

Irish News

ANTRIM—Shipbuilding in Belfast

According to Lloyd's Register Ship-building Returns for the quarter ending December 31, Belfast is at the head of the list as far as work in hand is concerned, 24 steamers being then building on the Lagan, with the enormous tonnage of 250,807, which is a record.

CORK—Election Petition

A petition against the return of Captain Donelan (Nationalist) for East Cork has been lodged in Dublin on behalf of Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., the defeated candidate.

A Lesson in Religious Toleration

Captain Donelan, M.P., in the course of an address to his supporters which he delivered on January 6, said the recent contest had served a useful purpose, for it had completely disposed of the fiction of Catholic intolerance in Ireland. Very few Irish Protestants, he was happy to say, were misled by it, and English Protestants were now, as a rule, too well informed to be any longer frightened. Nevertheless a case such as his would help to dispel any lingering doubt that some few Protestants might still have on the subject. As they were all aware, he stood there as an Irish Protestant, and as an Irish Protestant he had hitherto been invariably returned unopposed during the space of nearly twenty years to represent one of the most Catholic constituencies in Ireland. When a contest was forced upon him, who were the first to stand solidly at his back? The Catholic clergy of East Cork. It would be well indeed if Protestant Antrim would take a lesson from Catholic Cork in religious toleration. The catch-cri of 'No priests in politics' would always meet the reception it deserved from the Irish people, and it would be an evil day for the country when the Irish clergy ceased to exercise their rights as citizens in the country of their birth.

DONEGAL—'Romish Tyranny'

Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., strongly condemns the letter in which Dr. Hanson, of Belfast, expressed a fear of Catholic intolerance in the event of the establishment of Home Rule. He writes: 'I myself am one of the Irish Protestant minority, the son and grandson of Irish Protestant clergymen of the late Established Church. What a victim of Romish tyranny this is, what Dr. Hanson calls his bogey. I have been the representative in the House of Commons for four-and-twenty years of South Donegal, the most Catholic constituency in the British Empire, for which I have been returned by the Catholic Bishop, priests, and people of that constituency. I am the holder of a Chair in the National University of Ireland, an institution mainly established for the purpose of enabling the young people holding the faith of the great mass of the Irish people to receive the advantages of University education without any violation of conscience or danger to truth or morals. The authorities of that University have placed not me only, but several other Protestants in positions of trust for the teaching of their students, and have within the last few days appointed me Clerk of Convocation, an officer one of whose duties is to act as assessor to his Grace the Chancellor, the Most Rev. William Walsh, D.D., the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. Oh, the horrors of Romish tyranny!'

DUBLIN—A Venerable Religious

At the Dominican Convent, St. Mary's, Kingstown, early in January, Sister Mary Vincent Dowley passed peacefully to her reward. The deceased nun (writes a Dublin correspondent) was born at Ballyknock, near Carrick-on-Suir, just eighty-eight years ago, and early in life left the world to devote herself to the service of God in the work of Christian education. She spent nearly seventy years within convent walls, and generously took her share up to within a few years of her death in the labors of the Daughters of St. Dominic, who have made the name of Kingstown Convent famed throughout Ireland. From Kingstown some fifty years ago Irish Dominican Nuns went to Australia, and among those who volunteered for the pioneer work of education there was a sister of the late Sister Mary Vincent—Sister Mary Regius Dowley—who is still happily helping the cause of God in that distant land.

Hospitals and Charities

Taking 'Some Dublin Hospitals and Other Charities' for the subject of his discourse, Very Rev. Father Angelus, O.S.F.C., delivered an interesting lecture recently in the Father Mathew Hall, Dublin. He proposed, he said, to give some little idea of the great charitable work which was carried on in the hospitals and other institutions of the city. Dublin had been described as 'dear and dirty' and 'a car-driving city,' and as a place where funerals were very numerous and very largely attended, but whether or not these descriptions were deserved, he feared no contradiction when describing Dublin as the most Catholic, and, consequently, the most charitable, city in the world. There were some 400 charitable institutions in Dublin, providing for almost every need of the poor and suffering

that could be imagined, and he could only deal with and illustrate a few of them. He desired to bear willing testimony to the good services rendered in Dublin to the Catholic poor by many non-sectarian hospitals and institutions, and he did so all the more warmly because he regretted to say that there were some so-called charitable institutions which were not worked in the spirit of Christian charity, but were used for the ignoble purpose of preying upon the want and misery of the people in order to get them to barter their faith for the sake of relief. On the other hand, there were many institutions, largely Protestant in their government and Protestant in their stamp, which did good work for the Catholic poor in a true spirit of benevolence. He then went on to show slides depicting the work done in several of the hospitals and institutions of the city, of which he gave a brief history. The lecture and pictures were followed with the greatest interest by the large audience.

Popular Pastor Passes Away

The death of Father Martin Hackett, P.P., Finglas, which took place on January 7, was deeply regretted by a large circle of friends, both lay and clerical. St. James's parish in the city was the principal scene of his missionary labors, and there especially his memory will long be cherished by the people amongst whom, with the late Father Bernard O'Reilly, he worked for many years. In them the poor found sincere and practical friends, who never were appealed to in vain. Some seven years ago Father Hackett was appointed to the pastoral charge of Finglas, and there too he soon won the esteem of his flock. The reverend gentleman, who had attained the age of sixty years, studied for the priesthood in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, and after a brilliant course was ordained in 1874.

MAYO—Clerical Appointments

The Rev. John McDonnell, Killasser, Swinford, and the Rev. James O'Connor, Gurteen, County Sligo, have been raised to the dignity of Canons. The Very Rev. Canon Conington, P.P., Swinford, has been appointed to be Dean of Achoury in succession to the late Right Rev. Mgr. Staunton.

TIPPERARY—An Appointment

The Rev. T. R. Power, Vice-President, St. Patrick's College, Thurles, has been appointed P.P. and V.F. for Galbally in the archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, in the place of the late Canon Ryan. Father Power has been a professor of the College since January, 1888, and Vice-President since 1907.

A Windfall

Only a few weeks ago Mrs. Walsh, of Syme, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, whose death has just been announced, received intelligence that she was beneficiary in the will of her sister, who died in America, leaving money and property to the value of £30,000. Mrs. Walsh was the mother of Messrs. William Walsh, U.D.C., Nenagh; John Walsh, assistant county surveyor; and E. M. Walsh, Nenagh.

A Well Known Nationalist

The death occurred at Nenagh on January 10 of Mr. P. J. O'Brien, formerly M.P. for the Parliamentary Division of North Tipperary. Mr. O'Brien, who was in his seventy-seventh year, had been connected with Nationalist politics for a long period. In 1882 he was arrested as a 'suspect,' and was confined in Naas Gaol. Three years later he successfully contested North Tipperary, and retained the seat until 1906, when he retired owing to failing eyesight. When the Parnellite split occurred he sat and voted with the party which opposed Mr. Parnell's leadership. He was the first Catholic chairman of the Nenagh Board of Guardians, and on the passing of the Local Government Act he was elected chairman of the District Council. He was also a member of the Town Commissioners, of which body he acted as chairman for some years. Mr. O'Brien was the son of the late Mr. James O'Brien of Nenagh.

TYRONE—A Long Time on the Way

A letter posted to 'Henry Power, Esq., Estate Office, Pomeroy Co. Tyrone,' in 1872, by Mr. D. Drimmie, the then Resident Secretary of the English and Scottish Law Life Assurance Association, of Dublin, has just reached Mr. Power's sons. No explanation of the delay is given by the Post Office authorities. The postmarks show that the letter was lost in transit between Dublin and Belfast, and came to light at or in the neighbourhood of the Ulster capital.

WATERFORD—Death of an Archdeacon

The Venerable Archdeacon M'Grath, P.P., V.F., Lismore, passed away early in January, after a lingering illness, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. The sad event has caused deep regret throughout the diocese of Waterford and Lismore, in which he was universally respected. He was born in the parish of Kill, and received his early education in Mount Melleray Seminary. He completed his studies at St. John's College, Waterford, and was ordained forty-nine years ago. The Archdeacon ministered in various parts of the diocese. He was parish priest of Clogheen, Carrick-on-Suir, and Lismore, respectively. His pastorship of Lismore extended over fourteen years, and