

OUR IRISH LETTER.

The Progress of the Centenary Celebration.

The Demonstration at Belfast—Fears of Trouble with the Orangemen—The Lord Mayor Issues a Circular Calling a Meeting—Recent Disturbances in Other Districts.

DUBLIN, June 1.

The real celebration of the Centenary of '98, the time of glorious pride and sorrow, began last week, and all over the country it was distinctly shown that the whole Irish people did not "fear to speak of '98."

When, in the month of May, a hundred years ago, the battlefields of Ireland were watered with the best blood of her sons, there was no distinction, north, south, east or west, and, happily, to-day there is one united Ireland raising a voice in unison to those memories which stimulate a patriot's ambition and make for a complete unity of a nation hoping to accomplish its freedom by the bloodless but no less effective method of constitutional agitation.

In some parts of the country, the viperous poison of Orangeism is still latent, and breaks out in spots like warts, disfiguring the fair face of the province to the north; but this can usually be laid to the door of that peculiar blend of misnamed humanity known as Scotch Irish, whose only religion can be condensed into hatred of everything really Irish generally, and Catholic particularly.

Some of the Belfast newspapers have gone out of their way in the matter of suggesting disturbances. They hope there will be no trouble, and at the same time speak of the probability. They counsel peace, and say that it is much easier, in case of a demonstration, for the authorities to keep one thousand people from attacking three thousand than it would be to keep three thousand from attacking one.

The News Letter refers to the National demonstration as a "direct challenge from disloyalty to loyalty in the centre of loyalty." Should any disturbances occur there is only one source of blame, and it will not lie with the National element, but be to the eternal disgrace of so-called journals, whose whole existence seems to depend on the fomentation of strife and the encouragement of Orange blackguardism.

The Belfast demonstration takes place on the 6th June, and while it is to be hoped that the Orangemen will have sense enough to let the Nationalists alone, it is also to be feared that the spirit of intolerance and bigotry will not down. The magistrates and police seem to be taking all necessary precautions, but it is questionable, judging by the proceedings at the magistrates' meeting, whether their efforts for peace will be successful. The Lord Mayor of Belfast issued the circular calling a meeting at the Town Hall "to consider what arrangements may be necessary for the preservation of the peace on the occasion of a proposed Nationalist demonstration, and to transact such other business as may be brought before the meeting."

All the magistrates as well as the city commissioners were present, and the great question seemed to be the selection of a route for the procession. The police could not guarantee protection unless the assembling point was in Smithfield. Afterwards it was finally arranged that the processionists assemble in Croaghmore Square, and proceed by May street, Donegal Square South, Howard street, Upper Queen street, Mill street, Divis street, and thence to Hannabstown. It was suggested that all public houses should be closed during the day, but this was not approved of. It was decided not to draft any extra police into the city, but four magistrates were named to hold themselves in readiness in the military barracks.

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police office. The occasion of the procession was the anniversary of the rising in arms in '98. Notwithstanding the peaceful character of the gathering, which should have been protected instead of assaulted by the police, the people arrested were fined forty shillings and costs in the police court. It was a most striking example of the way the police 'protect' Nationalists or Catholics in Belfast.

The recent riots in Ballynahinch make another example of the disturbing influence of Orangeism. Two well-known members of that distinguished body had been locked up in Belfast gaol for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. To the Orangemen of Ballynahinch drunkenness and disorderly conduct are synonymous with heroism, and so when the martyrs to Bacchanalian Boyne water were let out of the place which was best fitted to their character, their arrival in Ballynahinch was celebrated by a most disgraceful riot. Bands played insulting airs, a newly appointed justice of the peace joined in the procession, and so overcome with joy and gratitude were these admirers of "drunks and disorderlies" that they immediately proceeded to smash the windows of houses and shops owned by Catholics. The affair was such a disgraceful one that it was made the subject of an enquiry in the House of Commons, the following extract from the proceedings of which may be of interest to transatlantic readers:

Mr. P. J. O'Brien—I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to a serious riot caused by Orangemen in Ballynahinch on the 12th inst., when hostile demonstrations were indulged in towards the Roman Catholic residents, and windows broken in the houses of Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. McAlea, Mr. Patrick Boyd, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Russell and Mr. Keenan, and plate glass windows were smashed on the premises of Mr. James Murray, J.P., and damages done to the extent of £70 or £80 worth of property; whether he is aware that Mr. H. A. Campbell, a recently appointed J. P., was present with the rioters while Roman Catholic houses were being wrecked; and whether he will be called upon to explain his conduct; and whether the Government will cause strict inquiries to be made, and the parties responsible for the riot at Ballynahinch to be prosecuted.

The Chief Secretary—I will also reply to the question on the same subject put by the hon. member for South Down. On Tuesday last I replied to a question addressed to me, with regard to rioting at Ballynahinch, by the hon. member for South Down. The names of the Roman Catholic residents, whose property was injured by the mob on the occasion, are correctly set forth. I have no information to the effect alleged with respect to Mr. Campbell, but I am making inquiries. A crowd of about 1,000 persons, with six bands, was present in the town on the arrival of the two members of the Orange party who had been discharged earlier in the day from Belfast Prison, where they had been incarcerated on the charge of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The primary object of the assembly of the mob was to give the discharged prisoners a reception. Proceedings have been instituted against thirteen persons for riot.

A healthy relief, however, from this conduct of a few bigots in Belfast and other places is the splendid accounts received from Enniskillen, where even the militia took a hearty hand in the celebrations. On Monday night the centennial anniversary of the eve of the insurrection of 1798 was celebrated in Ballyshannon in a manner worthy of the old town on the Erne. Bonfires were lighted on the hill-tops for miles around, while most of the Nationalists of the town illuminated their houses. The scene was most inspiring. For upwards of two hours bands paraded the town, playing selections of national airs, and late in the night crowds were heard in all directions singing the "Boys of Wexford" and "God Save Ireland." About ten o'clock an impromptu meeting was held on the Diamond, and addresses were delivered by prominent local Nationalists. A marked feature of the demonstration, exceeding even its enthusiasm, was the unity of all sections of the Nationalists. The Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and Donegal militia regiments, encamped within a mile, were ordered to keep camp during the celebration, but, notwithstanding all the precautions of double patrols of police, a large number broke camp and joined in the celebrations.

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Willie D. was given the word "gone," which he had missed in spelling, to write fifty times on his slate. Before he had finished doing this his mother was called away. When she returned she found the slate awaiting her, with fifty "gones" on one side, and on the other, "I'm gone over to Tom's."

OUR LONDON LETTER.

The Cremation Fad in Glasgow.

Notes of the Funeral of Mr. Gladstone—Baron Russell, of Killowen, Elected to the Presidency of the Ulster Association—Recent Conversions to the Church—Other Features of News.

LONDON, 28th May.

Amongst the most interesting reminiscences awakened by the death of the great and good man just laid in historic Westminster—the mausoleum of the nation's greatest ones—is the fact that Mr. Gladstone was what might be called the "Ultimus Romanorum," the last survivor of the distinguished men who met, nearly seventy (70) years ago, at the Oxford union, when Cardinal Manning made his first speech. Several of the company subsequently became Catholics—among them Cardinal Manning, Cardinal Newman, Canon Oakley, and Hope-Scott, Q.C. The list also includes Canning and Bruce, Sidney Herbert, Lord Dalhousie and Tall, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was eminently fitting that in the payment of England's last tribute to her greatest son, the first layman of the Catholic Church, as he is the first peer of the realm, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, should have taken so conspicuous a part. As Earl Marshal of England, His Grace had the controlling voice in all matters connected with the arrangements for the funeral, and was in constant communication with the authorities of Westminster Abbey and with the Gladstone family, as to the most suitable mode of conducting the procession and all the ceremonial without and within the church; in a word, he was master of ceremonies, as well as one of the pall bearers, and no one individual occupied so much prominence in connection with the sad and solemn occasion.

It is a coincidence that one of Mr. Gladstone's oldest Parliamentary contemporaries, the Right Honorable Spencer Horatio Walpole, should have followed him so closely to the grave. The Right Honorable gentleman had reached a greater age than Mr. Gladstone, being ninety-one years old. He, however, entered Parliament in life, and quitted it earlier and altogether had a much shorter political career.

It is proposed in Glasgow, to bring the luxury of cremation within reach of the poorest pauper, thus we find that an enterprising firm has made an offer to the city, "To burn the corpses of those who die in the poor house at the rate of eight shillings for adults and four shillings for children." This proposition, which savors so strongly of the treatment of dead dogs, was seriously entertained and discussed at length by the Glasgow Parish Council and found ten supporters amongst twenty-six members present.

The Lord Chief Justice of England, Baron Russell, of Killowen, has accepted the presidency of the Ulster Association to which he was elected at the annual meeting recently held in London, on that occasion. The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava presided and eloquently advocated the aim and object of the members, which is to be secure for Ulster men in London a permanent place of intercourse whether of a social, commercial or benevolent character. The Association has not been long in existence, but is doing good work and adding rapidly to its membership.

An agitation is being made in London to place the telephone in the hands of the local governing bodies and not allow money-grabbing syndicates to monopolize a service which has become a matter of such importance and actual everyday necessity to the public. It is urged that Londoners are, more than any other people in the world, the victims of monopolies, and that the metropolis is so saddled with old-established proprietary rights that it is powerless to effect reforms or check abuses in the matter of gas, water and other all-important matters.

The conversion of Sir Henry Hawtike, and his recent reception into the Church, has naturally caused a flurry in Protestant circles. Sir Henry has long been known as one of the greatest ornaments of the Bench of Judges, and a man of great learning and brilliant natural parts. It has been known that he entertained a strong leaning to Catholicity for some time. Mr. William Ralph Cator, of Buldige House, Chippenham, a

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wealthy and very leading county gentleman, and nephew of the Rev. H. W. Cator, of the Brimpton Rectory, has also embraced the faith. Numbers of other conversions are reported, in fact so many that they come under the heading of "too numerous to mention."

A society is now in course of formation in London for the suppression of street nuisances, viz. rowdiness, obscene language, solicitation and unnecessary cries and noises, and an influential list of vice-presidents, provisional committee men and members is published. The general opinion is that, while the fullest degree of success is to be wished for, the society is entering upon a colossal contract and will require an army of paid missionaries to do its work.

The St. James Gazette suggests that the 19th May should become 'White Rose Day,' and says in support of its proposition: "It is recorded that Mr. Gladstone's favourite flower was the white rose; and the coincidence of the death of the great Liberal leader falling on the same day of the month as Lord Beaconsfield's may be an additional reason for keeping green the memory of the one in May as of the other in April."

A favorite niece of His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan, the eldest daughter of Colonel Vaughan, of Courtfield, is about to be married to Mr. William Berington, of Little Court, Malvern, one of the leading Catholic country gentlemen of England, and Catholic society is looking forward to the event with much interest. The marriage ceremony will be performed by His Eminence, and will be attended by many distinguished guests.

Labouchere's organ, Truth, referring to the practice of swearing in Deputy Governors during the absence of the Irish Lord Lieutenant, says: "Constant though the swearing in of Deputy Governors at the Castle is, the Turk, Jew, or Atheist, but not a Papist" principle is never deviated from. The fact stands out with additional prominence because the Deputy Governors are for the most part taken from the Irish judiciary. The Catholic judges, however, are rigorously excluded, the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and the Chief Baron among the rest. As all churches in Ireland are on an equality, and the Irish Protestant is no more a State Church than the Irish Catholic, it is hard to understand on what principle Irish Protestants are legally more entitled to be Deputy Governors of Ireland during the Lord Lieutenant's absence than Irish Catholics. Irish grievances are said to be things of the past. No one now denies that Protestant ascendancy was a grievance in Ireland. It can hardly be said to have come to an end at Dublin Castle.

The recent sale of the Ashburnham library attracted a large assemblage of literary men and persons interested in the public libraries of the country, and as a result a very large sum was realized. Amongst the principal attractions were the rare four first folio volumes of Shakespeare's works. The first folio 'Shakespeare' printed in 1623, though in a very imperfect condition, was put up at £210 and knocked down for £585 to Mr. Sotheran. After the bidding a gentleman, who turned out to be Sir Arthur Hodgson, chairman of the committee of the Memorial Library at Stratford-on-Avon, announced that he had travelled up especially from Shakespeare's birth place, and had given instructions to Mr. Sotheran to buy the 'first folio' for the committee, and that this relic was going to be put in the library, and would never be seen in an auction again. Cheers followed this remark, all present seeming glad that the book was going back to its author's home by the Avon.

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NOTES ON CATHOLIC NEWS.

The Rev. J. A. Zehn, D. D., of Notre Dame, Ind., provincial of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in the United States, has tendered to President McKinley the services of all the priests of whom he is at the head as chaplains for the war.

"The Trappist monks of the Oka Monastery," says an American journal, "are to go to the Klondike to introduce their perfect agricultural methods, thereby making habitable the region for those lured thither by the thirst for gold. They brave the hardships of the undertaking, the rigor of the climate, not for themselves, but for others."

The contest for a gold chalice which has aroused so much attention in St. Philip's, St. Anthony's and St. Charles Barrocco's parishes for some months past, closed on Wednesday evening, the 5th inst., at St. Patrick's Hall in the presence of a large, enthusiastic and excited audience, says the Catholic Standard and Times of Philadelphia.

When the curtain rose on the contestants, Rev. James J. Smith, Rev. Francis J. McArdle and Rev. James J. MacAran, were discovered seated upon the stage, surrounded by a number of other clergymen, including Rev. P. J. Dolley, who acted as chairman and as judge for Father McArdle; Rev. John J. Ward, judge for Father Smith, and Rev. D. J. Broughal, judge for Father MacAran. Others present were Rev. Joseph A. Stillman, of Jenkintown; William P. Masterson, of St. Anthony's; James P. Sinnott and Thomas F. Quinn, of St. Charles Barrocco's; James F. Trajnor and Michael A. Bradley, of St. Philip Neri's.

A large blackboard occupied the centre of the stage, and the counting was done in full view of the anxious audience. The result was: Rev. James J. MacAran, \$5,719.97; Rev. James J. Smith, \$5,294.01, and Rev. Francis J. McArdle, \$3,407.40. The announcement was scarcely made ere a band appeared at the door of the hall and escorted the victorious Barrocco home, where there was a fireworks display with music. All the late contestants returned to St. Charles' rectory and witnessed the scene.

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An Irish gentleman had a splendid looking cow, but she kicked so much that it took a very long time, and often it was nearly impossible, to milk her, so he sent her to a fair to be sold, and told his herdman to be sure and not to tell her without letting the buyer know her faults. He brought home a large price which he had obtained for it. His master was surprised, and said: "Are you sure you told all about her?" "Indeed, I did, sir," said the herdman. "The man asked whether she was a good milker." "By-gone, sir," says I, "it's what you'd be tired milking her."

Lion-tamers nowadays sometimes use electricity in taming their beasts. When a wild lion or tiger is to be tamed, electric wires are first rigged up in the cage between the tamer and the animal. After a time the tamer turns his back, and the lion invariably makes a leap at him, but receives a paralyzing shock sufficient to territize him for ever.

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