

illuminated sealed certificates. The freedom of the city was the highest gift in their power to bestow, and the fact that during the past 36 years but 25 names had been added to the list indicated that the Municipal Council conceived the honor to be no mean one, and only conferred it upon men who by services of some kind had established pre-eminent claims for gracious recognition. In honoring the two gentlemen present that day they honored the Council and the city. Connected with University education in England from his early manhood, Dr. Kuno Meyer was admittedly one of the most distinguished educationalists there, and when leaving England for Germany to take up the great position of Professor of Celtic Studies in the Berlin University he had so established himself that the world-famed English Universities vied with each other in their efforts to place on record their appreciation of the man's deep learning, great knowledge, and educational work. Canon O'Leary's name was known and respected in the house of every man who ever took any interest either in the language or political movements of the country. He was typical of the old Gaelic race, and was born at a time when Irish was spoken more generally than English, and when the native tongue only was heard in more than half the country. By his writings he had preserved the continuity of the Gaelic literature. Long before the Gaelic League movement existed in Ireland Canon O'Leary was a devoted Gael of recognised position. The Lord Mayor concluded by asking Dr. Kuno Meyer and the Very Rev. Canon O'Leary, P.P., to sign the roll of Honorary Freemen, and said that he was satisfied that they were paying a high tribute to two great and distinguished men, and that they were honoring Dublin by their proceedings that day.

#### PROTESTANTS AND THE BILL.

The Home Rule Council has received messages from leading Irish Protestants, among them being the following—The Rev. J. B. Armour, a Presbyterian divine in Ballymonee, County Antrim: 'It is a vastly improved edition of the 1893 Bill. All Liberals here think its provisions ought to quieten Protestant fears of persecution and robbery. It is a statesmanlike and healing measure worthy to pass.'

Mr. J. F. Campbell, J.P., a surveyor in county Derry: 'The Bill will heal sores caused by centuries of friction, and implant in the hearts of a long mis-governed people loyalty, contentment, and union.'

Dr. Charles Forsythe, J.P., a medical practitioner in Coleraine for forty years: 'The Bill is an honest and statesmanlike measure; it should be accepted by all who desire the welfare of Ireland's inhabitants.'

Mr. William Gibson, J.P., a farmer, of Banbridge, County Down: 'Welcome Bill with all my heart; great charter of liberty. An honest and fearless effort to remedy long-suffered wrongs and oppressions.'

Mr. David C. Hogg, Lord-Lieutenant of County Derry: 'The Bill reflects the minds of all thinking Irishmen. Safeguards ample, financial responsibility of proposed Irish Executive will steady them.'

Mr. Thomas Patton, of Dublin, barrister-at-law, son of Rev. S. Patton, of Londonderry: 'The Bill gives every conceivable guarantee for civil and religious liberty, and in my opinion it is satisfactory in other respects.'

The Right Hon. Thomas Shillington, J.P., linen manufacturer in Belfast and Portladdown, a member of the Privy Council in Ireland, and a leading member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church: 'Religious disabilities are amply and effectively provided against in the Bill, only the pusillanimous and panic-mongers will object. The legislative and administrative proposals are satisfactory, but finance might possibly be simplified.'

Mr. Lindsay Talbot-Crosbie, J.P., D.L., an Irish landlord and a deputy lieutenant for the County of Kerry: 'Consider the Bill an excellent basis of settlement. Success would be assured if all parties accepted it as such. Personally, I consider the Senate superfluous, and strongly object to nomination.'

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## People We Hear About

Rev. Father Byles, who was lost in the wreck of the Titanic, had been for many years rector of the church at Ongar, Essex. His career was not less remarkable than his death. Born in Yorkshire, the son of a Congregational minister, he was educated at Rossall School, Lancashire, where he studied with distinction. Going up to Oxford with the purpose of studying for the Anglican ministry, he took his B.A. degree, and later became a convert to the Catholic Church. On returning from Rome, where he studied for two years, he became, after his ordination, Professor at St. Edmund's College, Old Hall Green. He was subsequently appointed to Kelvedon, and eight years ago to Ongar.

Dora Sigerson, the noted Irish Catholic poet, is the wife of one of the most prominent editors and authors of London—Mr. Clement K. Shorter. Her father, Dr. George Sigerson, is professor of biology at University College, Dublin, and a well-known author. Mrs. Shorter is a native of Dublin, and began her literary career in 1894, with a book of verse. She takes a great interest in painting and sculpture, and was for a time a student at the art schools of the Irish capital. Her publications include: *The Fairy Changeling*, *My Lady's Slipper*, *A Father Confessor*, *Ballads and Poems*, *Story and Song of Earl Rowanrick*, etc. Her collected poems appeared in 1907, with an introduction from the pen of no less a personage than the late George Meredith. The Sigersons were originally of Danish extraction.

Much sympathy has been expressed all over the County Wexford with Mr. John J. Ennis, J.P., Springwood, Ballymitty, County Wexford, on the death of his son-in-law, Mr. McElroy, chief purser of the ill-fated Titanic. Mr. Ennis had been for many years manager of the Allan Line of steamers in Liverpool, and on resigning the position a few years ago, he went to reside with his two daughters at his home place in Springwood. Last year one of his daughters, Miss Barbara Ennis, was married to Mr. Hugh McElroy, brother of Rev. Father McElroy, of Bootle, England. Deceased had been purser in the White Star Line for a quarter of a century, and for the last ten years he had been purser in another liner, when he was transferred to the Olympic. After that ship's collision with the Hawke he was transferred to the Titanic. He was extremely popular with everybody who knew him, and was well known in New York and Liverpool.

The subject of the late George Meredith's nationality has given rise to some controversy. The point at issue has now been settled by Mr. Coulson-Kernahan, the well-known writer, who proved that Meredith, like himself, was an Irishman. Mr. Coulson-Kernahan quotes Meredith's own testimony given in an interesting conversation on the matter. 'Am I right, Mr. Kernahan,' he asked, 'in supposing you to be Irish?' 'I have that honor, Sir,' was my reply. 'You put it well; you put it well, sir,' he said, emphatically, 'and I, too, have that honor.' 'Is that so?' I answered. 'I had no idea that we might claim Mr. George Meredith as a fellow-countryman.' He wagged a forefinger at me playfully: 'Ah, but you can only claim the half of me. My mother was pure Irish, my father was pure Welsh.' George Meredith's father was a tailor and naval outfitter in Portsmouth, and his mother's name was Jane Macnamara.

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