

Here and There

Mr. William Doyle, Assistant Superintendent, Central Telegraph Office, Amiens Street, Dublin, retired recently after 38 years' service. He was very popular with his colleagues, who ceased work for two minutes to give him a hearty send-off. A native of Dun Laoghaire, Mr. Doyle has spent his entire service in Dublin, is a telegraph expert whose experience has also included a period of five years as postmaster in College Green, the principal mercantile office in the city. He is well known to Irish pressmen, and has, especially in time of crisis, been of the greatest assistance in securing rapid and efficient work. His departure is generally regretted in the service.

Abbot Marmion, whose death was announced during the past week (says the *Edinburgh Catholic Herald* for February 10), was an Irishman by birth although the Abbot of the Benedictine Abbey of Maredsous in Belgium. The daily papers describe him as "the brother of Dr. Marmion of Dungannon," but he was a Dublin man by birth and for five years was Professor of Philosophy at Clonliffe College. His ecclesiastical studies were made partly in Rome and partly in Belgium, a circumstance which probably led to his joining the Belgian Benedictines. He was Abbot of Maredsous, which is in the Namur province of Belgium, since 1909.

The family of Senator Bagwell, whose disappearance caused such a sensation, was identified with Clonmel for centuries, and members of it have represented that ancient borough in the Irish and British Parliaments. Marlfield, which was recently destroyed by incendiaries, was the residence of Mr. John Bagwell, father of the kidnapped Senator, and who sat in the British Parliament from 1857 until 1874 as the member for Clonmel. In the Irish Parliament Mr. Wm. Bagwell was one of the representatives of the town from 1727-1760. The first member to represent Clonmel after the Act of Union was Mr. Wm. Bagwell, who was a Lieut.-Colonel of the Tipperary Regiment of Militia. Up to 1820, the Parliamentary representative continued to be a Bagwell, but there was a break in the continuity until 1857, when Mr. John Bagwell was returned. Before the period of the reformed Corporation in 1843, the Bagwell family wielded great power over the burgesses for generations.

Mr. Keating, the new R.H.A., is now famous for his paintings of what were once called Sinn Fein subjects. Not very long after the Rising of 1916, he finished his first remarkable work, "The Men of the West," in which, by the way, his own portrait appears. The canvas, a fine, bold piece of character study, represents three peasants in the typical garb of Connacht standing armed on guard of a Tricolor. They were stern and imperturbable men waiting calmly for the foe. The facial painting is exceptionally striking, as it is in all Mr. Keating's works. Another painting, "The Ambush," also a vivid and extraordinarily realistic composition with superb facial studies, was painted for the Fine Art Exhibition in connection with the Tailteann Festival, which had to be abandoned, but when shown in the Arts Hall at Ballsbridge during last Horse Show attracted the very greatest attention, and was keenly admired. Mr. Keating is in his prime, and may be expected to do many and great things yet.

Captain Stephen Gwynn, whose house has been blown up, comes of a notable family of scholars and sportsmen. His father was the beloved and venerable Rev. Dr. Gwynn, Regius Professor of Divinity in Trinity College, and in his time one of the best-known figures in Dublin's academic life. His wife was a member of the O'Brien family of Clare, and through her Capt. Gwynn claims relationship with the illustrious '48 leader, Smith O'Brien, who was sentenced to death in Clonmel Courthouse after the abortive rising. Capt. Gwynn's brother, Lucius, was one of the greatest Irish Rugby players that ever wore an international cap, and he it was whom, on a memorable occasion, the late Jacques McCarthy, of *Sport*, described as "bursting over the line to score for Ireland festooned with Saxons." Lucius was also a fine cricketer and a scholar of eminence. Other members of the family have also shone in academical circles, one of them being a notable Gaelic scholar. Captain Stephen Gwynn some years ago also devoted himself

to the study of Gaelic, in which he became proficient. He is the author of several interesting books dealing with Ireland, notably *The Fair Hills of Donegal* and *To-day and To-morrow in Ireland*.

Apropos of the recent reference to Michael Dwyer, the insurgent leader, who died in New South Wales, the late Major W. Redmond, M.P., in his book, *Through the New Commonwealth*, mentioned that the remains of the Wicklow patriot and his wife were exhumed and reburied at Waverley Cemetery, Sydney. It was found that the body of Dwyer's wife was in a state of perfect preservation, though it had lain for 40 years in an Australian grave. A magnificent monument of white marble to their memory and the men of '98 was erected over their graves. It is in the form of a Celtic cross, tall and of graceful proportions, and on each side below it are panels in bronze depicting the arrest of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the battle of Oulart Hill, and the heads of Emmet, Tone, Fitzgerald, Michael Dwyer, Father John Murphy, and Henry Joy McCracken. It cost £2500. Major Redmond, writing in appreciation of it, said: "I do not believe that a more beautiful memorial exists in all the wide world. It is not alone that the Waverley Irish memorial is in the truest sense a work of art; it is something far greater and far beyond art—it is an everlasting testimony to that touching devotion to the cause of Ireland which nothing can destroy, and it is a testimony to the fact that the memory of those who died for Ireland and suffered for her is kept green and sacred in every part of the world."

The County Hall, Wexford, which has been taken over by the National forces, was formerly an Inebriates' Home for Women, and previous to that was used as a gaol. It is 30 years ago since the last man was executed in it for murder. His name was Daniel Hanley, and, together with a brother, aged 15 years, who was sent to penal servitude, he was convicted of the murder of an old woman, who kept a small shop in Barndarrig, Co. Wicklow. The brothers were defended by the late Mr. John Redmond, M.P., when he practised on the Leinster Circuit, and so skilful was his defence that the jury disagreed on two occasions, but on the third the accused were found guilty. One of the most important links in the chain of circumstantial evidence against them was the discovery of a halfpenny with a hole, which belonged to the murdered woman. The late Chief Baron Palles was so impressed by the forensic ability displayed by Mr. Redmond that he appealed to him to abandon the sphere of politics and confine himself to the law. Mr. Redmond replied that his heart was in the political movement. The County Council occupied the County Hall, after the destruction of the Wexford Courthouse, which overlooked the old bridge across the Slaney. It was there that the leaders of the rising in '98—Bagenal Harvey, Cornelius Grogan, and John Colclough—were executed, and their heads impaled on the spikes of the Courthouse.

A thrill of pain (says the *London Catholic Times*, editorially) will go through the heart of many an Irishman at home and abroad as he learns that Dr. Sigerson, whose songs have touched the emotions of his fellow-countrymen for so many years, has felt called upon to resign his position in the Irish Senate because of threats addressed to him. Dr. Sigerson, who is 85 years of age, said to a reporter: "The only reason I had was that I received a letter threatening incendiarism—to burn down my house and property—and, consequently, as I did not want my patients to be disturbed or injured, I resigned my position as Senator. There is absolutely no other reason for the action I have taken. I did not mind the threats of shooting and attended the meetings of the House, as was my duty, but this thing of burning down my house is another matter, and I felt I had no alternative but to resign, having regard to my family and their property." Dr. Sigerson has been for some years President of the Irish National Literary Society. He was connected with the old Catholic University Medical School and is Professor of Biology in the National University.

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