

## Irish News

### GALWAY—The Revival of the Irish Language

The Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, who presided in Galway at a largely-attended meeting held with the object of reviving the local branch of the Gaelic League, said the aim of the Gaelic movement, as he understood it, was that Irish should be the spoken language of Ireland. It was not, of course, the intention of the Gaelic League to neglect English. They would have to speak English at all times to those who did not understand Irish; but as he understood it, they should speak Irish in pretty much the same way as most Irishmen at the present moment spoke the English language. It would be impossible to attain the objects aimed at unless they spoke the Irish language constantly amongst themselves, even at the cost of effort or of sacrifice. He saw no way of reviving the language if they learned it from books merely as a dead language, as some had learned Latin and other languages. If they wanted to get a live language, it would become a live language not because they studied it in books, but solely because they used it in all the relations of life—in the market place, in the home, in the church, everywhere—because they spoke it and wrote it, and because they had their press in Irish. Then the Irish language would be alive, but not till then.

### Working in Harmony

It is not in England alone (says the *Catholic Times*) that an improvement is taking place in the relations between Protestants and Catholics. A few days ago a presentation was made to the Very Rev. Canon Macken, P.P., V.P., of Tuam, on the occasion of his appointment as parish priest of Dunmore, and amongst the promoters were the Rev. Dean Geddes, LL.D., and the Rev. Mr. Duke, representatives of the Protestant community. And Dean Geddes, in the course of a speech, addressing the Catholic dignitary, said: 'We have worked together in harmony, you, indeed, having by far the larger share of the work, for the good of the people. The address speaks truly of your labors for the welfare of those around you. Urbanity, firmness, the desire to do right, respect for the poor man and the earnest wish to do him justice, respect also for the rights of the well-to-do have all been marked characteristics of your dealings. And besides this, you have been unflinchingly kind, courteous, and sympathetic towards all.' When a Protestant clergyman adopts this attitude towards a Catholic priest in an Irish town in which they have frequently come into contact it is manifest, notwithstanding the attempts of interested politicians to arouse bigotry, that under Home Rule the Irish Catholic and the Irish Protestant will live amicably together.

### A Remarkable Presentation

Many presentations (remarks the *Freeman's Journal*) have been made in recent years to prominent Irishmen, and many especially to prominent Irish ecclesiastics. The most remarkable one that has ever been presented to an Irish Bishop is that which is to be given to the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, the new Bishop of Galway, in connection with his appointment to that great position. The presentation takes the form of an immense book, the like of which has not yet been produced in Ireland. It might very justifiably be described as a modern Book of Kells. Instead of the many addresses which were presented to his Lordship being given in the usual way, in large frames, they were simply put into this wonderful volume, which is a marvel of art and of taste, and reflects not only credit, but honor, on the artist, Miss Mary Fitzpatrick, who seems to have devoted her whole mind and artistic capacity to the unique work—the most elaborate work of its kind, we understand, ever produced in this country.

### LOUTH—A Very Sudden Death

A painful sensation was caused in Drogheda, when it was learned that the Rev. Michael Finegan, St. Peter's, had been found dead in his bedroom. Father Finegan had celebrated Mass in the morning, and was apparently then in his usual good health. During the forenoon he went to his room, and he was not again seen alive. Not appearing either for dinner or tea, his door was forced open, when he was found, as if at ease, lying on a sofa with a pillow under his head, it being then apparent that he had been dead for some hours. Father Finegan had been about eight years in Drogheda, and he was an ardent Gaelic Leaguer and industrial revivalist.

### TIPPERARY—A Successful Action

Miss Mary L'Estrange, in an action against the Great Southern and Western Railway, has by a Dublin jury been awarded damages to the extent of £750 for personal injuries sustained by her on the G.S. and W. Railway on the occasion of the disaster at Roserea some time ago.

### WEXFORD—Death of an Archdeacon

The death is reported of the Ven. Archdeacon John Furlong, P.P., Cushinstown, County Wexford. Deceased, who was in failing health for some time, had been forty years a parish priest, thirty years being spent in Cushins-

town. He was 85 years old, and served as a curate in several parishes, whence he was appointed to the Pastorship of Cloughbawn. He was a great Churchman and educationist highly cultured, and had travelled a great deal. He was beloved by his parishioners, in whose interests he took a keen interest. He was a native of Wexford.

### GENERAL

#### Letter from the Wellington Hibernians

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., has received the following letter from Mr. P. D. Hoskins, secretary of the Hibernian Society, Wellington:—'I have been instructed by the Wellington branch of the Hibernian Society, representing 300 members, to write and convey to you the deep appreciation and gratitude of the members of this society at the success that has crowned your noble and persistent efforts in having the objectionable words of the Coronation Oath deleted. Catholics in every part of the British Empire, and, in fact, the whole world, are under a deep debt of obligation to you and your noble party for this great and glorious victory, and for the way in which any legislation affecting us as Catholics is carefully guarded and watched. We know that our people are deeply grateful in their hearts, but we Hibernians consider it our bounden duty not only to be grateful in our hearts but to express it, and to show you that, although we are in a remote part of the Empire, nevertheless we are watching with interest your good and heroic work for Faith and Fatherland. In concluding, we trust and pray that at no very distant date we will again be writing, complimenting you on the success of your efforts in obtaining Home Rule for Ireland.'

#### What Home Rule Means

Mr. Redmond, in a speech at Wexford prior to the election, said there was an attempt being made to confuse the public mind in England as to what was meant by Home Rule. Now, what did they mean by it? They meant what Butt meant; they meant what Parnell meant. They meant a Parliament elected by the Irish people, with an Executive responsible to it, with full control over all purely Irish affairs. They did not want to build a navy of Dreadnoughts, or to create an army for invading England. They did not want to set up diplomatic relations with the Czar of Russia. Their ambition was of a much humbler and more practical kind. They wanted Irishmen to have the making of laws dealing with purely Irish affairs, and to have the administration of those laws afterwards. There had been an attempt to create some confusion in the public mind in England by talking about Federalism. He could only say this: that the concession of a Parliament and an Executive to Ireland, so far from being inconsistent with a system of Federalism hereafter for other parts of the United Kingdom, might possibly prove to be the beginning of such a system. They did not object to Scotland, Wales, or England getting Parliaments, but they insisted on getting one for themselves, and they would not wait until these other countries got Home Rule. That was what they meant by Home Rule. More than that, they were not asking, and less than that they would not accept. Having pointed out the beneficial results of Home Rule in Canada, Australia, and South Africa, which were seriously disaffected before it was granted to them, and which are now well affected, prosperous and contented, Mr. Redmond said it was stated that if they got an Irish Parliament they would oppress their Protestant fellow-countrymen. He characterised that as a calumny on their people. He remembered well thirty-seven years ago when the Home Rule movement was founded in the Round Room of the Rotunda, at a great conference, presided over by Isaac Butt, that his father, whose name was not forgotten there, moved a resolution pledging the Nationalists of Ireland to accept as part of the Home Rule scheme any safeguards the Protestants of Ireland wished, in order to make it impossible for themselves or their properties to be injured. That had been the spirit of their movement ever since. He said for those now assembled and for Ireland that they would not accept to-morrow any Home Rule scheme if it meant the oppression of a single one of their Protestant fellow-countrymen, and they were willing to accept any safeguards that might be proposed to satisfy unreasonable Protestant fears.

#### Mr. Redmond and the Dissolution

Mr. Asquith, speaking at Reading, said it was suggested by opponents that the Dissolution had been forced upon the Government by Mr. John Redmond. They might take it from him that Mr. Redmond had no more to do with the Dissolution than the man in the moon. Again, it was said they were inviting the decision of the country on an undebated problem, yet as far back as sixteen years ago Lord Rosebery, as spokesman of the then Government, said the time had come when the absolute Veto of the Lords should cease. That had ever since been the attitude of the Liberal Party. The Government considered the time had arrived when a protracted controversy over the Constitutional question should be decided. If the Liberal Party were given a limitation of the Veto it would not be long before there would be as trustworthy an organ of representative Government as politics could produce. They proposed to limit Parliaments to five years, and to supply some proper safeguard for full discussion and adequate delay, and above all to secure free play for public opinion. It was