.

We are often told that Catholics have not proper religious freedom out in Afrikander land, and this, Irishmen are informed, is one strong reason why it is their special duty and honor to fight the Boers. There are a few little religious troubles yet to be borne by the Outlanders in Ireland. The penal laws are not yet repealed as regards religious Orders, for example. Quite recently we had the Lord Chancellor of Ireland refusing his consent to two wards of court entering the noviciate preparatory to becoming Jesuits. Lately, again, a Catholic judge willed his library to a Jesuit house, but the bequest has not been carried out on account of the Fathers being outlaws. In England Catholic chaplains in the army have not by any means the standing or privileges of Protestant chaplains, while as for the navy, save while in port, poor Catholic Jack has no chance of shrift or comfort in his dying hour, for the Admiralty will not permit the appointment of Catholic chaplains on board ship. In his Lenten Pastoral his Eminence Cardinal Logue called attention to this fact, and warned Irish parents against sending their boys into a service full of temptation and danger, yet where the men who die at sea or lose their lives in action must perish like dogs. Lately this matter was brought up in Parliament, but, though a Protestant clergyman accompanies each squadron to sea, the Catholics have been distinctly and emphatically informed that no priest will be allowed in the navy to minister to Irish sailors. This refusal was accompanied by a half threat of removing the naval training ship from Queenstown if Cardinal Logue and other Irish Bishops interfered with recruiting by pointing out to Catholics that it is their duty to keep from entering a service so perilous to their salvation.

### A CONTRAST.

The citizens have made a mistake this year. They have had the weakness to break through what was some years ago announced as a final decision—i.e., to keep the chief magistracy in the hands of the Catholic and Home Rule party in the Corporation until such time as Belfast, the Northern capital, shall consent to give fair representation to the Catholics of that city. In Ulster Catholics far outnumber Protestants, their number in Belfast is very large, yet the Ulster city has invariably refused to permit anything like a fair representation in its civic body and determinately resists the idea that a Catholic Lord Mayor shall ever fill the civic chair. They have had an atheist, this year they have a Jew, but never will they have a Papist. It was not bigotry that prompted the action of the Dublin citizens when they declared some years ago that until the Catholics of Belfast obtained justice the rule in the Catholic capital should be to elect none but Catholics and Nationalists as Lord Mayors of Dublin. Either such a regulation should never have been made or it should have been rigidly adhered to.

### THE GUINNESS FAMILY AND ROYALTY.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are now in Dublin and are the guests of Lord Iveagh (one of the Guinness family), who placed a country seat at the disposal of the Commander of the Forces in Ireland until the renovation shall be completed of the official residence in what is known as the Old Men's Hospital in Kilmalham. This is a mansion to which is attached a sort of military almshouse for a certain number of favored veterans, who are there furnished with uniform, rations, and lodging, but a grateful country stops the small pension to which each old soldier so cared for would be entitled if he lived in his own home. Thus the great brewing family has once more come to the rescue of royalty by making the Duchess of Connaught at home in a pretty Dublin country house.

### THE POOR MAN BEARS THE BURDEN.

Speaking of Guinness reminds me that there was a run on the Dublin Custom House the week before last, such as has never been previously known. As a part of the South African war expenses are to be met by a tax on beer, spirits, and tea, an extraordinary rush to take stuff out of bond before the new duties should be levied took place during the three days previous to that upon which the new duty took effect. Duty at the old figure, to the amount of some hundreds of thousands of pounds, was paid in, and every procurable dray and van in the city kept up a continuous series of processions along the Custom House quays for days, while the Custom House officers were utterly unable to cope with the demands upon them, so that a vast deal of business remained undone at three o'clock on Saturday, the hour at which the old duty ceased to run. To give an idea of what the increase of revenue will be from the increase of 3d per hogshead on beer and porter, it is stated that this sum will mean a payment of £100,000 per annum by the Guinness firm

alone. Those whiskey and tea merchants who succeeded in getting large stocks out of bond in time, will realise fortunes, as it is the custom with dealers to charge the full increase to consumers on what they only paid the late duty upon; thus it is the poor man who pays the war bill all round in the long run. I had to pay two pence additional for my pound of tea this morning, although I well knew the merchant took it out of bond a month ago.

### THE DETERMINATION OF THE IRISH PEOPLE

Well, aron! such things must be, as an old lady used to say to me long ago, and the hope that springs eternal is once more cheering the Irish by the late union of all Nationalist parties for the common good. The majority have generously, magnanimously waived their rights and elected one of the minority, Mr. John Redmond, chairman of the Irish Party. Let us hope the burst of glad enthusiasm that has welcomed the union and proved how one-hearted is the Nation, may be but an earnest of the future. I thought it rather a good sign to hear a Unionist say the other day that Mr. John Redmond ought to be shot. One thing is certain: no amount of royal patronage, no amount of coercion, of over-taxation, of poverty, of disunion amongst political men, no amount of any of these, which seem to be our special prerogatives, will change the determination of the Irish to be and remain a Nation apart.

### THE REVIVAL OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

One good sign of the times is that the movement, I may say the various movements, for the revival of the Irish language as a spoken tongue, are doing good work. The language is now being taught in a number of schools, and 800 schoolmasters have applied to Government for recognition of the Irish language on a footing of equality with English in their schools; also, that in all Irish-speaking districts, English may be taught through the medium of Irish. This common-sense demand, after having been sternly resisted by the Government for over 60 years, is at long last about to be granted—at least, so we are led to believe.

M.B.

### COUNTY NEWS.

**CLARE.—Death of a Priest.**—The people of Ennis greatly regret the death of their beloved and zealous administrator, Rev. P. Barry, who passed away at the St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, at the comparatively early age of 43. The remains were removed to Ennis, where they were interred after Solemn *Requiem* High Mass in the Cathedral.

**CORK.—Demise of a Prominent Kanturk Man.**—Duhallow has to regret the loss of a prominent resident in the death of Mr. Buckley Daly, for many years chairman of the Kanturk Board of Guardians. The funeral, which took place from Clonfert, was attended by a *carriage* of large dimensions, and representative of the best of the historic barony.

**DOWN.—Shamrocks for the Queen.**—Mrs. Crichton Weir of Downpatrick, who forwarded (says the Press Association) the Queen a spray of shamrock plucked in the vicinity of St. Patrick's grave, with a request that her Majesty would wear it on St. Patrick's Day in honor of her brave Irish soldiers, received a letter by the Queen's command from Buckingham Palace, thanking her for her letter and the shamrocks enclosed.

**DUBLIN.—The Metropolis as it is.**—It is nine years since I last visited Dublin, says the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, and in the interval many towns have been transformed. But except for the excellent electric trams Dublin is still the same. There is an undefinable air of disappointment in her very streets—an absence of proper pride even in her paving and drainage and in the dress of her poor. The only buildings that seem to flourish are breweries, barracks, and workhouses. Her Parliament House still waits for her Parliament that seemed so near in that autumn of 1891, when Parnell's power was at its height and the National League gave the password from end to end of Ireland. Her finest building, Trinity College, is in the hands of an alien faith. The streets swarm with policemen, soldiers, and poor men. She still smiles through her tears. Her 'jarvies' are still the wittiest drivers in Europe, and the light laugh, the merry lilt of the brogue fill the air with that Celtic gaiety which survives all misfortune. But she has waited long for her share in the riches of the Empire, and still she is the Cinderella. The Queen's heart is touched by the valor of her soldiers. Will it also be touched by the poverty and depression of her civilians?

**LOUTH.—In Memory of John Boyle O'Reilly.**—A movement is on foot in Drogheda to erect a monument in Dowth Churchyard, County Meath, in commemoration of the late John Boyle O'Reilly.

**The Co-operative Movement.**—The marvellous development of the co-operative movement in Ireland (says the *Irish Catholic*, March 24) during recent years is one of the most encouraging events of our time, and has given fresh hope to all who have the real interest of the country at heart and who believe in the ability of Irishmen to assert on their own soil that industrial superiority which it is indisputable they are capable of asserting when the theatre of their labors is anywhere but at home. The practical and business-like meeting held at Dunleer the other day for the purpose of founding a co-operative society was a thorough success and marks, we are sure, the beginning of a new era, so far as local industries are concerned. The chief function of the co-operative society or school which the meeting resolved should be forthwith started will be to afford instruction in the art of butter-making, the management of fowl, knitting, and other industries of that kind. That there is great scope for the operations of such societies in other parts of County Louth besides Dunleer and Clogher Head—where a society has been also founded—is proved by