

People We Hear About.

Alderman Eugene F. Kinkead, Jersey City, has decided to abandon business to become a priest. He is 25 years of age. He was a prominent figure in Democratic politics.

Frank Mathew, who has made such rapid strides in magazine literature in England during the past few years, is a nephew of Judge Mathew, who is himself a grand-nephew of Father Mathew, the famous apostle of temperance. It was the biography of the priest which set Frank Mathew upon a career which has proved so successful.

A few weeks ago occurred the thirty-third birthday of Guy Boothby, the novelist, who is a native of Adelaide, and who once filled the highly honorable position of private secretary to the Mayor of that city. While in Adelaide Mr. Boothby wrote a play, 'The Jonquille,' which was produced at the Theatre Royal, but it was not a financial success, and nothing has since been heard of it. The company who presented it were amateurs.

The *Tablet* makes an interesting suggestion for a monument to the memory of the late Lord Russell of Killowen. It says: 'What monument may be erected to him we do not yet know, but that it should be as serious a one as the reputation it signifies is certain—perhaps a chapel in the Westminster Cathedral or the decoration of a chapel from the brush of Mr. Sargent, to whom Lord Russell was twice a sitter for his portrait, and whose noble decorative work, religious in subject, attracts in the United States thousands of visitors yearly to the public library at Boston.'

The death is announced of Sim Reeves, aged 78 years. The deceased was first instructed by his father, and afterwards took lessons from distinguished professors in singing. In December, 1839 he first appeared on the stage in baritone parts in Newcastle, and afterwards went to Paris to study his profession. Soon afterwards he made his first appearance in Italian opera at Milan, in a tenor part. He afterwards appeared at Drury Lane Theatre. After 1849 Mr. Reeves appeared at all the great performances of oratorios at Exeter Hall, the provincial festivals, and at the Crystal Palace. He completed his jubilee in 1889, and took farewell of the public in 1891, but did not finally cease appearing in public for some years.

Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan, widely known in musical circles in New York and throughout the West, died recently at Stamford, Conn., from heart failure. He was a nephew of Daniel O'Connell, the Irish Liberator, and some years ago established a reputation in America as a tenor singer of exceptional merit, appearing in concert and oratorio. Mr. O'Sullivan was born 55 years ago in Cork, Ireland, but at an early age went to the United States. He settled in St. Louis, and was the pioneer piano dealer and music publisher of that place. Later on he became a prominent dry goods and lace merchant in that city. Mr. O'Sullivan married Miss Elizabeth Glover, daughter of the late Professor J. W. Glover, of Dublin, the Irish musician and composer.

One or two curious facts (says the *Standard*) may be noted with regard to the constitution and history of the present Cabinet. It has now existed unchanged for five years, a circumstance for which there is no precedent in the history of previous Cabinets. It is all the more remarkable because the Cabinet consists of no fewer than 19 members, which again is unprecedented. In the five years that have elapsed since the Cabinet was formed, however, no fewer than 10 ex-Cabinet Ministers have died, namely, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Herschell, Mr. Mundella, the Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Carlisle, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Monk Bretton, Mr. Walpole, and Mr. Stansfeld. This reduces the number of living ex-Cabinet Ministers from 35 at the formation of the present Government to 24 at the present time.

Most of the British peerages have existed since beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant, but several have had remarkably short lives. The shortest life on record was that of Sir Erskine May's peerage. Sir Erskine was a great lawyer, and occupied the high position of Clerk to the House of Commons from 1871 to 1886. As many people know, he wrote the standard book on the laws and usages of Parliament, which was translated into six languages, including Japanese. On May 11, 1886, he was created Baron Farnborough of Farnborough, Southampton, and on May 17 in the same year he died, so that he enjoyed his well-merited distinction only six days. Another peerage which had a very short life was that of Sir David Majorbanks. He was created Baron Majorbanks of Ladykirk on June 12, 1873, and he died on June 19. His peerage, which died with him, endured only seven days.

News was received a short time ago of the death of Sir Louis A. A. Verueil, K.C.M.G., and Count of the Holy Roman Empire. Sir Louis was one of the most remarkable men the West Indies have ever produced, and the colony of Trinidad universally mourns his loss. He died on August 11 at his town residence, Port of Spain, B.W.I., at the ripe age of 93. Sir Louis, who was born in Trinidad, belonged to a most aristocratic and ancient French family. He was educated at the University of Paris, and afterwards took the degree of 'Docteur en Médecin.' For years he was the recognised leader of the reform party in Trinidad, and a most ardent worker in the cause of education. He acted as chairman of the Franchise Commission, and served on the Legislative Council of the island for many years. For three consecutive years he was Mayor of Port of Spain, and two of his sons are now members of the Colonial Legislative Council.

Miss Amy Castles, with her aunt, Miss M'Mahon (says the London correspondent of the *Sydney Freeman*), is now in Ireland. Miss Castles and Miss M'Mahon were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Crowe, of Queensland, at their charming residence, 'Wavertree,' Statham Hill, for the past month. During Miss Castles' stay in

London, she was invited by Madame Melba to her house, who subsequently gave up her box at the opera to the young Australian singer. Madame Melba pronounced the voice of Miss Castles as extremely beautiful. Sir Henry Parry was delighted with her voice, and spoke of its beauty and sympathy as well as its sweetness and power. All who met Miss Castles were charmed with her unassuming manner, gentleness, and suavity. Father Tierney, formerly of Randwick, but now of St. Albans, hospitably entertained a party, including Miss Castles, a few Sundays ago, and after dinner showed them round the fine Benedictine Abbey.

RELICS OF THE PASSION.

HERE is some information concerning the churches which possess the principal relics of the Passion (says an exchange).

The Wood of the Cross. The largest portions are in the basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem at Rome, and in the Cathedral of Paris.

The Title of the Cross. The tablet on which is the well-known inscription, I. N. R. I. (Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Judaeorum—Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews), is preserved in the basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem at Rome.

The Crown of Thorns. It forms part of the treasure of Our Lady of Paris, but is devoid of thorns, which have been granted to a great many churches. This relic, with the fragments of the cross, is borne in triumph by 12 canons or cures of Paris in the solemn procession which is held at 8 o'clock on Good Friday night in Notre Dame. The Church of St. Sernin, in Toulouse, has a fragment of the crown, which was given it by St. Louis, through his brother Alphonso, Count of Toulouse.

The Nails. One, history relates, was thrown by St. Helena into the Adriatic to calm a storm; the second is in the famous iron crown of the ancient Lombard kings (used by Napoleon I. in his coronations); the third is in the Church of Notre Dame in Paris.

The Sponge. It is at Rome in the basilica of St. John Lateran.

The Lance. The point is at Paris and the rest at Rome.

The Robe. It was given to the Church of Treves by St. Helena. It is known as the Holy Coat.

The Tunic. Charlemagne gave it to the monastery of Argenteuil, near Paris, where his sister was a nun. The Church of Argenteuil has the relic to this day.

The different pieces of the Winding-sheet. The largest is at Turin. The Church of Cadonin, Department of Dordogne, France, has the cloth in which the head was wrapped.

Rome has the linen with which Veronica wiped Christ's face.

The upper part of the pillar of the scourging is at Rome in the Church of St. Praxedes since 1223. The other part is at Jerusalem in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

TRIFLES CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

TRIFLES frequently change the course of history. Many of the outlying possessions of the British Empire were acquired by chance almost, certainly by taking advantage of trivial things.

Three hundred years ago the Dutch held the monopoly of all trade to Asia and India. Suddenly, in 1599, they raised the price of pepper from three to six shillings a pound.

This was more than Englishmen could stand. The worthy merchants of London met to protest against the 'unchristian price of pepper.' They did more than protest, for they determined to get their own pepper from India rather than yield to the Dutchmen's demands.

They formed a company called 'The Governor and Company of the Merchants of London Trading to the East Indies,' and subscribed a capital of £70,000. On the last day of 1600—nearly three centuries ago—Queen Elizabeth granted them a royal charter.

They opened a trade with India and got their pepper at a 'Christian price.' And they got more than pepper, for it was this company that gained a footing for the English in India.

Like all other centres in the Colony Christchurch is feeling the wave of prosperity, and as a result many new buildings have been recently erected. To keep pace with the times that old established hotel, Tattersall's, has been rebuilt and enlarged by its enterprising proprietor, Mr. P. Burke, the well-known caterer to the Canterbury A. and P. Association, the Canterbury Jockey Club, etc. The new hotel, which consists of two storeys, is a substantial brick building in the Italian style of architecture. The lower frontage is to be devoted to shops situated on either side of an entrance hall 8ft wide. The private bar opens from the entrance hall, and is very handsomely finished. A spacious, comfortable, and well-lighted dining room 45ft by 21ft, also opens off the vestibule. The lighting in the day time is by means of ceiling windows of arabesque glass. To the right of the entrance is the corridor leading to the spacious commercial and sitting-rooms, and the office. To the rear is the kitchen, fitted up in the latest style and with the most modern appliances. The upper storey, which is reached by a handsome staircase, 5ft wide, is devoted to three sitting-rooms, 18ft by 14ft, and 29 bedrooms, all well ventilated and splendidly lighted. Besides these there are bathrooms, lavatories, and the other conveniences to be found in a first-class and well-appointed hotel. The hotel will be lit by electricity, whilst the furnishings are excellent, and in keeping with the other appointments. Mr. Burke is to be congratulated on his enterprise, and there is little doubt, considering his reputation as a caterer and his popularity, but that he will be amply repaid for the large expenditure he has incurred by an increase of public patronage which is fully deserved.—*