

Irish News

ANTRIM.—'Religious' Meetings in Belfast

It is worth while for the Protestants of Liverpool (says the 'Catholic Times') who have been supporting religious meetings of a rowdy tendency and listening to fiery utterances by North of Ireland preachers to consider whether they are not helping, so far as they can, to bring about such a state of affairs as exists in Belfast. There the religious orators of the Custom House steps, finding that Catholics take no notice of them, are fighting furiously amongst themselves. Two parties are contending—the Sloanites and the Trewites. Last week, Mr. Trew was fined for having hit a youth of 16 on the head with a stick, and from the evidence given during the proceedings at the police court it appears that not only are blows interchanged amongst the more combative members of the parties, but foul language is freely used. The magistrates who heard the case declared that they had at first felt inclined to send Mr. Trew to gaol without the option of a fine, for it was necessary in the interests of the city to put a stop to the disputes that are kept up in the name of religion. Instead of being benefited, religion was damaged, and it was the opinion of the magistrates that the meetings were a disgrace to the city.

CORK.—The 'Skibbereen Eagle'

Mr. F. P. E. Potter, of Skibbereen, County Cork, who has filled the editor's chair longer than any Irish journalist, having been editor of his own paper, 'The Cork County Eagle,' since he established it in 1857, has been appointed by Lord Ashbourne to the commission of the peace for County Cork. Mr. Potter was one of the first to take up the work of organisation among Irish journalists, who had an association of their own before the establishment of the Institute of Journalists. Mr. Potter, in the lifetime of the late Mr. Henry George, was his friend, and one of his warmest supporters in Ireland.

DOWN.—The Late Lord Russell

Mr. J. W. Swynnton has completed his marble bust of the late Lord Russell of Killowen, which is to be presented to the deceased lawyer's native town of Newry, where it is to be unveiled shortly. The cost of the memorial is to be borne out of the surplus in hand after paying for the national monument to Lord Russell at the Law Courts.

Social Work

Through the unremitting energy of the parish priest, Very Rev. H. Magorian, V.F., and Rev. William Kelly, a splendid hall and recreation rooms have recently been erected in Portaferry, and should prove a great benefit to the people of that neighborhood.

DUBLIN.—A Memorial

A splendid memorial cross has been erected over the grave of the late Dr. J. E. Kenny in Glasnevin Cemetery. It was unveiled by Mr. John Redmond, M.P.

A Successful Bazaar

At the final meeting of the Juverna bazaar Executive Committee the balance sheet was presented, showing that the gross result of the bazaar and drawing of prizes was £23,130 2s 6d, and after the payment of all expenses a net result of £18,015 8s 7d remained. The Committee passed a resolution of thanks to the people in Ireland and all over the world who had contributed to raise so substantial an amount. Congratulations are due in turn to the members of your committee and all the workers, especially to the Rev. Brother Hennessy, the Chairman, and Mr. William Hogg, the Hon. Sec., both of whom labored incessantly for many months in the organisation of the fete and drawing. The sum of £50,000 is required for the new Novitiate and Training College now being erected for the Christian Brothers at Marino, and the receipt of £18,000 from Juverna towards that amount will be doubly welcome to the great Order of educationists, as a lessening of an unavoidable monetary incubus, and as a proof of the confidence and admiration of the Irish people at home and abroad. The Christian Brothers (says the 'Freeman's Journal') pride themselves upon their reliance on voluntary contributions, which gives freedom from red-tape and liberty to pursue their own educational ideals. The success of Juverna is a proof that this reliance has a solid foundation.

The Book-buying Public

Apropos of a statement in the London 'Daily Chronicle,' that Dublin has the smallest sale of books of any city of its size in the United Kingdom Mr. Clement Shorter has the following remarks in the 'Sphere':—I have been rather struck on visiting that city to observe the number of shops for the sale of new books that are to be found in the immediate vicinity of

Trinity College. It may be admitted that the books in the windows of these shops reflect very little credit in Dublin. They are very much the same type of so-called 'literature' as obtains in the bookshops of London, of Manchester, and of Leeds. Nevertheless, Dublin is really a great book buying community in proportion to its wealth. It is not rich, it buys cheap books, and it has a very natural predilection for books that deal with its own particular literary interests. Now, from the point of view of intellectual progress, which is the only concern of any real lover of literature, it is far more important to know that Dublin buys 1000 copies of a little book issued by Duffy or Gill at 6d, treating of old-world legend or modern poetic impulse than that some English city or town buys 500 copies of one of the silly novels of the hour. Of course, to the statement in the 'Daily Chronicle,' that a certain world-famed encyclopedia does not sell as well in Dublin as in the cities of England and Scotland, there is nothing to be said. If Dublin prefers poetry to encyclopedias, is Dublin the worse for that?

GALWAY.—Reckless Charges

The reckless charges made against the Galway County Council at the recent meeting of the Midland Great Western Railway Company by Archdeacon Daly, a Protestant clergyman (says a Dublin correspondent), have been completely refuted by Mr. Glynn, chairman of the maligned body. As a set-off against the ostracism of Catholics practised by the company, Mr. Daly asserted that not a single Protestant had been appointed to any position in the gift of the County Council since it came into office. This is not only contrary to fact, but, judging from Mr. Glynn's detailed statement, the Galway County Council, Catholic as it is, has outstepped beyond the limits of liberality. The selection of clerks was left in the hands of the secretary, himself a Protestant. The principal offices in the gift of the Council are held by non-Catholics, who draw £1002 in salaries, as compared with £562 drawn by Catholics. Unfortunately there is no reciprocity whatever shown by the Protestants. Wherever Protestants are in power in Ireland the motto is 'No Catholic need apply.' The facts are so notorious that they are not denied. The standing excuse is that 'no inquiry is made as to the religion of applicants for employment.' Would it were so. Catholics would be perfectly contented with such an arrangement. They require only a fair field and no favor. The religious test, however, is as fully in force as if printed over the door in every case in which an appointment worth having is in the gift of Protestants, notwithstanding the toleration displayed by Catholic bodies like the Dublin Corporation or the Galway County Council.

KERRY.—An Enthusiastic Reception

The reception accorded to the Rev. Arthur Murphy, P.P. of Brosna, by the people of Castleisland and Brosna as he travelled to the latter place for the purpose of taking up the pastoral charge left vacant by the death of Father Neligan affords (says the 'Cork Examiner') a striking instance of the indissoluble ties of affection, veneration, and abiding love which exist between the priests and people of Ireland. When it became known in Castleisland that the rev. gentleman was to pass through the town on his way to the scene of his future spiritual labors, the people turned out en masse, and accorded him a cead mile failte of such an inspiring and enthusiastic character as he will have occasion to remember during the rest of his life.

TYRONE.—Consecration of a Cemetery

On Sunday, August 23, a new Catholic cemetery for Newtownstewart parish, County Tyrone, was solemnly consecrated by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Doherty, Bishop of the diocese of Derry, assisted by the Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn, and the Right Rev. Dr. Whiteside, Bishop of Liverpool. A large number of priests from the diocese of Derry and the adjoining dioceses was present. The preacher was Rev. John Doherty, P.P., Carndonagh, a pulpit orator of notable repute, whose discourse made a profound impression on the vast congregation present.

GENERAL

Agricultural Prospects

Not since 1879 (writes a Dublin correspondent towards the end of August) has the agricultural outlook seemed so gloomy as it does just now. Owing to destructive rains which have prevailed throughout the summer and the inclement state of the weather generally, the harvest is irretrievably damaged, and no amount of fine weather can now save it. From Antrim to Cork the same sad story is told. The potato crop, the staple food of the small farmer, has suffered most of all.

Against Emigration

The Anti-Emigration Society is most unquestionably doing good work by distributing broadcast information

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