

People We Hear About

A recent message reports the death of the Right Rev. John Tohill, Bishop of Down and Connor, who succeeded the late Bishop Henry, and was consecrated on September 20, 1908. His diocese included Belfast, the centre of the Ulster trouble, and he exercised great influence with the Nationalists of Ulster—an influence always exercised in the interests of peace.

In the person of Lord Skerrington Scotland possesses its first Catholic judge since the 'Reformation.' He is what is known as a Lord of Session, and, like his father-in-law, Patrick Fraser, is also a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland. Born in 1855, and educated at Edinburgh Academy and University, he soon attained an enviable position at the Scottish Bar, and in 1905 became Dean of Faculty of Advocates at the latter institution. He ascended the Bench with the judicial title of Lord Skerrington in 1908. His family name is Campbell. He is a zealous Catholic.

The engagement of Lady Beaumont to the Hon. Bernard Fitzalan-Howard heralds a union between two of the oldest families in the country (says the special London correspondent of the *Advertiser*). Lady Beaumont, now in her twentieth year, has been a peeress in her own right since the age of two, when the title, which fell into abeyance on the death of her father, was continued by Queen Victoria. The Beaumonts are one of the oldest Roman Catholic families in England. The first baron, Henry de Beaumont, supposed, according to *Debrett's Peerage*, to have been a grandson of John de Brienne, last King of Jerusalem, came to England in the time of Edward I., by whom he was made King of the Isle of Man. The Hon. Bernard Fitzalan-Howard is heir to Lord Howard of Glossop, whose father was a brother of the fourteenth Duke of Norfolk. He is 29.

Mrs. Donovan, a writer better known under her pen name, 'Grace Keon,' was born October 23, 1873, in New York City. Her father was William Wallace, her mother Anna Keon—the first a native of County Roscommon, the second of County Fermanagh, Ireland. Their daughter, the eldest of eight children, was baptized Mary Grace—hence the origin of the pen name. Of her early training there is very little to say. Delicate of constitution, constant attacks of illness made her education a desultory one, dependent, to a large extent, on incessant attention from her parents. The father was an ardent lover and student of English literature, his favorite author being, of course, the great Bard of Avon. Her mother, too, found her greatest pleasure in books. So story-telling and reading aloud, with short lessons in the elementary studies, constituted the girl's education for the first twelve years of her life, and no other method could have better prepared her for the work of the future. As soon as her health permitted she began to study under private teachers, but her father's death at this period undermined many ambitious plans, and indeed changed, humanly speaking, the whole course of existence for his children. 'Grace Keon' has been before the public since 1905, and in that time has published three volumes: *The Ruler of the Kingdom*, a collection of short stories, *Not a Judgment*, and *When Love is Strong*. She has also contributed prose and some verse to all the Catholic magazines. She is a slow worker, but painstaking, and when a manuscript leaves her hands she likes to feel that it is as nearly perfect as she can make it.

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Intercolonial

The Julius Knight Company generously gave a dramatic performance in His Majesty's Theatre, Perth, recently (says the *Freeman's Journal*) in aid of the proposed Foundling Home. The net profit of the proceedings amounted to £154 5s 9d. The new home, which is to be under the management of the Sisters of Mercy, is to cost £4000.

His Lordship Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn, laid the foundation stone of the De La Salle Training College at Cootamundra on June 25 (says the *Southern Cross*). His Lordship very generously contributed £300 towards the building, as he has great admiration for the Brothers and for their founder, St. John Baptist de la Salle. By far the greatest part of the expense is being borne by the progressive parish priest of Cootamundra, the Very Rev. Terence O'Shaughnessy. He is contributing £1000 in cash, he has given the site—which is worth another thousand—and he is donating the bricks.

On Sunday, July 5 (says the *Freeman's Journal*), his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Melbourne delivered a strong speech on the Catholic educational question at the blessing and opening of the fine new girls' Catholic school, which has been erected at a cost of over £6000, and with the land is worth £10,000. His Grace said that the question that Catholic electors had to consider in the coming State elections was not whether a candidate was a member of the Liberal party or of the Labor party, but whether he was prepared to give a fair share of the public educational expenditure for Catholic schools. If he were not prepared to answer this question in the affirmative, then they should not vote for him. The Archbishop, in advocating this attitude, dwelt on the financial disabilities that the Catholic people were under in having to support their own schools, and having, in addition to this, to contribute their full share towards the support of the State school system.

In connection with the will of the late Mr. John Maurice Toohy, of Wairoonga, son of the late Mr. J. T. Toohy, M.L.C. (says the *Catholic Press*), the testator, who died at St. Remo, Italy, in addition to specific bequests of relatives and others, bequeathed £500 to the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary at Lewisham, and £100 each to the Mother Rectress of St. Vincent's Hospital, the Mother Superior of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick, the Catholic church at Waitara, the Catholic church at Pymble, and the Waitara Foundling Hospital, which is conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. He directed that after the death of Katherine Egan, of Wairoonga, who was one of the principal beneficiaries under his will, the estate was to be realised, and after the payment of certain legacies to relatives, the residue of the proceeds of realisation was to be divided into 40 equal parts, 20 of which were bequeathed to the Mother Superior of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary at Lewisham; four to the Waitara Foundling Hospital; two to St. Ignatius' College, Riverview; one to the Rev. Father Pigott, S.J., of St. Ignatius' College, to be used by him for scientific purposes; two to the president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to be used for the purposes of the society in the metropolitan area; two to the Westmead Boys' Home; two to the Hospice for the Dying in connection with St. Vincent's Hospital; one to the Little Sisters of the Poor at Randwick; one to the Sisters of St. Joseph's Orphanage, Kincumber; one to the Sisters at St. Martha's, Leichhardt; two to the Marist Fathers at St. Patrick's Church, Church Hill; and two to the Franciscan Fathers at St. Joseph's Church at Woolahra, for the benefit of St. Joseph's.

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