

IRISH NEWS.

FROM OUR IRISH EXCHANGES.

THE MINISTRY AND THEIR DUPES.

Our party of "conciliation" have been feeling exceedingly uncomfortable since the opening of Parliament. And it is little wonder. Never was any political party so utterly befuddled as they have been.

So lately as the last general meeting of the League Mr. Butt pledged his faith in the good intentions of the Government with regard to the Irish university question. He told the meeting, and through them the whole country, that he believed that Government would legislate in a University Bill, and one which would prove satisfactory to the Irish people.

Waterford. Count de la Poer, of Gorteen la Poer, has been sworn in High Sheriff for the County of Waterford, and John Thomas Hudson, of Glen Beg, Esq., Under Sheriff for the same county.

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rent be well founded, Mr. Butt, as well as the Catholic Primate of Ireland, Archbishop Croke, Archbishop MacHale, indeed I may venture upon stating nearly every member of the Catholic hierarchy in Ireland, has been dexterously deceived and ill-treated. I am far from stating that the Duke of Marlborough, who had interviews, not at Dublin Castle or at the Vice-regal Lodge, with high ecclesiastical authority as to blame in the matter; but his Excellency knows, and it becomes him now to admit, that in view of the settlement of what should be proposed to Parliament with the sanction and support of the Government, he suggested and received from these with whom he held repeated private interviews, an undertaking that in consideration of the Viceroy's colleagues this side of the Channel staking their ministerial existence on a certain eventuality which, with proper arrangements, they could not fail to carry through, reciprocal advantages would be secured when the period arrived for going to the country, and testing confidence in the Government. If this impression which exists here be incorrect, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and the Catholic Primate can deny it; but should both remain silent, I believe the questions are to be asked in the House of Commons respecting the existence of what may fairly be regarded as a Vice-regal-ecclesiastical compact, the morality of which I won't undertake to defend. With this, however, Mr. Butt is not, I presume, concerned, though he may have given the Duke for the benefit of his adviser, either in ecclesiastical society or in common. What he has done is to place on the notice book of an early day, probably in the first week of March, he would move—that, in the opinion of the House of Commons, it is essential for the interests of Ireland that the university institutions of the country should be so arranged that Irishmen of all religious persuasions should be able to obtain the benefit of degrees and the advantage of university education without the compromise of their religious convictions, and that in order to accomplish this, legislation on the subject is absolutely necessary. Here I leave the question, but I challenge the Duke of Marlborough to deny the interviews, or to assert that there is not now, or lately has been, in his possession a document obtained under the promise that the Irish Catholic University question would be settled this session to the satisfaction of the Catholic hierarchy, clergy, and people of Ireland.

At the Liverpool Assizes, on Feb. 15th, before Mr. Justice Lindley, Richard Stephens, shipowner and coal merchant of Dublin, surrendered to his bail on an indictment charging him with having, on the 7th of October last, sent a schooner called the Reaper from Garston to Dublin in an unseaworthy condition, thereby endangering the lives of those on board. He was fined £100. The evidence for the defence was of a very strong character, otherwise the defendant would have been sent to prison without the option of a fine.

A deputation waited, on Feb. 18th, upon Sir Arthur Guinness, senior member for the city of Dublin, to request him to support the Saturday Night Early Closing Bill. He stated that he considered the time inopportune for such an agitation, but he confessed from personal observation that he felt some remedy for the present state of things on Saturday was necessary, and so far as the Bill in which the deputation were interested would provide a remedy he would support it.

The movement of the West-Britons to present "a national testimonial" from Ireland to the Duke of Connaught on the occasion of his marriage, has already become a ludicrous fiasco. The collection has everywhere fallen far below the expectations of all concerned, and the committee appointed to select the article to be presented to the Duke have chosen a second-hand candlestick some twenty or thirty years old! The question now is, will the Duke be mean enough to take this old candlestick?

A farmer named Kennedy died a short time ago at a place called the Pike, near Parsonstown, at the age of 108 years. Some time ago the deceased was gored by a bull, which circumstance is considered to have hastened his demise.

The brigantine Martha Miller, belonging to Mr. Henry Keaton, of Arklow, was lost on Feb. 10th, while on her voyage from Liverpool to Newcastle. When passing through the North Channel, she was run into by a large Norwegian barque, and sank a few minutes afterwards. The crew of six men were saved and landed in Adrossan. The Martha Miller was one of the neatest and best sea-going vessels of Arklow. She was 280 tons burden, and only a few months since underwent a thorough repair in Dublin. This is the seventh vessel belonging to Arklow that has been lost in the last few years.

On Feb. 18th, eighteenth of the Catholic Bishops of Ireland met at Maynooth College, and agreed to a strongly worded protest censuring the Government for the manner they have dealt with the question of Irish University education. An interview upon the subject recently took place between the Lord-Lieutenant and three or four of the Bishops.

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