

the nucleus of a purebred Roscommon flock. Two shearing rams were procured from the flock of that prominent breeder and exhibitor, Mr. John Keane, Ballytacken, Moyvore, and the ewes from that of Major Balfe, of South Park, Castlereagh, who owns one of the oldest-established flocks in Roscommon.

WEXFORD—Cottage Gardening

Under the auspices of the local Technical Instruction committee, the chairman of which is the Very Rev. Canon Doyle, P.P., competitions in cottage gardening in the parish of Tagoat, County Wexford, are bearing splendid results. This plan was inaugurated five years ago for the purpose of promoting a more extensive cultivation of the cottagers' plots. The production of vegetables was especially aimed at. We learn that from the very beginning the cottagers entered into the spirit of the experiment. Vegetables of every kind were sown in the plots, and fruit trees were gradually introduced, so that now every cottager in the district who hopes to take a prize is able to point to a plot in which fruits as well as vegetables are growing.

WICKLOW—Tom Moor's Oak

The people of Ovoca (says the *Freeman's Journal*) are much exercised over the fall of the tree immortalised by Thomas Moore, traditionally said to have sheltered the Irish bard, underneath the shadow of which he is said to have penned his exquisite lyric, 'The Meeting of the Waters,' commencing 'There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet.' Sober fact rather discounts the tradition, and Moore himself wrote to Lord John Russell that he did not write the song at the Vale of Ovoca, but that the glorious view under Castle Howard suggested to him the verses. The actual 'meeting of the waters' is at the confluence of the Avonmore and Avonbeg which here unite, and the united streams flow through the Vale of Ovoca. It is gratifying to learn that the people of Ovoca have resolved to replant the old tree, and to preserve it in the same way as was done some years ago with the venerable yew at Muckross Abbey, also to erect a railing around it to protect it from further vandalism.

A Graceful Tribute

A memorial tablet was unveiled recently in Kilquade Church to the late W. J. Corbet, of Spring Farm, Delgany, who, as politician, *littérateur*, and sportsman, possessed varied claims to distinction. His connection with the Irish Party in its early troublous days made him a link with the Nationalist cause of no means of importance, and it is to this fact that the tablet draws attention when it recalls his 'twenty years of faithful service in Parliament for the Cause of Faith and Fatherland.' Mr William Redmond, M.P., has been largely instrumental in its erection, and it is a graceful tribute from one of the most noted Irish leaders to the memory of a comrade.

GENERAL

A Splendid Potato Crop

A splendid potato crop is promised in all parts of Ireland, and some giant specimens have been produced. The *Independent* records receipt of one from Mr. James Coll, Magharoarty, County Donegal, which measured close on ten inches in length and weighed 2lb 1oz. Another from the land of Mrs. Brady, Granard, County Meath, scaled 2lb.

A Convert to Home Rule

Speaking at a Primrose League gathering at Newtown of the contributory Montgomery Burghs, Colonel Pryce Jones, M.P., who won the seat for the Unionists at the last election, said he would say frankly that the Irish people ought to have a reasonable measure of Home Rule or an extension of local government when they sent into Parliament, generation after generation, 80 out of 103 members pledged to Home Rule. He prayed that the Government would bring in an Irish Bill to which there was some chance of the English, Welsh, and Scottish members agreeing.

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted. Apply Manager, *Tablet*, Dunedin.

People We Hear About

Sergeant Ignatius J. O'Brien, K.C., who has been appointed Solicitor-general for Ireland, was admitted to the Irish Bar thirty years ago. He was called to the Inner Bar in 1899, was made a Bencher of King's Inn, Dublin, in 1904. He was Commissioner of Charitable Donations and Bequests, Ireland, and has served on the General Council of the Irish Bar.

Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, M.P., whose contributions to the discussion on the position of Ulster in regard to its alleged opposition to Home Rule have shed much light on the methods of Union propagandists, is in his fortieth year. He is a son of Mr. Thomas MacVeagh, a Belfast shipowner, and was educated at Belfast and the Royal University of Ireland. He is a journalist by profession, and was formerly special Irish correspondent for the London *Daily News*. He has represented South Down since 1902.

The death of Dr. Alexander, who was until a short time ago Protestant Archbishop of Armagh, recalls the fact that when Cardinal Vannutelli, as Papal Legate, visited Armagh a few years ago, in connection with the re-opening of the Cathedral, Dr. Alexander paid his Eminence a personal visit of courtesy at Cardinal Logue's Palace. Dr. Alexander's action was denounced by the bigots, but he had no difficulty in silencing their noisy protests. When Lord Aberdeen, as Viceroy, paid a visit some time ago to the North he was entertained to lunch by Dr. Alexander, at the Palace, and in the course of a subsequent public address his Excellency referred to the harmonious personal relationship existing between his host and Cardinal Logue.

The Marquis of Ormonde, Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron, is Hereditary Chief Butler of Ireland, an office which has been in the family since 1177. The Marquis is the owner of a magnificent service of gold plate, one of the heirlooms of the Ormonde family, which was presented to a former Butler by Charles I. The plate is only used on State occasions, and is of fabulous worth, being valued at over a million and a-quarter sterling. Among other historical relics at the Marquis's home, Kilkenny Castle, which is one of the oldest-inhabited houses in the three kingdoms, some of the rooms remaining to-day almost exactly as they were in the year 1100, are official robes which have seen service at three coronations. They were worn by Lord Ormonde's grandmother at the coronation of Queen Victoria, and appeared in the official picture of the ceremony.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Capel, who died in California last week, was born in England seventy-five years ago. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1858 by Cardinal Wiseman, acted as English Chaplain at Pan from 1863 to 1868, and was appointed in the latter year to the pro-Cathedral, Kensington. It was in 1868 that he received the third Marquis of Bute into the Church, an event which gained for him a place in the pages of *Lothair* as 'Monsignor Catesby.' On his return to London from the South of France where he was obliged to reside for the sake of his health, he delivered a series of sermons and doctrinal lectures in various churches, and more especially at the Pro-Cathedral at Kensington, which soon raised him to the foremost rank among English preachers. During several visits to Rome he also delivered courses of English sermons there by the express command of the Sovereign Pontiff. He was named Domestic Prelate to Pius IX. in 1873, in which year he founded the Kensington Public School, and was Rector of the Catholic University College, Kensington, from 1874 to 1878. For many years he had been a resident of California, being attached to the Cathedral Sacramento. He was the author of several works, amongst which are *A Reply to Gladstone's Vaticanism*, *Ought the Queen of England Hold Diplomatic Relations With Rome?*

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