

## Irish News.

### ARMAGH.—A Contrast.

The disgraceful and bigoted proceedings which have taken place at the meeting of the Armagh Board of Guardians during the past year, first in connection with the nursing question, and latterly in connection with the Catholic Catechist question (says the 'Irish Weekly'), have been instrumental in drawing down upon that so-called 'model' Board the indignation of all fair-minded men who take an interest in such matters, and in visiting the Board with well-merited opprobrium. The Protestant members of the Board, who are in the majority, have, in the most relentless fashion, exercised their power in no uncertain fashion, where fair and just Catholic interests have been at stake, and the following extract from a letter which has been received by Rev. Michael Quinn, Adm., Armagh, Chaplain of the Armagh Workhouse, from 'A Resident of Clogheen, County Tipperary,' should prove an object lesson in tolerance to the Protestant bigots of the Northern Board, showing clearly as it does the contrast between their conduct and that of the Catholic guardians who exercise the majority on a Southern Board:—Having seen a report of a recent meeting of the Armagh Board of Guardians, I wish to contrast their action with a Nationalist Board, the Clogheen Guardians. The chairman here, who is a magistrate, is a Catholic, and all the guardians are likewise Catholics. The inmates are all of the same creed, and so are the officials, with one exception—viz., the matron, Mrs. S. Steele, who is a Scotchwoman and a Presbyterian. She has been here for the past thirty years. On the death, just 22 years ago, of her husband, who was a Protestant, the matron had to resign her office by regulation, and was unanimously re-elected again. Her brother-in-law, Mr. R. Steele, had been for many years master of Cork Union, and had also previously been master of Clogheen Union, although a non-Catholic. The late clerk of the union, a Protestant also, had been many years in office. A Protestant inmate here may be said to be as rare as a "white blackbird," and yet the Protestant clergyman has a stipend from the rates. There is the toleration of gallant Tipperary and Rebel Cork for you. It should put to shame the local legislators of the Armagh boardroom.'

### CORK.—Death of a Centenarian.

A well-known centenarian in Kanturk has passed away in the person of Mr. Patrick Aherne, of Watergate street. The deceased lived with his niece (Mrs. Timothy Buckley) and up to the time of his last illness was never known to invoke the aid of spectacles in reading. He was a very bright and enlightened old man, and until very recently was fairly active in mind and body. He reached the patriarchal age of 103 years.

### DOWN.—Plain Speaking.

Some time ago Mr. T. W. Russell, whilst delivering a speech in favor of land purchase at Dromore, was seriously assaulted by an organised band of Orange rowdies. Mr. Russell drew the attention of the Castle authorities to the fact that no provision had been made by the police authorities to prevent the disturbance, although they had notice that an attack would be made on the meeting. The Under-Secretary, Sir A. McDonnell, in reply, said that the police did not anticipate any disturbance, and that every effort would be made to bring the offenders to justice. To this communication Mr. Russell sent a trenchant reply, the concluding paragraphs of which were as follows:—'You state that "every exertion is being made to bring the offenders to justice, and that the Law Officers of the Crown are now considering the sufficiency of the evidence to support a prosecution." You will not expect me, after what has happened, to rely very much upon the "exertions" of the Dromore police—and, after their recent exploits in another field, the public who are interested in this matter will probably have as little confidence as I have myself in the "consideration" of the Law Officers of the Crown. The truth is that the offenders are as well known in Dromore as I am in Dublin. Had I been a landlord—had the meeting been a landlords' meeting—had the rowdies been Nationalists—there would have been no lack of police: the heads of the rioters, not mine, would have been broken. Within a month the whole of the offenders would have been before a Crimes Court, and failing Edward the Seventh, Edward the Third would have made a conviction secure. The last paragraph but one of your letter adds insult to the injury received. If you imagine that the farmers of Ulster and their friends—and combined they count seven-tenths of the population—are going to beg for police protection you are mistaken. I shall give you no notice of my movements. We shall in future protect ourselves. I hope to resume my meetings in January. You have taken pains to show the rowdy element in the population that they can proceed with their rowdysm with perfect impunity, and that the Government will keep a ring for them whilst they break the heads of peaceable citizens. But I warn you that on the next occasion we shall do our own protection work. In conclusion, you will permit me to say with what pain I see your name attached to a document full of statements which you doubtless believe to be true, but which I know to be untrue, and which is worthy of Dublin Castle at its very worst.'

### DUBLIN.—Housing the Poor.

At a recent meeting of the Dublin Corporation a scheme was approved of for erecting on a cleared area

at Montgomery street houses that will accommodate 2500 of the very poor, at rents suitable to their means.

### The Holy Father and the Corporation

Cardinal Rampolla's letter to the Lord Mayor in special acknowledgment of the Corporation address to the Sovereign Pontiff, is evidence (says the 'Freeman's Journal') of how much the action of the representative local Councils has been appreciated at the Vatican. The unanimous and general character of those resolutions of congratulation, participated in as they were by several Protestant gentlemen, has evidently touched the heart of the aged Pope. Their representative character, too, was appreciated by a Pope whose Pontificate has had few consolations from the hands of Democratic authorities and Governments. Not, indeed, that even in Italy local sentiment and genuine popular representation has not many times overcome the organised hostility of the enemies of the Spiritual Power. Many an Italian city sympathises with Dublin and the other Irish cities in their action. But the extent of the Irish demonstration was such as no other country could furnish, and both the Pope and his statesmanlike Foreign Secretary have evidently been specially gratified by so unique an act of congratulation to Pope Leo XIII.

### The Mayoralty.

The following item was cabled out last week: 'Mr. T. Harrington, whose re-election as Lord Mayor of Dublin was opposed by the United Irish League, was elected for a third term of office by 43 to 28.' The intention of the cable agent is to show that the United Irish League has lost its influence in Dublin. The following paragraph taken from the 'Weekly Freeman,' December 20, shows that Mr. Harrington had the support of the League in his candidature: Following a meeting of the executive of the United Irish League held on last Monday evening, a deputation, consisting of Alderman Hennessy, Councillor White, M.P., Mr. P. M'Arde, Mr. Cole, and Mr. J. D. Nugent, waited on Alderman Dowd to see if he had considered the resolution forwarded by the executive asking him to retire in favor of the present occupant of the chair, urging as their claim that a feeling existed in the city, owing to political developments, that he should defer his claim until some future occasion. Alderman Dowd, in company with Alderman Doyle, Councillors Cox and Clark, Mr. J. T. Duignan, and Mr. M. Durham, received the deputation. After hearing their views, he stated it was his intention to stand by the selection made by the Municipal Council, and seek election in January next, relying on the support extended to him on his nomination.

### Early Printing.

Unusual interest was taken in the sale at Southby's Rooms, London, recently of three of Shakespeare's plays, printed in Dublin in 1721. They were 'Julius Caesar,' 'Othello,' and 'The Tempest'—tiny volumes without boards, and were probably the first of a proposed series. An interesting point in connection with the volumes was that hitherto biographers have always regarded the 'unique' 'Tempest' of Shakespeare, printed in Dublin in 1725, as the first of his plays printed in Ireland, but the dates of the three volumes mentioned prove their priority. It is also interesting to note that Shakespeare's plays, as represented by the three volumes, were printed in Ireland ten years before any were printed in Scotland. There was an opening bid of £100, and at £355 the lot was knocked down to one of the leading booksellers in London. Dealers, who were present in large numbers at the sale, admitted that it was the most notable for many years.

### Death of a Prelate.

The Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock died at All Hallows' College on Saturday, December 13. Dr. Woodlock had in 1895 retired from the See of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise and withdrawn to the privacy of the great college, which he so largely helped to found 60 years ago. His Lordship was born on March 30, 1819, in the city of Dublin, and received his early education in the famous College of Clongowes. In 1836, being then in his seventeenth year, the young student proceeded to Rome to begin his ecclesiastical studies, entered the diocesan college known as the Apollinaria, but with the intention of later on returning to his own diocese. In Rome he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and in 1841 was ordained priest. The following year he returned to Dublin, and after a few months on the mission joined Father Hand in the foundation of All Hallows' in November, 1842, and where now, after the lapse of 60 years, he has brought his life of saintly labors to a close. Four years later Father Hand died, and at his special dying request Father Woodlock, then in his twenty-seventh year, was appointed Vice-President of the college. Eight years later Father Woodlock was selected for the office of President, and that position he filled with credit to himself and benefit to the college till 1861, when, at the invitation of the Irish Hierarchy, he accepted the Rectorship of the Catholic University, in succession to Dr. Newman. For many years he most successfully guided the destinies of the Catholic University, and showed rare tact, ability, and foresight in dealing with situations where the exercise of these qualities was specially called for. He was always an ardent advocate of the right of Catholics to equality with their fellow Protestants in the matter of higher education. In 1879 Father Woodlock was called to the higher dignity of the episcopate, being appointed to the historic See of Longford, and consecrated in Rome by the Pope himself. For many years he directed the spiritual destinies of the people of his diocese, and endeared himself to them by the saintliness of his life and the sympathetic tenderness of