

Irish News

ANTRIM.—Bequests to Larne Churches.

The following are charitable bequests mentioned in the will of the late Mr. John Smiley Howden, of Ivermore, Larne:—To the seven churches of Larne, viz., First Larne Presbyterian Church, Gardenmore Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, Catholic Church, Congregational Church, Larne and Inver Parish Church, and old Presbyterian Meeting House, £500, to be divided in equal shares for the poor of each of the congregations; Larne and Inver Schools, £250; Larne District Nursing Society, £250; Larne Grammar School, £250.

DERRY.—No Catholics Need Apply.

Derry City Council (writes a correspondent), in selecting an executive sanitary officer recently, rejected the application of a Catholic, Mr. Michael McDaid, who sought the appointment. His qualifications admitted of no assault, but the majority of Derry Corporation did not argue the matter. It voted, and by 19 votes to 13 gave the appointment to an applicant of the Orange stripe. Though the Catholics of Derry are a majority of the community, not a single Catholic holds any office either under the Corporation or under any of the local public Boards.

Religious Pictures Banned.

Ulster Orangeism has rarely given such an evidence of its intolerance as that recently supplied by the Derry Guardians in refusing to accept a picture of Our Lord to be hung in the Workhouse Infirmary. The picture was an 'Ecce Homo,' and a counterpart of the copy which hung in the death chamber of Queen Victoria and on which the dying monarch is said in her last moments to have frequently turned her gaze. The gift was offered by Mrs. Morris, herself one of the Guardians, and apparently a Protestant. She designed the gift as a memorial of Queen Victoria, and explained how a similar picture had hung in the bedroom of the Queen. But not even that consideration could move the Orange Guardians of Derry. One of them (Mr. Hall) moved 'that no sectarian pictures be brought into this house.' Another (Mr. Shannon) said 'We don't want it here.' Some others less ingenious 'objected on principle.' Finally, when the vote was taken only about three of the Protestant Guardians were found willing to support the acceptance of the gift, for which the four Catholics on the Board also voted. Eighteen sturdy Orange Guardians rejected what they called 'the thin end of the wedge,' and so these people who pose as Christians rejected a picture of the thorn-crowned Christ.

DOWN.—The Fire Fiend

There were three outbreaks of fire in Newtownards during the first week in May. The third and most serious broke out in the building works of Mr. Hugh Borrow, North street, and, the flames spreading, damage was caused to the tune of nearly £3000. Only fire appliances of the most primitive kind were available.

Golden Jubilee of a Priest.

The Catholics of Downpatrick celebrated early in May the golden jubilee of the parish priest, the Very Rev. Patrick O'Kane, V.F., presenting the venerated jubilarian with a beautiful address and a marble statue of St. Patrick, which is to be placed in the memorial church dedicated to the national apostle. Writing with reference to the celebration the *Irish Weekly* says:—Never was there a priest more worthy of the love and confidence of his people, and it must be said for the Catholics of the historic parish that they have spared no efforts to make the celebration memorable and worthy of both pastor and people. Father O'Kane has the singular distinction of having spent the whole period of his sacred ministry amongst the people of Downpatrick. Half a century laboring with zeal for souls and for the glory of God in one parish is a lot that seldom falls to any priest. From this fact alone it may be easily understood that apart from his sacred office the ties that unite the pastor and his flock must be many and various. It is unnecessary to refer in detail to the enormous labors of Father O'Kane in the interests of religion and of education during his ministry.

DUBLIN.—Competing with Swedish Prison Labor.

The Dublin Lathmaker's Society would seem to have good ground of complaint in the fact that laths split in the prisons of Sweden are imported and used for building purposes, while the home-made hand-split lath is discarded. The Plasterers' Society have testified that the Dublin-made lath is much superior to the foreign article; but even outside this fact, why should the products of Swedish prisons be patronised, while workmen are idle about the streets? Sweden does not allow such articles as these to compete with those of free labor within her own borders; and surely the last place in which she should be able to find a market for them would be Ireland.

Fleeing the Poor.

During the hearing of a money-lending case in the King's Bench Division, Dublin, it transpired that certain philanthropists, conducting a loan bank in the Capital, charged interest at the rate of 2800 per cent. per annum.

A Bi-lingual Prospectus.

The Sun Fire Insurance Office, Dublin, taking note of the spread of the Irish language, has issued a neat little bi-lingual prospectus. Its issue in the Irish language will be appreciated by all who take an interest in the advancement of the Irish movement. The prospectus is the first of its kind ever put before the Irish public.

A Venerable Priest.

Congratulations from friends in all parts of the world poured in during the early part of last month on Canon O'Hanlon, of

Sandymount, on the celebration of his eightieth birthday. The Canon's admirers are to be found in all lands. He is one of the ablest and most assiduous of living Irish scholars. His work in writing the lives of Irish Saints is something with which only the erudite are fully acquainted. It has been a labor entailing vast research, and will prove of monumental value.

Death of a Journalist.

General regret was felt in the metropolis when the death was announced of Mr. Thomas Sherlock, President of the Court of Conscience, Dublin, and formerly editor of the *Weekly News* and *Young Ireland*. He was a man of very notable literary and musical skill. Mr. Sherlock was the author of several novels with a political moral.

Defective Sanitation.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Dublin Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, the Lord Lieutenant said it was an unfortunate fact that the sanitation of Ireland, and Dublin in particular, was not by any means what it ought to be. A great Congress was to be held in July, from which he hoped good and lasting results.

The Catholic Truth Society.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, the Most Rev. J. Healy, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Clonfert, president of the Society, occupied the chair. His Lordship informed the committee that the recent meeting of the archbishops and bishops of Ireland, held at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, had under its consideration the financial position of the Catholic Truth Society and the advantages that might accrue from an increase of working capital to promote its objects. On the statement of the president (the Most Rev. Dr. Healy) all the members of the Irish hierarchy present expressed their intention of subscribing £5 each towards the funds of the Society, independently of any previous pecuniary aid given by their Lordships. The bishops also authorised the issuing of a circular by the hon. secretaries of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland to the clergy and laity of the country in aid of the funds of the organisation. The members of the Executive Committee present expressed their deep thanks to Dr. Healy, and asked his Lordship to convey the recognition of their gratitude to the bishops of the several dioceses for the substantial proofs of patronage and approval bestowed by them on the Society's work.

The Feis Ceoil.

The Feis Ceoil, which commenced in Dublin on May 6, was the fifth festival organised by the Association, and it was encouraging to find that in point of number of competitors it marked a distinct success on its predecessors. The following were the prize winners: Soprano solo competition—Miss Kathleen Malone, Balbriggan, 1; Miss Lizzie Frost, Terenure, 2; Miss Florence O'Shea, Dublin, 3. Baritone solo—Mr. Raymond Victory, Dublin, 1; Mr. Robert C. Easdale, Belfast, 2; and Mr. W. Mordaunt Grant, Dublin, 3. Contralto solo—Miss Etta F. Gibson, Dublin, 1; Miss Lily Dempsey, Dublin, 2; Miss Agnes O'Higgins, Dublin, 3. Pianoforte solo—Miss L. Sandale, Dublin, 1; Miss Nora Eveline Carty, Sandymount, and Miss Edith D. French, Dublin, being equal, were awarded two second prizes. Violin solo—Miss Helen Irvine, Dublin, 1; Miss Winifred Ward, Dublin, 2. In the tenor solo competition Mr. J. M. Anderson, Belfast, took first place; Mr. A. J. Boylan, Dublin, second; and Mr. Andrew M. Tyrrell, Dublin, third.

KERRY.—Mackerel Fishing.

It is reported from Tralee that the season for mackerel fishing had been most successful. On one morning in the early part of last month the steam drifters had average takes of about 9000, which sold at 12s per hundred. Much indignation was expressed at the failure of the Great Western Company to provide proper facilities for the transit of fish from Waterford to Milford.

KING'S COUNTY.—Death of a Priest.

The parish priest of Lusmagh, Birr, the Rev. P. J. Walsh, V.F., passed away on May 4 at the comparatively early age of 53. A native of Athenry, he received his education at Galway, and subsequently at Maynooth.

LIMERICK.—Change of Rectors.

The term of office of the Very Rev. Father O'Laverty, C.S.S.R., as Rector of Mount St. Alphonsus, Limerick, having expired, the Very Rev. Father McNamara, C.S.S.R., has been appointed to succeed him. Father McNamara, who is a native of Limerick, is a ripe scholar, an eloquent preacher, and a great patron of the Gaelic language, which he speaks fluently. Father O'Laverty had endeared himself to the people of Limerick.

The Public Hospitals.

The Limerick hospitals being much in debt, it has been decided to hold an annual Hospital Saturday to relieve the institutions of their present incumbrances.

A Question of Surcharges.

At a recent meeting of the Limerick County Council the chairman, Mr. T. B. Mitchell, presiding, an important point was raised with regard to the question of accepting tenders other than the lowest. The Local Government Board auditor, Mr. Courtney Croker, in his half-yearly audit, pointed out that tenders for the county printing were received from two firms—Messrs. Quinnell, Tralee, at £375, and Messrs. M'Kern, Limerick, at £385, the latter being accepted. This action had caused an increased expenditure of £10, and the Councillors signing the cheques had on the half-year been surcharged £5. Mr. R. Coll, J.P., and other members looked on the course taken as the most economical one for the county, and the secretary added that if the Tralee contract was accepted an additional expenditure of some £50 would be entailed on the rates owing to the difficulty and delay in having to send the clerical work