

The National Election Fund.—Mr. Edward Blake's offer of £100 more towards the National Election Fund (says the *Ulster Examiner*) is characteristic of the man. Since his appearance in 1892 in Irish public affairs his purse has been constantly at the service of the Irish cause. Recently he gave £200 to the fund. He has been disappointed with the lack of effort so far to make the fund a success, and his message is a frank and full endorsement of Mr. Redmond's recommendation of immediate and energetic action. We note with sincere regret Mr. Blake's hint that this is the last election in which he is likely to be in any way concerned. The gifted Canadian has done a man's work for the country, under conditions by no means encouraging, with a disinterestedness that has not been called in question in any quarter. The disappearance of Mr. Blake from Irish affairs would mean the loss of a man with no axe to grind and no paltry cause to further.

The Want of a University.—A very forcible statement of the wrong done to Ireland by Great Britain's refusal of such a provision for University education as Irish Catholics can conscientiously take advantage of is put forward by Judge O'Connor Morris in the current *Fortnightly Review* on 'Contemporary Ireland.' His Honor thus describes the situation—'Even at the close of the nineteenth century the Irish Catholic of the better class cannot obtain a University education in his own land, in a seminary upheld and endowed by the State, without in some measure running counter to the dictates of his Church; without offending, more or less, his religious guides; without trifling, perhaps, in some degree with his own conscience. Trinity College, no doubt, has Irish Catholics within her sphere, and extends to them her honors and degrees; but the number of these students is extremely small. Her teaching is Protestant, nay, anti-Catholic, especially in her moral and metaphysical schools. She is a Protestant institution in every sense of the word, she is not a University for the Irish Catholic, who cannot, from a religious point of view, be satisfied with his position within her walls.' As to the Queen's Colleges, they have been denounced as 'Godless' not only by the Irish Bishops, but by the High Church party in the House of Commons.

A successful Benefit Society.—At the Annual Convention of the Irish National Foresters' Benefit Society in Manchester, the General Secretary's report showed that the number of members had been increased during the year by 1,948, and the funds by £3,217. The number of members was now 26,588, the funds amounted to £43,417, and the annual income was £41,414.

A monster Pilgrimage.—When the Holy Year closes (the *Daily Chronicle* says) the distinction of having organised the most imposing pilgrimage to Rome will to all appearance, rest with the well-known Irish priest, Father Rog, of Inchmore, Dublin. The Irish pilgrimage will constitute a most formidable, if not wholly unprecedented, invasion of the Eternal City. Up to the present no fewer than 600 of the clergy and 50,000 of the laity have enrolled their names in the Pilgrimage Association. As there are still some weeks to run before the list closes it is only reasonable to suppose that some thousands more will have joined before October 16, when the first section of the pilgrims leave. The arrangements will provide for a stay of nine clear days in Rome and two in Paris.

Still they go.—The London *Observer* publishes the following with reference to the increasing number of emigrants from Ireland.—'Of the total number of emigrants from Ireland in 1897 77 per cent. were under 15 years of age, 92 per cent. were between 15 and 35, and 94 per cent. were 35 or upwards. That is to say, during the 12 months some 37,000 Irish men and women in their prime went abroad to contribute new brawn and brain to other lands, and chiefly, of course, to the United States. When is the drain to stop? Men are leaving the rural districts of England also no doubt, but for the English towns; they still remain part and parcel of the nation, and make for its wealth and strength. It is not so in Ireland, where a population as large as that of Limerick departs from these shores annually and is lost to the land for ever.'

Another Royal Visit.—Mr. T. P. O'Connor has it that the Queen intends to visit Ireland again in the coming spring. He says in *M.A.P.*—'It is believed in well-informed circles in Ireland that the Queen intends repeating her visit next spring. In fact I have it on excellent authority that her Majesty told Lord Maurice Fitzgerald that, if possible, she would pay him and his wife a visit at Johnstown Castle, County Wexford, next year. This remark was made by the Queen during the evening which Lord and Lady Maurice spent at the Viceregal Lodge, when her Majesty paid these privileged guests the compliment of having quite a lengthy conversation with them. She spoke a good deal about Lord Maurice's late mother (a former Duchess of Leinster and daughter of a Duke of Sutherland), for whom the Queen assured him she had had a great affection, and reminded him that when in Ireland in 49 her Majesty and the Prince Consort had spent a day with the Duchess at Carton.'

Acts of Heroism.—The Royal Humane Society, under the presidency of Colonel Horace Montague, late King's Royal Irish Hussars, began its investigation of nearly 100 cases of bravery in saving life sent in during July for some form of honorary recognition. The undermentioned awards were made in cases sent from Ireland:—Testimonial on vellum, bearing the signature of H.R.H. the Duke of York, to Patrick Callaghan, clerk, Portsalon, Donegal, for his plucky action in swimming out a distance of 30 yards and rescuing Miss Ball, a lady visitor, who had got out of her depth while bathing. Bronze medal to Allister MacLeod, Nenagh, aged 15, who plunged in from the dangerous rocks at Killee, County Clare on July 10, and rescued a youth named Martin, who had ventured into deep water. The difficulty of rescue was much increased owing to a quantity of floating seaweed. Testimonials to John Baker, railway fireman, Cork, and Charles Connell, Bantry, for their brave action, at Bantry, on July 15, when they rescued

Michael Connolly, who had fallen into the harbor. Connell, who is a powerful swimmer, first went in, but was clutched and nearly drowned. Baker then sprang in and separated the two, afterwards supporting Connolly till all were picked up by a boat. Testimonials to Color-Sergeant Stephen Murphy and Corporal Patrick Hughes, both of the 5th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, for their gallantry in saving Private Rooney, of the same regiment, who had got into deep water while bathing at Devonport, on June 28. Hughes first went in, but was dragged under by Rooney. Murphy then plunged in, and, freeing Hughes, assisted him in bringing Rooney to shore. Testimonial to Laurence Guerin, fisherman, Limerick, for plunging into the Shannon there, on July 14, and saving a boy named Walsh, who had fallen from the quay.

THE LATE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND.

THE Home newspapers of all shades of political opinion were unanimous in their praise of the many eminent qualities of the late Lord Russell of Killowen and in their expressions of deep regret at his death.

Lord Russell died on the anniversary of his wedding day. The deceased Judge took a deep and practical interest in any organisation having for its object the welfare of his co-religionists, and particularly was he interested in any movement for the reclamation of Catholic discharged prisoners. Co-operating with Cardinal Vaughan, Lord Brampton, Judge Bagshawe, Lord Walter Kerr, and others, the late Lord Chief Justice, by means of the Catholic Prisoners' Aid Society, was enabled to give a fresh start in life to many Catholics who had suffered brief terms of imprisonment.

The Prince of Wales sent a most kindly letter to the relatives of the late Lord Chief Justice deploring the death of his friend. The Prince was specially represented at the funeral.

Strange to think, (writes the Dublin correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*), that the little town of Newry, the border town between north and south, between Protestant Ulster and Catholic Ireland, should have given birth in 20 years to Lord O'Hagan, the first Catholic Lord Chancellor of Ireland since the Revolution; to Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, the first Irish Catholic Prime Minister of Victoria; to John O'Hagan, the first President of the Land Commission in Ireland; and to Lord Russell, with his many claims to national recognition, besides the two famous so-called rebels of 1848, John Mitchell and John Martin. Report goes that young Russell did not escape the teachings of his great fellow-townsmen Mitchell and Martin, and I believe that in the annals of Castle puerility will be found a report of the dangerous goings-on of some disloyal persons of the mature age of 15, of whom Charles Russell was by no means the least blameworthy. Had they not sung rebel songs and gone through drill against the peace of their sovereign lady the Queen, her crown and dignity?

Unlike so many prosperous Irishmen (says a London correspondent), he was not ashamed of Ireland, and in his prosperity never forgot her distress. Everyone knows that he was a great betting man, and it would be mere prudery even at this moment to pretend otherwise. His passion for gambling in every shape or form was really part of that strong Celtic strain in his nature which found a keen imaginative joy in the caprices of chance. He would take as much pleasure in betting on his dinner as he would in betting on a horse. But though it was a relaxation with him, he never allowed it to dominate him. His betting was a form of gaiety, and never a form of money-making. He never either lost or won much, and though many may regret that he bet at all, those who honor him will always regard the trait with a kindly forgiveness and perhaps feel glad that there was one soft point in a nature essentially stern and severe.

Of Lord Russell's large family, two sons are at the Bar, one, the double inheritor of his father's name and talents, Mr. Charles Russell, is a solicitor, one is a stockbroker, and another, the youngest, is in the artillery, and is now in South Africa. Of four daughters, one is the wife of a son of Lord Russell's old friend, Mr. Holmes, once member for Hackney. Three others are unmarried, of whom one has entered her novitiate as a nun. The late Lord Chief Justice happy in so many particulars, was particularly so in his domestic life; and of his nine children there was not one who had ever given him a moment of anxiety.

At the Pro-Cathedral, Kensington, and in all the churches in London and throughout the archdiocese of Westminster the following, dated August 11th, was read from his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop with reference to the death of the Lord Chief Justice of England.—'The prayers of the clergy and of the faithful are earnestly requested for the repose of the soul of Lord Russell of Killowen (Lord Chief Justice of England), a faithful son of the Church, who, after a life of distinguished public service, died yesterday, fortified by the Holy Sacraments, Herbert Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster.'

The late Lord Chief Justice, by a will which was only a few lines long, and which he executed during the last week of his life, has left all his property to Lady Russell of Killowen, who has been named as sole executrix of the will.

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