

of the Gaelic League. The college has had another very successful year in the public examinations, being second of all the Irish Catholic colleges in its total of exhibitions and medals. It was the only college or school in the country that won first place in three grades—Classics, Science, and Modern Literature. Another feature of the successes achieved in 1909 is the remarkable number of prizes (no fewer than eight) won for excellence in composition in the different languages. A new wing has recently been added to the college at a cost of £5000, and another addition is in course of erection.

WATERFORD—Death of a Prominent Citizen

The death is reported of Mr. Wm. J. Kenny, son of the late Mr. Patrick Kenny, Kingsmeadow House, Waterford, and brother of the late Mr. P. W. Kenny, Kingsmeadow, one of the most prominent public men in the city and county. The deceased filled the office of English Consul-General at Tokio, Japan, and was subsequently promoted to the Consul-Generalship of the Philippine Islands. Deceased retired some time ago owing to ill-health, and came back to Waterford, where he resided for a short time, and whence he proceeded to London. Deceased was a barrister of the Inner Temple, London, and a member of the Royal Geographical Society.

GENERAL

An Unfair Regulation

The *Freeman's Journal* in a leading article calls attention to the unfairness of one of the regulations for taking the census in Ireland. It appears that it has been the practice in Ireland to calculate the percentage of illiterates by counting as illiterate every child who happened to be five years of age on the day of the census, and who on that day was unable to read or write. A moment's consideration will suggest that it is not just to swell the record of illiteracy by including in it children of such a low age. A boy or a girl who is unable to read or write at the age of six or seven may afterwards become a very valuable literary asset to the public, and to set down boys and girls of that age in the census as illiterates is practically to misrepresent the state of the people educationally. It is said that figures can be quoted to favor any argument or conclusion whatsoever. It is certain that in a number of cases they have been wrongly employed to tell against Catholic countries, and it behoves Catholics to see that in cases of the kind a right use is made of them.

A New Union

For some time past a movement has been on foot to form a union of the Irish priests who studied in Rome. A provisional committee, consisting chiefly of some of the senior priests from different parts of Ireland, is making the necessary arrangements. The union will be called the Venerable Oliver Plunket Union, in honor of the martyr, who was a student of the old Irish College, Rome, and for many years a professor in the Roman Propaganda.

Ulster Tories and Tolerance

The treatment (says the *Edinburgh Catholic Herald*) which Tories mete out to those who differ from them is notorious. They are excellent boycotters and do their work thoroughly. Another case has come to light in the discussions at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Belfast, when complaints were made of the harsh treatment of a Mr. Bailey, whose offence was that he took the Liberal side in politics at the General Election in 1906. Mr. Bailey was subjected to intolerable annoyance, and eventually was suspended from his eldership. It is admitted by all that Mr. Bailey was an upright man, and that the only objection his persecutors could have to him was political.

The Parliamentary Fund

This week (says the *Freeman's Journal* of June 25) the Irish Parliamentary Fund reaches the fine total of £9043. So prompt and generous a response to the appeal of the Trustees has not been made for many years past. The country has already given a crushing reply to the suggestion that the Party had forfeited the confidence of the people. There is one significant item in the list published to-day. Through the Rev. M. B. Kennedy, the priests and people of Fermoy parish have forwarded a sum of £81. It is their effective comment on the absurd pretension that the constituency from which Mr. William Abraham, M.P., was ousted at the last election can be regarded as a stronghold of Factionism. Rarely, if ever, have the priests and people of Fermoy rallied more generously to the support of a pledge-bound party.

Primary Education

At the annual meeting of the Central Council of the Catholic Clerical Managers of National Schools, held in Dublin, the Right Rev. Mgr. Murphy, D.D., V.G., P.P., in the chair, resolutions dealing with the treatment accorded to primary education in Ireland were unanimously adopted. In acknowledging the valuable work done by the *Irish Educational Review*, the managers draw attention to the current issue of that journal, in which it is shown that in the next annual grant Scotland will receive for the purposes of primary education £407,952 more than Ireland, and while £100,000 will be provided for the building of training colleges in England, not a penny will be given to the managers of Irish provincial training colleges.

People We Hear About

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bryan were the guests of Nationalist members of the House of Commons on June 15.

Amongst those called to the Irish Bar recently was Mr. William Archer Redmond, B.A., of the Royal University. Mr. Redmond is the only son of Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., the Irish leader.

Mr. J. D. Phelan, ex-Mayor of San Francisco, visited the House of Commons on June 20 and had a seat in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery, where he was accompanied by Mr. P. O'Brien, M.P.

Archbishop Dentenwill, Superior-General of the Oblates, is the first English-speaking Superior-General ever elected by the Order. He is in the prime of life, of rare attainments, and engaging manners.

The King of Portugal has signified his acceptance of an oak sapling offered to him by Mr. Henry Lumsden, of Worcester. It was grown from an acorn found in a pheasant shot by King Manoel's father when on a visit to the Duke of Orleans at Wood Norton in 1904.

The Dowager Queen Amelia of Portugal is one of the most charming as well as one of the most tragic figures in Europe to-day. She was the daughter of the Comte de Paris of France, and her marriage to King Carlos of Portugal was a very happy one. But their throne was always tottering, and the good sense and charity of Queen Amelia were credited with doing much to hold the sympathy of the people. She studied medicine, and obtained a degree, practising incognito in the poor quarters of Lisbon. She is finely courageous, and once saved one of her boatmen from drowning. But the supreme test of her courage came on February 1, 1907, when in the streets of Lisbon her Royal husband and the Crown Prince, her son, were assassinated in her presence. She sheltered in her arms her second son, the present King Mignel, and prevented his death. Queen Amelia is still heavily burdened with affairs of State because of the youth of the present monarch. She is one of the most beautiful and intellectual royal women in the world.

Referring to the death of Miss Van Wart, a well-known American hostess in London, which sad event took place on April 3 at Bordighera, a writer in the *London Queen* says: Much has been written on Miss Van Wart's jewels, but I should like to say a word on the more serious side of her character. Not many years ago she joined the Catholic Church, and paid great heed to all its religious observances. And she was a warm-hearted woman, who spent time and money in hospital work and on the poor in the East End of London; also—and this is far rarer—she did kindly deeds to women and girls in her own rank of life, her friends and acquaintances. She had views of her own on certain subjects. For instance, she disliked motors, and had a deep dread of cards and card-playing. She would never have a card in her house, and her friends were obliged to cease from their bridge and poker. We may not all agree with her, but one respects a woman who has the courage of her opinions. Miss Van Wart was tall and good-looking, and had rather a dignified manner.

The writer of 'Facts and Fancies' writes in the *Irish Independent*:—General Sir William Butler very nearly missed his great career. At the age of 34 he was only a lieutenant. Those were the days of purchased advancement. After a dozen years' service the sheer process of existence had made him what was then technically called 'first for purchase.' But he lacked the £1100 necessary to buy the next step upwards, not to speak of the extra £400 that would be needed for 'over regulation items.' So wealthy juniors passed above him. His own words describe the prospect. 'What course lay open? Serve on. Let the dull routine of barrack life grow duller; go from Canada to the Cape, from the Cape to Mauritius, from Mauritius to Madras, from Madras goodness knows where, and trust to delirium tremens, yellow fever, or cholera morbus for promotion. Or on the other hand, cut the service, become in the lapse of time governor of a penitentiary, secretary to a London club, or adjutant of militia.' Rapid promotion was achieved by one of his friends, who within seven years had risen from ensign to lieutenant-colonel, and has since gone still higher, winning power and influence in the ascent. This was Wolseley. The becalmed lieutenant, hearing that his former companion, who held a high post in Canada, was undertaking an expedition against the Indians, sent a cablegram that turned his luck—'Please remember me.' Wolseley remembered him, included him in the expedition, and later on gave him charge of a special mission, with the result that after 14 years in the army Butler reached his captaincy and was awarded the C.B. His friend, remembering him further, took him afterwards on the Ashanti Expedition, and found occasion to mention him copiously in the despatches. The long-neglected officer had scope at last. He availed of it to the end with unbroken distinction.

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