

**Not Touting for an Alliance.**—The *Daily Chronicle*, commenting on Mr. Redmond's speech, says such an utterance makes any alliance with the Radicals impossible. The *Freeman* gives it its answer by asking what title the *Chronicle* has to speak for the Radicals, and by reminding it that alliances with the Irish Party have hitherto been made on the initiative of English parties. The Irish Party is not touting for any alliance.

**Sale of Irish Industries.**—The Duke of Westminster has given Lady Londonderry the use of Grosvenor Hall, London, for the St. Patrick's Day Sale of Irish Industries. It is expected that Lord and Lady Roberts will be secured to open the sale.

**Emigration During the Past Year.**—The emigration statistics for 1900 just published, show that the fatal drain on Ireland's population still maintains its outward flow with unabated volume. During the year no fewer than 45,918 emigrants left Ireland, this being 3012 more than in the previous year. About 90 per cent. went to the United States—41,839 to be exact; 1500 to Australia, 963 to Canada, 993 to South Africa, and 613 to sundry other points of destination.

**Prize Essays on the Sieges of Limerick and Derry.**—Early last year Mr. William Gibson, a member of the Goldsmiths' Co., Oxford street, London, offered two prizes of £50 and £25 for the best essays on the sieges of Derry and Limerick, the writers to be under 30 years of age. The Irish Literary Society, in whose hands the prizes were placed, nominated the late Lord Russell of Killowen and Mr. Lecky, M.P., as adjudicators. On the death of the former his place was taken by Mr. Justice Mathews. These gentlemen have had the essays under consideration for a considerable time, and their decision now announced is that the first prize of £50 goes to Mr. Henry Mangan, of Mayne road, Dublin; and the second, of £25, to Mr. Hugh A. Law, Marble-hill, Donegal; while Mr. Donnan, of Kircubbin, County Down, is highly commended. It is arranged that the successful competitors should read their essays at a future meeting of the Society.

**Music in Ireland.**—It is stated by the Rev. T. Donovan, C.M., in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* that the Irish National Education Board has appointed a head organiser and a number of assistants whose duties will be to introduce the teaching of music into the elementary schools, to form classes, to give teachers any instruction or help that may be necessary as to the best methods of teaching singing, and in general to afford all the assistance they can offer for the accomplishment of the end which the new rule of the Board has in view. Father Donovan is hopeful that this practical measure will do much to raise Irish musical culture from the wretchedly low state into which it has fallen.

**The Rev. Dr. Kolbe and the Irish People.**—The Rev. Dr. Kolbe, writing from South Africa to the *Freeman's Journal*, says: 'The people of South Africa owe a deep debt of gratitude to Ireland for its moral support during this unhappy war. You over there have been quick to perceive the analogy between our position and yours. Taught by bitter experience, you could not fail to recognise the cry of a throttled nationality. We had a moment of doubt when we realised what a bargain you might make for Ireland if you would only support the war party, but we need not have doubted Ireland. Be assured that you will never regret having espoused our cause. The real strength of the Empire lies in the freedom and the harmony of its constituent nations; its weakness lies in oppression and suppression. You are the pioneers of the true glory of the Empire to come; we follow humbly after. Sister Ireland! hands across the sea!'

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## People We Hear About.

A very remarkable figure at the recent meeting of the Irish Literary Society, in London, was Mr. W. Gibson, the son and heir of Lord Ashbourne. Two or three years ago he joined the Catholic Church, and he has become a strong Nationalist, so far, at least, as Irish literature, history, and antiquities are concerned. At this meeting he was dressed in the ancient national dress of Ireland, and he is learning to speak the Irish language. Lord Ashbourne, as a good old Tory, must be rather puzzled.

All of us know (says *M.A.P.*) that the Duke of Norfolk has vast wealth, is premier Duke of England, a K.G., and—to descend to bathos—was till lately Postmaster-General. But everyone may not realise the many privileges attached to his position. As Earl-Marshall he has entire control over the arrangements in Westminster Abbey at the time of a coronation or other public ceremonial, and all announcements as to detail are issued by him. By virtue of this office the Duke can, if he wish, claim the right to an escort of cavalry on any special occasion. He is also by birth Hereditary Chief Butler of England, and at a coronation is entitled to receive a drinking cup of pure gold.

The late Mr. Ignatius Donnelly was of Irish parentage. He visited Europe in 1888, making then a protracted stay in Fintona, County Tyrone, of which his father was a native. Mr. Donnelly had many claims to distinction besides those arising from his position as a Shakespearian commentator. He was something of a poet, the author of a number of prose volumes, and most of all a politician and orator. A lawyer by profession, he held many public offices in the United States, where he was familiarly known as Governor Donnelly, a term borrowed from an office he held in his resident State. His sister, Miss Eleanor C. Donnelly, is a poetess of more than American repute. She writes largely for the *Ave Maria*, and her work has the impress of a truly poetic imagination, a felicitous diction, and withal a mind thoroughly imbued with Christian sentiments and Catholic piety.

The obtaining of a 'research degres' at an English University by a French Father of the 'Missions Etrangères' of Paris, a missionary in British India, is an event as unique as it is remarkable. The Rev. Louis Froger, of Christ's College and St. Edmund's House, Cambridge, and a member of the above famous Missionary Society, was recently duly admitted B.A. at Cambridge as an 'advanced Research Student,' after due presentation and examination of his dissertation. The learned missionary had already successfully taken his M.A. degree at the London University last summer. He has now returned to teach in St. Joseph's College, Bangalore (Mysore), in which he was already teaching before going to England. Another of the staff, the Rev. Stephen Schmitt, took his London M.A. degree two years ago.

The distinguished Irish writer and journalist, John Augustus O'Shea, the 'Irish Bohemian,' who has fallen on evil days, gives a brief account of his career in a recent number of Mr. T. P. O'Connor's weekly. He says:—'I first saw the light in Nenagh, the capital of North Tipperary, somewhere about the forties. My memory of my father—the kindest and best of men—may be said to date from Maryborough, the capital town of Queen's County, in the precincts of the ancient Pale. We lived in Coburg Row, a pretentiously named street, opposite the school-house kept by "Jerry" Gorman, who had failed for a fellowship in Trinity College and was much respected by the gentry of the district. He taught me all the Latin and Greek he knew; his school was attended by Protestants, and I was the only Catholic there for a long period. My father was a journalist; indeed he was the "doyen" of Irish journalists, and my first effort in journalism was as a leader-writer. I wrote the opening article to a paper of which my uncle, Mr. Peter Gill, was proprietor, while I was at the Catholic University, but before I went to the University, when I was 15 years old, I wrote a sketch of the Great Heath race meeting, near Maryborough, of which Lord Waterford was the hero—Harry, "The Wild Marquis," afterwards killed in the hunting-field. Destined for the medical profession, I was applying myself seriously to it when a wave of excitement passed over Ireland on behalf of the Holy See, and, as I always had a banking for the military profession, thinking that Italy would give me the opportunity I desired to combine surgery with soldiering, I started one fine morning for that country. I joined the Irish battalion, declined a commission, and attained the rank of *Ferriere* after a couple of months. Included in the capitulation after the bombardment of Ancona, I thought it well to make my escape through the enemy's lines, and crossed the Appenines to Rome, where I had an audience of the late Pontiff, Pío Nono.' For several years Mr. O'Shea eked out an existence in London by adapting plays from novels and such like work. Later on we find him in Paris where he acted as correspondent for Irish and American newspapers. After a time he was appointed representative of the *London Standard*, and was the first to bring prominently before the English public the Ober-Ammergau Passion Play. He acted as correspondent for the same paper during the Franco-German war, and was in Paris during the siege. His subsequent work for the *Standard* included journeys 'to India to record the famines; to Ireland, once with the Prince of Wales and once with General Grant; to Canada with the Marquis of Lorne; to Egypt and to Cyprus with the then Sir Garnet Wolseley. I attended Dutch fêtes, a Swedish coronation, a Vienna exhibition, and a Carlist campaign.'

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