

IRISH NEWS

GENERAL.

The death has taken place at Limerick of John Cussen, a laborer, at the age of 105 years.

The *Southern Star*, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, has re-appeared after a suspension of over 30 weeks. For anything it has done to help to secure the independence of the country, it says, it is unrepentant.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to present to the Corporation of Limerick a portrait of the great soldier, Marshal MacMahon. The MacMahon family went to France from Limerick Co. about 1750.

Anniversary Masses for the late John Redmond were celebrated in many churches in Ireland. A demonstration was held at Wexford at which Mr. Joseph Devlin was the principal speaker. Mr. Dillon, through illness, was unable to be present.

Seventeen persons were fined at Queenstown for collecting for the Irish Language Fund, without a military permit, on St. Patrick's Day. One of the magistrates described the cases as vexatious and frivolous. Similar fines were imposed in Charleville for the same offence.

The Irish Newspaper Society, which represents every shade of political opinion in Ireland, has adopted the following resolution:—"That it is the opinion of the Irish Newspaper Society that the Press Censorship in Ireland should be terminated concurrently with the abolition of the censorship in England.

As a result of the recent wholesale gaol-breaking by the Sinn Fein prisoners both in England and in Ireland, the Lord Lieutenant has set up a Commission of Inquiry. Mr. Justice Kenny is chairman; Major Briscoe, Commissioner of Prisons in England, and Mr. McGann, a former Governor of Irish prisons, are the other members. The commission will enquire as to the escape of prisoners from H.M. gaols in Cork and Dublin; the aiders and abettors, if any; the precautions necessary to prevent future escapes; provisions as to amelioration of the condition of prisoners, etc.

In an article on the Irish Censorship the *Manchester Guardian* says it will probably be information to most people that a censorship exists on news to and from Ireland. The authorities may pretend there is some justification, but there can be no sufficient justification. Perhaps the idea is that feeling in Ireland would be further inflamed by full uncensored reports, or perhaps it is thought that while England is engaged in settling the affairs of half the world, it would be better to push the Irish skeleton back into its cupboard whenever it peeps out. Whatever the motive, the policy is futile, wrong, and dangerous. The position is too grave, the explosive matter too near ignition point to make suppression tolerable.

QUEENSTOWN CATHEDRAL.

It was announced by Most Rev. Dr. Browne, in his Lenten Pastoral, that the Cathedral of Queenstown, diocese of Cloyne, now completed, would be consecrated next August, and he re-told its history since the building was first conceived by Most Rev. Dr. Keane, in 1860.

In the first 10 years the Queenstown fund reached £15,000, and when Dr. Keane died in 1874 the expenditure amounted to over £20,486. Most Rev. Dr. Mc-

Carthy then took up the work energetically during his 19 years' episcopacy, and the Cathedral was opened for Divine worship in June, 1879. Up to 1892 the whole outlay exceeded £100,000. Dr. McCarthy got £15,000 from the clergy, £30,000 from the laity of the diocese, £14,000 from Irishmen abroad, £7000 from other Irish dioceses, £8600 from legacies, and £8000 as a result of a further appeal to the diocese.

Dr. Browne then related his share in the work, which involved a further cost from 1895 to 1901 of £36,961, and finally the completion of the tower and spire for £19,660, half of which was contributed by the Bishop and clergy of the diocese, and half by the laity, the outlay since 1895 being over £83,000, which was secured in the same way as before—£7628 from the United States, £12,555 from bequests and donations, £3277 from outside Irish dioceses, and the balance from the diocesan clergy and laity.

WAR ON CHILDREN.

The British operations in Ireland, having been extended from the men to the women, have now been extended from the women to the children (says *An Saoghal Gaedhealach* of March 1, as passed by censor). A few days ago a boy of 11 was kidnaped from his home in Tipperary by the police, was taken to Dublin under a strong armed escort, and has not since been heard of. His parents have been refused all information, and the *Independent* was informed by "a leading detective" that "it would not be in the public interest to give away the address of the lad." We know that public interest. There were people in this country who were horror-struck at what they called the "kidnapping" of French and Belgian children by the Germans, although for that kidnapping they had no evidence except English inspired reports. Here is a case of kidnapping in Ireland, an authenticated case, a political kidnapping on all fours with the alleged kidnappings in Belgium and in France. Yet we have observed in them no horror at the crime: nor has there been even a paragraph in the *Irish Times*.

One can get accustomed to almost anything. In the four and a-half years since British Government in Ireland began to show itself clearly as the brutality it is, outrage has been piled on outrage, so rapidly that one hardly gets time to keep pace with them. And most of us have got so accustomed to living in the perpetual shadow of the armed escort, the court-martial, and the prison, that these things have entered into the consciousness of all of us as one of the normal things of life. It is difficult now to remember any life in which things were more free, in which British repression in Ireland was carried on within the limits of civil government and was consequently somewhat hampered in its operations. The spirit of materialism, of jobbery, invaded all Irish life, and men began to fear, to fear lest they lost their jobs, to fear lest they went to prison, to fear lest they ceased to be comfortable. As a cynical dramatist put it some eight or nine years ago, "Who the hell cares about liberty?" Not many, then; but out of the travail of the few has come to the many the old passion for liberty. But here is a totally new development. Here is a child of 11 years old, of a nervous disposition, at an age when a child needs everything which in prison he will not get, dragged away from his parents, from his home, "under strongly armed escort," last seen at Limerick Junction Station crying bitterly.

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