

Irish News

ANTRIM—The West Belfast Seat

On Monday evening, December 5, St. Mary's Hall, Belfast, was the scene of a most unique gathering in the history of that building. The occasion was a meeting of Protestant working-men of West Belfast, assembled for the purpose of hearing an address from Mr. Joseph Devlin. The large hall was filled in all parts, the attendance being confined almost entirely to Protestant artisans and laborers. They gave Mr. Devlin quite as rousing a reception as he ever received from his Nationalist and Catholic colleagues in the same building, and followed with deep interest his magnificent speech, punctuating his remarks with vigorous cheers.

Intimidation in Belfast

The fact that intolerance is kept up in Belfast in the interests of the landlords and the capitalists has been brought out very clearly during the contest for the representation of the southern division of the city (says the *Catholic Times*). Mr. Sloan, in opposing Mr. Chambers, has reminded the electors of his former services in Parliament. His doctrine as a Protestant was considered strong enough and he had other qualifications which were deemed fitting for a member of Parliament, but he committed some unpardonable sins. He was guilty of voting for Old Age Pensions, for the betterment of the condition of town tenants, and for the improvement of the dwellings of farm laborers, for the removal of the Poor Law disqualification. Worse still, he supported measures to enable the farmers of Ireland to own the soil they cultivate. Worst sin of all, he proclaimed that he desired to see sectarian factionism at an end and peace established between Irishmen of every creed and class. For this Mr. Sloan was boycotted by the Orangemen at the instigation of their leaders, who do not want any representative to betray the slightest symptom of sympathy with popular demands. Cabals were formed against him, but he is a gentleman whose energy is not easily repressed, and upon entering upon his candidature he boldly announced that one of his chief objects was to put down boycotting and intimidation in Belfast.

A Liberal Manifesto

The manifesto in favor of Irish self-government which has been issued by Lord Pirrie, Sir Hugh Mack, and other leading Protestants in Ulster, is a noteworthy document. It is frank, straightforward, and transfused by a true Christian spirit. The manifesto also breathes hope for Ireland. Fierce quarrels about religion are evidently dying out. Like Mr. Joseph P. O'Kane, who contributes an article on the same subject to the *Irish News* of Belfast, the signatories bring out clearly the fact that the only argument upon which the Unionists rely, namely, that Irish Catholics cannot be trusted to be just to their Protestant fellow-countrymen, is baseless. Their language is a severe rebuke to the politicians who have been exerting themselves to create discord between Irish Protestants and Irish Catholics. 'For our own part,' they say, 'zealous Protestants as we are, we have perfect confidence in our Catholic fellow-countrymen. In the South and West of Ireland goodwill and brotherly kindness are universal. Religious dissensions are unknown. We confess with shame that it is only in Protestant Ulster that intolerance and bigotry have a vigorous growth. But even in Ulster many changes have taken place since 1895. Moderate men are everywhere awakening to a true sense of their responsibility as Irishmen, and we trust that the union of Irishmen of all creeds is being slowly cemented in an enduring bond.'

CLARE—A Generous Subscription

Right Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, has sent a generous subscription to the fund which is being raised for the families of the Kilkee fishermen who lost their lives recently while pursuing their dangerous calling. His Lordship says many and many a good day of health and pleasure he owes to the Kilkee fishermen, simple, kindly, hard-working folk.

CORK—The Necessity of Unity

The Right Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, in the course of a letter read at a meeting of Captain Donelan's supporters, writes: 'Your meeting is not necessary to assure Captain Donelan that in his candidature he will have the undivided support of our Queenstown voters. This fact is already well known to him and all concerned. Ingratitude is a vice hateful to Irishmen, and we should be rightly charged with shameful ingratitude if we wavered in our support of the man who has served East Cork for the last eighteen years with a spirit of devotion to the interests of his constituents that does credit to our Irish Parliamentary representation. His care has been given equally to every part and class of his constituency, without distinction of place or creed, but owing to the special circumstances of Queenstown the splendid results of his advocacy are particularly apparent in the town.' In conclusion Dr. Browne says that he places even above Captain Donelan's personal claims as their trusty representative

for eighteen years, his unvarying adhesion to the only principle that can win for the country any notable advantage, namely, the principle of a united, pledge-bound Irish Parliamentary Party. The Bishop does not understand how any man of common sense can imagine Home Rule can be gained on any other principle. The letter does credit both to the patriotic Bishop of Cloyne and to Captain Donelan, and should help to end the false cry about the persecution of Protestants which is being raised at the present moment in many places for purely party purposes.

Little or No Difference

Colonel Hutchinson Poe has subscribed £100 each to the Unionist and the All for Ireland exchequers. In the course of a letter explaining his views the Colonel says he sees little or no difference between the two policies, while, as might be expected, Home Rule, as advocated by Mr. Redmond, and the Irish Party, would be wholly unacceptable to him.

A Valuable Souvenir

As a souvenir of her visit to Cork during the general election, Mrs. William Redmond was presented with an antique silver bowl over a hundred years old, and also a pair of cut-glass decanters, manufactured in Cork over a century ago. Mr. A. Roche made the presentation.

DUBLIN—Death of a Marist Father

The Marist Fathers in Dublin have sustained a deep loss in the death of the Rev. P. J. Larney, S.M., of the Catholic University School, who passed away recently in his fortieth year.

GALWAY—The Housing of the People

The Right Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway, is interesting himself in a very practical manner, not only in the spiritual welfare, but also in the bodily welfare of his flock. The other day he acted as spokesman for the Clifden and Oughterard District Councils to the Congested Districts Board, calling attention to the very undesirable state of matters prevailing in the districts. His Lordship spoke very strongly on the matter, quoting some startling cases of 'housing' within his own experience—but common cases withal. Dr. O'Dea urged that it is essential that the Board should deal with this problem.

KILDARE—Death of a Carthusian

Many friends and old acquaintances, both at home and abroad (writes a Dublin correspondent), will regret to learn of the death of Father Columban (formerly Joseph) Dowling, of the Carthusian Order, who has passed away at 'La Cervara,' San Margherita Ligure, Italy. He came of a fine old family at Allen, County Kildare, and studied at Maynooth College for his native diocese. But at the end of his college course he volunteered for the Australian mission, where he spent ten years as a hard-working priest in the diocese of Goulburn. He then joined the Redemptorist Congregation, and for years he was a most successful missionary in England and Ireland. Some twenty-two years ago, wishing to give himself up to the contemplative life, he joined the Carthusian Order, and in this, by years of silence, prayer, and penance, he prepared for the end.

LIMERICK—The Persecution Bogy

At a great Nationalist meeting in Cork on December 4, Mr. Samuel P. Harris, R.D.C., Adamstown, Knocklong, a Protestant Nationalist, was enthusiastically cheered. Mr Harris holds one of the most extensive agricultural farms in Limerick County. He said he came there as a poor, persecuted, Protestant Nationalist from the County Limerick, to raise his voice as strongly as he could in protest against the calumnies that had been circulated for consumption in England by poor William O'Brien, that once sterling Irishman, who, he was sorry to say, had sunk so low as to calumniate his Catholic fellow-countrymen by attributing to them that they would persecute and injure the Protestant Nationalists of Munster. Seeing the use that was made of these calumnies in the English Tory press, he (Mr. Harris) felt compelled to come there and protest against these statements. When he told them that he had been living in the midst of a Catholic population all his lifetime, except for about eight or nine years that he spent in the United States, he thought they would see that he could speak from experience of the treatment that was meted out to the Protestants of Munster by their Catholic fellow-countrymen. The curious way that they found of persecuting such a man as himself was by electing him to the District Council in Kilmallock. Though opposed at the triennial election for the last nine years, he came out at the head of the poll, although there were not two Protestant votes in the electoral division for which he was elected. Since the United Irish League had been started by Mr. William O'Brien, he had been chairman of the local branch of the league; he acted as secretary of the East Limerick Executive of the League since that body was established, and within the last two years he was elected unanimously as chairman of that body. Only a week ago, in the town of Kilmallock, when the Protestant Rector, Chancellor Hackett, was leaving the parish, the first man that suggested a testimonial to him was a Catholic, and when the list of subscribers was published it would be seen that out of 140 subscribers about 90 were Catholics. The