

## CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN DERRY.

Here is a sample of civil and religious liberty as understood by some of those who most blatantly preached it. At a recent meeting in Derry of the Waterside Ward Unionist Association it was mentioned that the Ward committee had expressed their dissatisfaction at the recent action of Alderman M. A. Ballantine, D.L., in the Corporation, and had called upon him to resign. The meeting unanimously approved of the action of the committee, and directed the hon. secretary to write Alderman Ballantine calling upon him to resign. Alderman Ballantine is a staunch Unionist, and has given notable service to the cause. A merchant of high standing, he has been honored by his fellow-citizens and their representatives in the Corporation. He has filled the positions of Mayor and High Sheriff, and quite recently was co-opted on the Harbor Board. But his 'action in the Corporation' has now given offence to the official Unionist body, and that action was—voting for a professional gentleman who, being exceptionally well qualified, sought the position of Coroner but who happened to be a Catholic!

## IRISH TEACHERS' GRIEVANCES.

The proceedings of the forty-sixth annual congress of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation commenced in Dublin on March 25. Lady Aberdeen presided. The congress was opened by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who described the treatment of the teachers with regard to salary and fixity of tenure as discreditable to a Christian State. Miss Catherine Mahon, president for the year, said that the administration of the National Board was the cancer root to which the discontent of the teachers, and even the injustice of the Treasury, were directly or indirectly traceable. The Teachers' Organisation had cut off all communication with the Board until Mr. Mansfield, a teacher in County Tipperary, who had been dismissed for making a political speech, be reinstated. A crisis had now arisen in the relations of the Board and the teachers, which rendered it impossible for them ever to work together again in harmony and confidence. The teachers were filled with resentment at their treatment during the past thirteen years. The administration of that period had been characterised by distrust of the teachers, disregard for their vested rights, and hostility to their organisation. It was a period remarkable for enslaving, humiliating, and penalising rules and circulars. She suggested the election of a popular Board of Education, the county councils, the managers' associations, the Teachers' Organisation, and the State electing five members each. Such a board should be responsible to Parliament (whether English or Irish), and the members should be elected for a term of three or five years, at the end of which time all the unsatisfactory members could be rejected.

## THE NEW LORD CHANCELLOR.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Right Hon. Ignatius J. O'Brien, K.C., to be Lord Chancellor of Ireland in succession to the Right Hon. Redmond Barry, K.C., who has vacated the office on the ground of ill-health. The new Lord Chancellor of Ireland is the son of Mr. Mark Joseph O'Brien, of Cork. Born in the year 1857 he was educated in the Catholic University, where he had a distinguished career as a student, giving early indications of the talents and ability which enabled him to achieve so large a measure of success when he entered on a legal career. In 1899 he was called to the Inner Bar, and eight years later he was made a Bencher of King's Inns. He had a large practice both as a junior and as a King's Counsel, and his eminent merits as a member of the legal profession won him very general and most deserved recognition, not merely amongst the members of his profession, but also amongst the wider public, by whom he was held in the highest esteem. In 1910 he was created Serjeant-at-Law, and that honor was followed by his appointment in 1911 as Solicitor-General for Ireland. Last year he was appointed Attorney-General. The latest news concerning his further advancement to the highest position in the Irish Judiciary has been received by his many friends with feelings of keen satisfaction accompanied with many expressions of hearty goodwill.

## People We Hear About

Sir Joseph and Lady Ward (writes a London correspondent) are still keeping to their plan of remaining here until the end of May, and New Zealand should see them again about the middle of July. Miss Ward returned a few days ago from Ireland, where she had been staying with Mrs. Woods (nee Miss Rūbi Seddon), at Queenstown.

The Nobel roll of honor affords a unique opportunity to see which nations are doing the most for civilisation as indicated by the sixty-five individuals who since 1901 have received this award. Germany has been so honored sixteen times, and stands at the head in all five departments except peace. France stands second with ten Nobel prize men, followed by England with seven, and Holland with five. Then come Russia, Italy, Switzerland, and Sweden with four each, and Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Austria, and the United States with two each, and Norway with one.

Very Rev. Sir D. Hunter Blair, Bart., who has just been appointed Abbot of St. Benedict's Abbey, Fort Augustus, was, in his early days, an officer in the Ayrshire Militia. On his father's death he succeeded to the estate of Dunskey in Wigtownshire, but Blairquhan, the Ayrshire property of the family, passed to his younger brother, Commander Hunter Blair. The first baronet of the family was a member of the famous banking-house of Sir Wm. Forbes and Co., and was at one time Lord Provost of Edinburgh. For several generations the Hunters held the office of official printers of the Bible in Scotland.

Senor Merry del Val, the new Spanish Ambassador, has arrived in London with Madame Merry del Val, and has taken up his residence at 72 Queen's Gate. The new Ambassador is the brother of Cardinal Merry del Val, the Papal Secretary of State, and is a son of a former Ambassador to the Court of St. James's. A relation of the family, Count de Torre Diaz, is one of the most prominent figures in Catholic life in London. Senor Merry del Val is about 50 years of age, and has served as Spanish Minister at Tangier, and latterly at Brussels, where he has been in residence since 1911. He is a very good linguist, and speaks English perfectly, in addition to French, German, and Italian. Madame Merry del Val is the daughter of Senor Alzola, of Bilbao, who has some reputation as a writer.

An Irish Home Rule peer, such as Lord Granard, is, in these days, the exception to the rule (says the *Freeman's Journal*). Staunch to the demand of Ireland for self-government, an Irish nobleman of whom our country can be proud, his name has been mentioned as a probable Viceroy after the Home Rule Bill has reached the Statute Book and our Parliament has been restored. He is in his prime, and a Dublin man to boot. The Right Hon. Bernard Arthur William Patrick Hastings Forbes was born at Merrion square in 1874. His father was the seventh Earl, and his mother daughter of the 12th Lord Petre. The late Earl was a convert to the Church in 1869, and received from his Holiness Pope Pius IX. the Grand Cross of St. Gregory in recognition of his zeal in religion. Lord Granard was educated at Beaumont and the Oratory School, and succeeded his father in 1889. He served in the Scots Guards, was A.D.C. to Earl Cadogan in Ireland, and has filled many high offices of State, including Lord-in-Waiting to King Edward VII., and Master of the Horse. He wears the Grand Cross of the Order of Isobel la Catolica, is a Companion of the Spanish Order of Merit, and was a Special Ambassador to announce the accession of King George V. at Foreign Courts in 1910. He is a Privy Councillor and Knight of the Order of St. Patrick. He married, in 1908, Beatrice, daughter of Mr. Ogden Mills, of Staatsburg, Dutchess County, U.S.A., and niece of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid. Amongst all his honors it is not unlikely that that which he himself and his descendants will value most is that he was one of the Peers who voted in the House of Lords for the Bill destined to restore her Parliament to his native land.