

scheme promoted by the District Council for the building of 132 cottages with half an acre plots, the acquisition of nine existing houses to be repaired, and 57 additional half-acres, under the Laborers' Act. This is the fifth scheme carried out in the Union, the number of cottages already erected under the Act being 242 with 113 half-acre allotments. The Union comprises three dispensary districts—viz., Adare, Castletown, and Croon—embracing 20 electoral divisions, from each of which a number of representations were sent in. Mr. James Conway, Clerk of the District Council stated that the estimated cost of erecting 132 cottages, acquiring nine existing houses for repairs, and 57 additional half-acre plots would be £18,085. The number of cottages built was 242 with 113 half-acre allotments, and the liability already incurred was £80,996.

LOUTH.—Death of a Drogheda Priest—Widespread regret was felt at the death, on July 25, of the Right Rev. Mgr. Murphy, parish priest of St. Peter's, Drogheda, a venerable and distinguished ecclesiastic. Mgr. Murphy was 66 years of age, and was ordained in 1859, having been 11 years in the priesthood. The deceased gentleman was born in the parish of Knockbridge, Dundalk, and studied in Armagh and Maynooth, where he was ordained. He was first appointed to the curacy of Dromintee, and afterwards in Cooley, where he earnestly assisted in building up two churches. In 1869 he was appointed curate of Dunleer and, on the retirement of Father Corrigan, in 1877, was appointed administrator of Kilsaran. On the death of Archdeacon Gossan, in 1879, Father Murphy succeeded him as parish priest of St. Peter's, Drogheda. He was appointed Archdeacon of the Chapter and V.G. of the Archdiocese early in 1891, and was raised to the dignity of Monsignor and Domestic Prelate to his Holiness the Pope. The splendid new Oliver Plunkett Memorial Church on the site of the old church remains an undying memorial of his worth and work.

WICKLOW.—A Liberal-minded Protestant.—The Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, has received a cheque for £50, in aid of the fund for improving Bray Church, from Mr. W. Darley, Q.C., County Court Judge, a liberal-minded Protestant of the district.

GENERAL.

A Plenary Synod to be held.—It is announced that a Plenary Synod will be held this year at Maynooth College. Fifty years have now elapsed since the first Plenary Synod was held at Thurles, and twenty-five since the second was celebrated at Maynooth. The Synod will consist of the members of the Irish Hierarchy and the mitred Abbot of Mount Mellerey. Diocesan Chapters are entitled by the laws of the Church to send representatives (technically called Procurators) to express their views and offer suggestions. Already the Canons of the Diocese of Cork have unanimously elected Canon O'Mahony as their representative, and Canon Hutch has been similarly chosen by the Chapter of Cloyne. The Synod will meet under the presidency of Cardinal Logue, and is expected to last for a fortnight.

The National Bank.—From the report of the Directors of the National Bank, published on July 26, it is seen that the half-year's working ended June 30th has been a very prosperous one. The profit and loss account of the Bank for six months, including £21,668 10s 5d brought forward from 31st December, shows a balance of £114,491 1s 3d available for distribution. This amount the Board have decided to apportion as follows—Payment of dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, £75,000, £5,000 to bank premises account; £15,000 to rest or undivided profits, raising that fund up to £445,000; and £19,491 carried forward. It will be admitted that the steady progress of the National Bank is a matter in which Irishmen may take legitimate pride, as it testifies in the most striking manner to their general commercial capacity, and to their ability to handle with success the most important financial enterprises. The directors, the staff, and the proprietors of the National Bank are to be congratulated on the prosperous results of the half-year's working now announced. Mr. H. F. Slattery, brother of the Very Rev. Father Slattery, O.S.F., New South Wales, is the chairman.

A Plea for the Irish Language.—The London Times, July 19, contained a deeply-interesting, not to say convincing, letter from the facile pen of Mr. George Moore, the well-known Irish novelist. Mr. Moore informs the world that the intention of the members of the Gaelic League is to make the Irish people a bi-lingual race—that is, thoroughly conversant at one and the same time with the Irish and the English languages. 'We want our language (he writes); we deserve it with our whole heart and soul.' The mission of a language must not be limited to the transaction of business. As Mr. Moore points out in the beginning, a language is pure, like spring water. For 800 years Latin was the universal language of Europe, and many thousands of volumes were written in it. Yet Dante's genius found expression in a dialect and not in a universal language. The two cantos he wrote in Latin are worthless. But the despised dialect and his genius produced a poem 'which lives perhaps with a greater intensity of life than any other.' The English language to-day (Mr. Moore tells us) is hardened with 400 years of literature. He questions if the literature of the future will be written in it. Who knows that the Irish tongue may yet accomplish for literature what the Italian did in the hands of the master Dante?

Plundering the Masses and Bribing the Classes.—The English Radical organs are disgusted with the Bill for endowing the Irish landlords at the expense of the Irish people. The Daily News brands it 'the most iniquitous of the many dishonest schemes for plundering the masses and bribing the classes that even the present Government have introduced. The Bill is robbery, and nothing but robbery.' Mr. Dillon said, justly, that it was 'a perfect outrage on Ireland, and enough to make Irishmen despair.'

People We Hear About.

Tuesday, July 24, was the 150th anniversary of the birth of the famous Irish orator, patriot, and humorist, John Philpot Curran. It is as a humorist that Curran is best remembered by the general public, but among Irish Nationalists his name and memory are regarded with great reverence and honor for his fearless defence of the Irish insurgents of 1798.

The Press Gallery of the House of Commons has sent out many an Irish journalist to figure brilliantly on the world's stage. To the already famous list must be added the name of Hon. Nicholas Flood Davin, Q.C., now leading the Conservative Opposition in the Canadian Parliament. Mr. Davin was born in Limerick 55 years ago, and by dint of hard work and sheer intellect graduated from the reportership of an humble paper to his present position.

Irish names are quite common in Cuba. O'Reilly street is one of the principal thoroughfares of Havana, and a family of that name has been illustrious in Cuba for over a century. Its most prominent representative at present is the Countess O'Reilly. The famous 'Morro,' guarding the entrance to Havana harbor, has been referred to as 'The O'Donnell's castle,' because of that name being inscribed upon it.

Mr. Justice Mathew, the Senior Judge of the English Queen's Bench Division, attained his seventieth year on Tuesday, July 16. Mr. Justice Mathew was born at Bordeaux, the eldest son of Mr. Charles Mathew, of Lehenogh House, Cork. He was educated at Trinity College, and one of the first of the big cases in which he was engaged after being called to the Bar was the Tichborne trial, in which he was junior counsel for the Crown. His daughter is the wife of Mr. John Dillon, M.P.

Rev. Nicholas Ward, of St. Joseph's Monastery, Baltimore, is the inventor of a new system of stenography, which he has named the new American stenography. Father Ward is a distinguished linguist; it is said he can speak nearly every known language. He is now much interested in the preparation of a series of interchangeable grammars which would enable the student to learn quickly the differences between the various languages. Father Ward was born in Dublin in 1856, and went to the United States when 10 years old. He joined the Congregation of Passionists in the seventies.

It is pretty generally known (says the Daily Chronicle) that the successful Parliamentary practitioner, Mr. Seymour Bushe, Q.C., intends to join the English Bar next 'call' day. During the present Parliamentary session the services of Mr. Bushe have been in great demand before the committees. He is a very skilful cross-examiner and the master of a ready wit which, as in the case of O'Connell and many another Irish lawyer before and since, has served its possessor most effectually, even where sound law would be unavailing. A colleague who was also a bit of a punster once dubbed the Q.C. 'Mr. Baymore Bosh'—but the gibe was short-lived.

Signor Verdi, the great Catholic Italian composer, has almost brought to completion the philanthropic scheme on which he has been engaged since 1888. Out of the Porta Magenta at Milan he has bought a piece of ground, and on it has built a house of rest for musicians. This building which was begun in 1896, covers an area of more than 2000 square yards. It will shelter 100 needy musicians (60 men and 40 women) of not less than 65 years of age. The facade, in medieval style, will bear the portraits of eight great Italian musicians—Palestrina, Scarlatti, Frescobaldi, Monteverde, Marcello, Perzolesi, Cimarosa, and Rossini. In the largest courtyard will be placed Verdi's bust, and after his death, when the home will be dedicated, his ashes will be placed in a Carrara marble monument in the crypt.

Courtfild, the seat of the Catholic Vaughan family, is a spacious though very plain looking mansion near Ross, Herefordshire. Its situation is very picturesque, and the grounds are extensive. The family is one of the comparatively few which still enjoy the privilege of having a private chapel in the house, a privilege very seldom granted now by the Holy See. The lord of the manor is Colonel Vaughan, the Cardinal's younger brother. Not quite 20 miles from Courtfild, at Glen Trothy, near Abergavenny, lives another brother, Reginald. These are the only two sons of the late Colonel Vaughan who did not enter the Church. The six others who did were Cardinal Herbert Vaughan; Jerome, the Benedictine monk; Bede, archbishop of Sydney; Bernard, the Jesuit; John, a domestic prelate to the Pope; and Kenelm, a secular priest, now in one of the South American republics.

An Irish visitor to the Paris Exposition entered a hotel in the Rue Containcourt, and was getting purple in the face from desperate vain efforts to make himself intelligible to the garçons that stood around with their shoulders titivated to their ears. Suddenly a gorgeous head-waiter emerged from the salon, and seeing the commotion cried, 'Yerra, what's up?' Explanations followed. The head waiter was 'Danny' Mannion. He hailed from Ballyaghaderreen, Mayo.

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