

# THE CONNAUGHT RANGER'S CORNER.

Mr. John Lavelle, President of the Montreal Gaelic Society, was born in the Island of Achill, west of Donegal, on the 8th April, 1862, and was educated in the national school of his native land. At the early age of 18 years he successfully passed an examination before the Board of National School Commissioners, and for three years afterwards had charge of the Curraun National School, where he established a juvenile Gaelic class, which has since become a permanent class. Mr. Lavelle resigned his position in the spring of 1884, and emigrated to the United States, settling in Cleveland, where he secured the



MR. JOHN LAVELLE.

position of book-keeper for a large wholesale publishing firm. In 1886, he accepted a place as local manager of the Cleveland branch of the P. F. Collier Co., and in 1887 was transferred to the London, Ont., branch. He took charge of the Montreal branch in 1894, and has established a large business for his firm in this city. Mr. Lavelle is a member of Div. No. 1, A.O.H., a member of the St. Malachi's Court Knights of St. John. At the formation of the Gaelic Society he was one of its chief promoters, and was elected its president. He has supervision over the entire Gaelic class here, and is thoroughly versed in Gaelic. Mr. Lavelle is also connected with other local organizations.

This week was a week of theatrical entertainments, concerts and lectures. Since last issue the Ladies' Auxiliary A.O.H. held two concerts, Miss Craig gave a stereopticon lecture in St. Ann's, and there was a whole week's engagement by an Irish drama Co. at the Queen's. There is one thing extremely painful for me to touch on in connection with those public entertainments. It seems that the committees which have the direction of them forget that there is an Irish Catholic newspaper published in this city, which should at least receive a portion of the patronage of national societies. Do these gentlemen, aye, and ladies too, expect that a journal which is continually fighting their battles, in this city and province, will bow in silence, while the advertisements of those entertainments go to a prejudiced press?

That the "True Witness" is the proper channel through which all our people in this city are reached no one can deny; that it is the proper mode of advertising those weekly entertainments no one will question; that it has the finest job printing department in Canada no one will dispute, and yet, and sorry am I to have to say it, the "True Witness" is overlooked. Now I say candidly this should not be so. The fact that our people have a paper they can call their own, and which is exclusively devoted to their interests, should convince them of the imperative necessity of supporting it. I hope, in future, the members of the different societies will instruct their committees in this very important matter and that I will have no occasion of referring to it again.

There are quite a few of the societies that I cannot locate either their halls or their meeting nights; for instance, there are many branches of the C. M. B. A. of both wings; many courts of the Catholic Foresters; besides various other societies, reports of whose meetings would make interesting reading matter. If the president or secretary of such organizations would mail me a synopsis of their meetings and let me have them no later than Wednesday evenings, I would feel grateful to them; but there is one thing to be remembered the communication must be either from the president or recording secretary and accompanied by their address. I will also be glad to furnish them with estimates on all kinds of job printing, advertising, etc., address "True Witness" office.

There was no meeting of the Montreal Gaelic classes on Monday evening as teachers and quite a number of the pupils attended in a body the

performance given by the Bells of Shandon Co. at the Queen's. A testimonial to James C. Mangan is in contemplation by the members of the local class.

The Bells of Shandon, under the personal supervision of the author, Mr. John J. McGuinness, has once more captured Montreal audiences. A week's engagement was opened on Monday evening at the Queen's. The play which is the work of Mr. McGuinness, a young Irish American journalist of prominence and ability, is one of the clearest of Irish comedies ever presented to a Canadian audience. It is a true realistic picture of Irish life, entirely devoid of any of the caricaturing characters or phrases which the foreigner as a rule draws of the children of Erin. It is the result of eleven years' hard study amongst the rugged hills of Donegal, where the young Irish-American was transferred at the early age of seven years to learn the customs, manners and language of the people.

In presenting to the public a clear characteristic drama in which all the traits of the children of Erin are exhibited, Mr. McGuinness has faithfully done his duty and proved himself to be an author of great power. "The Bells of Shandon" surpasses by far "Sweet Landscapes" or the dozen other unfortunately supposed Irish dramas of the present day. The company, on the whole, is an excellent one, but the centre of attraction is Mr. Jas. W. Reagan, who is the fortunate possessor of a sweet and tuneful voice. His appearance on the stage was a signal for an outburst of applause, which shook the building from pit to dome. In the second act he appeared on the stage wearing the uniform of a second lieutenant of the Irish volunteers, New York's famous regiment of citizen soldiery. Miss Ellenore Carroll, as Mrs. Mulvaney, was clever, and it is to be regretted that she did not make the acquaintance of the audience at an earlier stage of the programme. Mr. John T. Lanagan, an old Montreal boy, as Peter Magill, was a treat, but much sympathy was expressed for him when it was announced by Mrs. Mulvaney that she had him "salted" in the garret. One word tells about Miss Maudie Myring and that is, "good." The balance of the company are excellent and need no comment.

Monday evening was Hibernian evening and a large number of local members, headed by the life and drum and bugle corps of St. Ann's Cadets, wended their way to the Queen's. A large contingent of the Hibernian Knights in fatigue uniform were present, as were also several members of the County Directory accompanied by County President Rawley. On Wednesday evening the St. A. A. and St. Ann's Young Men attended and had a gala time. A splendid programme of musical selections was given between the acts, which was well appreciated. Much praise is due to Prof. Shea and his great quartette.

"If the spirit of the illustrious dead could vindicate my character, oh, ever dear and venerated shade of my departed father, look down with bearing patience upon your suffering son, and see if I have for one moment deviated myself from those lessons of morality and patriotism which it was your care to instill into my youthful mind, and which I now die for."

Brave and noble words uttered by a brave and noble man and should be committed to memory by every student of Irish history.

Div. No. 6, A.O.H., held a large meeting in St. Jean Baptiste Academy, on last Sunday afternoon, and initiated fourteen new members, and transacted other business of importance. The County President accompanied by several members of the Directory, paid an official visit and received a rousing welcome. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Rawley, Mr. W. P. Stanton, Mr. B. Wall, and songs were given by Bros. Dodd and Flood, while Jas. P. Reagan, who attended with the County Directory, was accorded a hearty "good night-faith," and in return sang two of his sweetest songs.

The third annual entertainment of the Ladies' Auxiliary Division No. 1, A. O. H., held in St. Patrick's Hall, Alexander St., on the 20th inst., was unquestionably the most successful function ever held under the auspices of the ladies, but it is to be regretted that so many tickets had been disposed of previous to the opening of the hall, as hundreds who had already purchased them and who were unable to arrive early could not gain admittance, while those who were fortunate enough to secure a position in the hall were obliged to accept less space than is customary. Not-

withstanding these little inconveniences, the vast audience, which was a good natured one, was treated to a programme, which in point of interest and merit, has rarely been witnessed by a Montreal audience. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the beautiful flag of No. 1 Division, A. O. H., hung in graceful folds in the background of the platform, while around the hall hung miniature flags of green and gold, flanked on either sides by the Stars and Stripes.

Mr. Wm. Rawley, County President of the A.O.H., presided, and a few opening appropriate remarks were delivered by Mrs. Allan President of the Division. Seated with the County President were:

The Rev. Father Quinlivan, P. P., St. Patrick's; Rev. Father O'Donnell, P.P., St. Mary's; Rev. Father Casey, St. Jean Baptiste, and the Rev. P. Fallon, Rev. J. A. McAllen, S.S., Rev. M. Callaghan, S.S.; Rev. Father Heffernan; Mr. M. J. P. Quinn, Q.C., M.P.; Thos. Quinn, Miss Harvey, Miss Howlett, County President, L. A.; Dr. E. J. C. Kennedy, President, St. Patrick's Society; Mr. John Lavelle, President Gaelic Society; Ald. Kinsella, President Irish Catholic Benefit Society; Mr. E. W. Kearns, President St. Mary's Catholic Young Men's Society; Mr. Richard Burke, President Young Irishmen's L. and B. Association; Mr. John Dundon, County Marshal A. O. H.; Mr. H. T. Kearns, President of Division No. 4; Mr. Denis Tansey, President of Division No. 7; Mr. Michael Lynch, President, Division No. 2; Mr. M. Phelan, President, Division No. 5; Mr. James F. Merritt, Brooklyn, N. Y., Manager Bells of Shandon Company and others. Lieut. A. J. McCracken and a detachment of the Hibernian Knights in fatigue uniform were present.

Mr. M. J. P. Quinn, Q.C., M.P., delivered a brief address, on the objects of the Order, and was warmly applauded. A vote of thanks was tendered him on a motion of the County President, seconded by the President of St. Patrick's Society. The following interesting programme was gone through:

"Tiddy O'Flynn," Miss Nellie McAndrew; "Child's Prayer," Tootsie Durand; "Just tell them that your Irish," little Gertrude O'Brien; "The Emmet Guards," by the Young Irishmen's quartette, was excellent. A recitation by Miss Mollie Brennan fairly captured the house, while Emmet's speech from the dock, by Mr. J. Power was well delivered. Owing to the large number of tickets sold the committee produced as near as possible the same programme on Tuesday evening, for the benefit of those holding tickets who were unable to secure admission the previous evening.

The monthly meeting of the Hibernian Knights was held on Sunday afternoon in the K. of L. Hall, Craig Street, and was pretty fairly attended. Notwithstanding the fact that the rules provide for a fine for non-attendance, there are quite a few of the boys who seem inclined to come within its scope. Captain Keane presided, and the other officers were also present. Considerable routine business was transacted, and a pleasant feature of the occasion was a visit from County President Rawley, and other officers of the County Directory. The visit was supplemented by a brief address from the County President, and a few rattling songs by Mr. J. W. Reagan.

The committee of management of St. Patrick's Society held a meeting on Wednesday evening to arrange matters preparatory to the installation of the new executive, which will take place on Monday evening, at their regular meeting. There should be a large attendance on the occasion. I consider it a privilege of being a member of such an old and honored organization. Let every member show his appreciation of its objects by attending regularly at its meetings, and give the new committee encouragement in the endeavor to keep it where it rightly belongs, the head of the Irish organizations in Canada.

The meeting of Division No. 1, A.O.H., held in their hall Wednesday evening was largely attended. Several propositions for membership were received and referred to the proper committees. A committee was also appointed to make arrangements for the annual outing on Dominion Day.

Branch No. 9, C.M.B.A., Grand Council of Quebec, held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening last, in St. Mary's Hall, corner Craig and Paret Streets, President Butler presiding. This Branch is in a very flourishing condition, and at every meeting new members are coming in. At the last meeting one member was installed, one balloted for, and two applications were received. A resolution of condolence was passed to the family of the late Bro. Chas. Phelan. Reference was also made to the loss the association had sustained in the death of the Supreme Recorder, Bro. Hickey, in Brooklyn, N.

Y. After May 1st, the meetings of the Branch will be held in St. Mary's C. Y.M.S. Hall, 1242 Notre Dame St. CONNAUGHT RANGER.

## GIVE PIPER TOUTHEY A BUMPER HOUSE.

The entertainment to be tendered Mr. J. T. Touhey, "the celebrated Irish Piper," in St. Ann's Hall, on Thursday evening, May 4th, promises to be an event of rare occurrence. Apart from Mr. Touhey's selections on the Irish pipes a programme of vocal and instrumental music will be rendered which is in itself a credit to the societies under whose auspices the entertainment is being held—the St. Patrick's National and Gaelic Societies of Montreal.—The following performers have very kindly given their services for which the above societies are very grateful, as is also Mr. Touhey and his friends:—Prof. C. Wallace, Prof. P. J. Shea, Mrs. Parratt; Mr. and Miss Lang, Miss Nellie Wallace; The Orpheus Quartette, Messrs. W. Murphy, M. C. Mullarky, J. Penfold, Ed. Quinn; the Coughlin Sisters; the Juvenile Wonders; Mr. Wm. and Miss Mabel Kitts; J. C. Mangan, and Messrs. Hayes and Pierson, the ever popular Irish dancers. A novel feature of the entertainment will be a selection of Irish music on the national instruments, harp and Irish pipes, by Mrs. Parratt and Mr. Touhey. Another very striking number will be that of the enthusiastic local piper, Mr. J. P. O'Brien, who in conjunction with Mr. Touhey will render old national songs and lullabies seldom heard in this country. Arrangements have been made to provide for the admission of a limited number of boys at 10 cents as there is a desire to form a class in Montreal for the preservation of the dear old Irish instrument. Mr. Touhey enjoys the well earned title of being the cleverest and sweetest of pipers. He has played before all the great ecclesiastical dignitaries in the United States, among whom may be mentioned, Cardinal Satolli, Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Corrigan, and Archbishop Ireland.

Everywhere his work has been highly praised. Montreal Irishmen should give Mr. Touhey a bumper house and prove themselves as enthusiastic and patriotic as the men and women of their nationality on other parts of this Continent.

## RECENT DEATHS.

Since our last issue several members of the older generation of Irish Catholics have passed to their reward. Shortly after going to press last week the death of Honora Ryan, widow of the late Patrick Meagher, and a cousin of His Grace Archbishop Ryan, Philadelphia, was announced. Mrs. Meagher was widely known in the Catholic circles of Montreal. For nearly two generations she has been a constant worshipper at St. Patrick's Church. In recent years, through a change of residence, she became a member of St. Anthony's Parish, where her funeral service was held a few days ago. Deceased was a true type of a Catholic mother; kind, unselfish, and ever anxious to afford her children all the advantages necessary to equip them for the battle of life.

Mrs. Meagher was a welcome visitor to many households during her long career, and many are the good deeds which she has done in alleviating distress. To her family the "True Witness" offers its most respectful condolences in the great loss they have suffered.—R. I. P.

Another member of a well known and highly respected family in Montreal, passed away in the person of Mrs. James Coughlan, nee Julia Kennedy, sister of the late Ald. P. Kennedy, M.L.A. Mrs. Coughlan was well known in St. Patrick's and St. Ann's Parishes, where she was highly esteemed for her kindly ways and generous disposition. Deceased had made many friends during her long residence in Montreal, and many were the expressions of regret which were heard when the announcement of her death was made. The funeral which took place from her husband's residence, No. 1612 Ontario Street, on Thursday morning, to St. Patrick's Church, was well attended. The "True Witness" respectfully offers to Mr. Coughlan and family its most sincere sympathy in the great loss they have suffered.—R. I. P.

We regret also to be obliged to chronicle the death of Clara Furlong, second daughter of Mr. John Furlong master-carter, which occurred on Monday at the residence of her father, 68 Conway Street, St. St. Charles. Deceased was only twenty-six years of age, and had been ailing for the last few years. She bore her long illness with true Christian fortitude, and the many friends of the family will sincerely mourn her loss. The funeral was held on Thursday morning to St. Ann's Church, and was very largely attended.—R. I. P.

# RECENT HAPPENINGS IN EUROPE.

The prospects of the cause of unity amongst the Irish Nationalists are very bright. At the great meeting held in the Mansion House, Dublin, recently, two Parnellite members of Parliament attended—Mr. T. Harrington, who was unanimously elected chairman of the conference, and the veteran James J. O'Kelly, the intrepid soldier and correspondent. The secretaries appointed by the Unity Conference—Mr. P. J. Power, M. P., Mr. J. Jordan, M. P., and Mr. T. J. Healy, M. P.,—having written to the secretary of the Parnellite group, enclosing copies of the resolutions passed and inviting co-operation in the patriotic work of unity, have received the following reply:—

"Dear Sirs,—A meeting of the Independent Parliamentary Party was held to-day to consider your communication of the 4th inst., and I have been directed to say to you in reply, that nothing that has taken place has changed our view, that the only possible way of arriving at any basis of reunion would be by discussion at a small representative conference, and that we regret to find that although this view appeared to receive unanimous acceptance in the speeches delivered at your annual conference, no practical step was taken to give it effect. I have now therefore only to add that, in answer to the invitation conveyed in the sixth of the resolutions you have forwarded me, to suggest 'a plan for bringing about such a discussion,' we repeat our former declaration of willingness to take part in a small conference representative of all the sections into which the Nationalist representation is divided, at which a frank interchange of views on any suggested basis of reunion could take place.—I remain, yours faithfully,

PATRICK O'BRIEN.

The conference furnished ample opportunity for a "frank interchange of views" as to a basis of union; but it was not availed of by the Parnellites as a group. The basis of reunion is simply "unity amongst the Irish Nationalist members of Parliament," and requires no discussion. Still in order to leave no room for any excuse of any further factiousness, the conference exhibited wisdom in sending the letter which called forth the reply quoted.

The fervent faith of the sons of St. Patrick was touchingly illustrated recently. The Shannon fishermen were having a very poor time of it, owing to a scarcity of fish, which is almost their only source of revenue. They asked the priests to pray for the success of their industry. Accordingly two Redemptorist Fathers performed the solemn ceremony of blessing the waters of the Shannon. A few days afterwards the take of fish had wonderfully improved.

On the 125th anniversary of the death of Oliver Goldsmith, which occurred recently, his tomb, close to the Temple Church, was decorated with a bouquet of white blooms and laurel leaves. Attached to it was a card bearing the words:—

"To the immortal memory of one of Ireland's most gifted sons, Oliver Goldsmith, 'who wrote like an angel.' From an old admirer of 'She Stoops to Conquer' and 'The Vicar of Wakefield.' Temple, April 4th, 1899."

Those who are familiar with the life of the gifted author of the works named, as well as those sweet and tender poems, "The Traveller" and "The Deserted Village," to say nothing of the long list of other products of his pen, will remember the conclusion of the line quoted by this "old admirer." It ran thus:—

"Think of friend Noll,

Who wrote like an angel, but talked like poor Poll."

"Noll" is a diminutive of Oliver, and Poll means a parrot; and the couplet was in allusion to Goldsmith's bashfulness and awkwardness in company, where he could hardly talk rationally.

Lord Chief Justice Russell has kept the promise which he made at the time of the Hooley bankruptcy revelations, and has introduced into the House of Lords a bill making the giving of secret commissions in trade a penal offence. The speech of the Lord Chief Justice in support of his bill was so telling and conclusive that the bill passed without opposition. It extends to private business the principle of the statute which makes the bribery of public servants a criminal offence. Lord Russell showed for instance that it was the practice amongst printers' ink manufacturers to give a handsome commission to machinists on newspapers in consideration of the latter wasting ink, and in many cases burning it in the furnaces. He also proved that medical practitioners have been accustomed to recommend undertakers, and the latter in return gave them the use of carriages to make their rounds, and

also that doctors connected with hospitals received secret commissions for recommending the purchase of surgical instruments and other hospital supplies from certain firms.

The selection of Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., son of the Grand Old Man, as chief Liberal whip, in succession to the late Mr. Ellis, gives widespread satisfaction, especially to the Irish Nationalist members. Ever since his election for Leeds by a majority of 12,000, Mr. Herbert Gladstone has been a staunch friend of Ireland's cause. He possesses the qualities which make a successful whip.

Glasgow is about to have a Catholic Sailors' Club, founded on lines similar to those of the Montreal Catholic Sailors' Club. The need for such an institution has long been felt, and it is gratifying to note that the want is going to be supplied.

At a meeting of the Armagh Reunion, at Glasgow, recently, the Rev. T. P. O'Reilly, M.R., made a very practical suggestion. He advised the different reunion committees to band themselves together and form an association which would take in hand and look after the temporal welfare of young Irishmen and Irishwomen on their arrival in the city. In so doing the Rev. Speaker instanced the work of the Caledonian Catholic Association, and at the same time he gave his audience some sound and sensible advice on their duties as citizens. It is to be hoped that Father O'Reilly's well-timed remarks will bear fruit, as the want of such an association has been strongly felt for years. It would seem almost for the major portion of "lapsed masses."

According to statistics just published in Madrid, Spain has a considerable proportion of centenarians in its population. The compiler estimates that there are twenty-five centenarians to every million of inhabitants. Moreover, this proportion has been constantly increasing during the last half century. In 1857 there were 12 centenarians to every million; in 1867 there were 13.97 and in 1877 the number rose as high as 29.87. For a few years after 1877 the proportion was not as great as usual, but since 1889 it has recovered almost all its lost ground.

Centenarians thrive better in some parts of the country than in others. In Andalusia there are more than anywhere else. In Malaga the proportion is something like one hundred to every million of inhabitants. On the other hand, there is not a single centenarian in the Provinces of Soria, Alva and Teruel. It should be added that Ireland beats all other countries as regards centenarians, there being at present 500 there, making about one hundred to every million of population.

A Parisian newspaper has propounded a theory for the abolition of begging. It is by no means new. Briefly stated, it is to make the beggars work. In some form or other most beggars can work; and it is suggested that institutions and teachers and overseers should be provided. The trouble is, however, to find the institutions.

The statue of Joan of Arc at Paris is undergoing repairs. At first it was thought that the freethinking aldermen had decided to demolish it, and the Parisians became indignant. An official statement had to be published to set their fears at rest. It is noteworthy that the Communists who pulled down the Napoleonic Vendome Column spared the statue of the Maid of Orleans, which is close by.

The German attorney has again been at his imperial prank of alarming garrisons in the middle of the night, and ordering the soldiers to fight a phantom foe. This may be highly amusing to Emperor William, but it is exceedingly annoying to officers and soldiers.

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## DIED.

In this city, on the 20th inst., Honora Ryan, daughter of Lawrence Ryan, of County Tipperary, Ireland, and widow of Patrick Meagher, resident of Montreal, Canada, for fifty-two years.

The wear and tear of rust is faster than the wear and tear of work. Smiles.