

The Talent of Poverty.

"My child, what talent have you to improve?" "My poverty sir," was her reply. Answer of ragged Irish child to the Rev. H. V. Elliott.

One talent was entrusted to my care; But, ignorant of life, I hid it in the ground and left it there, Tarnished, and soiled with earth.

Its name was Poverty; how could I dream That with it I might trade? But I have learnt things are not what they seem, And use of it have made.

Yes, Poverty has slowly gained for me Patience, and meek Content, I envy not the riches that I see, For me they were not meant.

And it has also yielded healing balm For half the cares of life, He who has sought to lose may well be calm, In feverish scenes of strife.

Then, it has taught me how to take delight In God's most common gifts; A flower, a smile, a bird, a moonlit night, My heart with joy uplifts.

And I have fuller sympathy with those, Who, like myself, are poor; I know their daily toil, their secret woes, The trials they endure.

But best of all, sweet Poverty has brought My saviour nearer to me; For he was poor; with His own hands He wrought; No settled home had He.

This fellowship with Jesus gives me lot A grandeur none can dim; Others may serve Him more, but they are not So closely linked with Him.

O Poverty! despised by many, I Thine hidden virtues know; For I have learnt, through thee, to glorify My Master here below.

NETTA LEIGH.

NEWS FROM IRELAND.

DUBLIN.

The statue of Sir John Gray has been successfully placed on its pedestal in Sackville street Dublin.

The Butt testimonial fund in Dublin has now reached above £1,000.

On June 4th, the body of Mr. Beecher Pitcairn, Plumming, J.P., Rush House, county Dublin, and of Derry Lea, county Kildare, was found floating in the Grand Canal harbor, James street, Dublin.

The deceased, who was well known, held the office of a Justice of the Peace for the King's and Queen's Counties, and was agent for Sir Roger Palmer, Bart., Kenure Park. He was about forty-five years of age. The property which was usually carried by the deceased was found on his person. He had been missing for a week. At the inquest a verdict of found drowned was returned.

A meeting of the Cardinal Cullen Memorial Committee was held recently, at which it was announced that the money subscribed amounted to the large sum of nearly £4,000. The question of deciding upon the form the memorial is to take has been referred to a sub-committee, but it is understood that a statue is to be an essential part of it, whatever be the simplicity or character of the commemorative of his Eminence which it may eventually be decided to erect in addition.

The Very Rev. Jas. Spratt, of the order of St. Augustine, passed tranquilly away at the Convent of his Order in John street, Dublin, on June 6th, and in the companionship of his spiritual brethren, closing a career of six-and-seventy years in a peaceful and consoling death. Father Spratt came of an old and a respected family of the "Libertines," and was younger brother of the revered and lamented Father John Spratt, whose name and whose works of mercy are held in such cherished memory and benediction in Dublin. Father James Spratt was born in Cork street, the residence of his parents, in 1803. His early school studies were made in his native city, and having, like his brother, manifested a vocation to the ecclesiastical state, and displayed a predilection for the order of St. Augustine, he was sent for his novitiate to a house of the Augustinian community in Ciria Della Perla, and subsequently pursued his theological course at the famous Augustinian Convent of the Popolo in Rome, and was immediately after appointed prior of the Irish Augustinian convent of Postorula, in that city. In 1855 he returned to Ireland, and was appointed by his superior to the house of his Order in John street, Dublin. There he ministered from that time till his death.

KILDARE.

An outrage of a very serious character occurred at Herbertstown, the residence of Mr. William Brophy, on May 30th. It appears that a shed which adjoins Mr. Brophy's residence was set on fire on that morning, and at one time the flames threatened to reach the dwelling-house. Fortunately for the inmates, a boy who slept in a house opposite the burning shed, on looking out he perceived the shed, which contained a quantity of turf, blazing from the upper portion. The flames were subdued after some time, but not until considerable damage had been done. The police are making inquiries.

On May 31st, the Kildare Rifles, about 500 strong, arrived in Nassa Barracks from the Curragh Camp, where they had undergone their annual training, and were disembarked in the course of the evening.

MEATH.

On May 31st, a respectable man named Newman, residing near Dunmurry, after transacting his usual market business in the town, took his horse and cart to Donoghmore to get some lime. He was returning between six and seven o'clock, when the horse stumbled, throwing him from the cart to the ground. He fell on his shoulder and was rendered insensible.

A woman who saw the accident and a man named Wallace succeeded in placing him on the cart, and had him conveyed into the police barracks. The police took him to the hospital, upon arriving at which life was found to be extinct, and his relatives were at once communicated with. James Kelsch, Esq., coroner, held an inquest on the body on the following day, and a verdict in accordance with the circumstances was returned. The poor man leaves a large family to deplore his loss.

A farmer named Keene, living near Enfield, had two dogs, one of which recently became mad, and bit his two children (one of them very severely) on the hand. The dog was subsequently destroyed, but the children are in a precarious condition.

Mr. Thomas Eleock died, on June 3rd, in the temporary home he made at the old mill of Dowth shortly after his eviction. The poor old man never recovered from the shock he received by his forcible removal. The Rev. Mr. Callery was most constant and assiduous in his attentions to him. The news of his death was learned in Drogheda with very deep regret. The internment took place on the 5th, when his remains were laid to rest in the ancient churchyard of Dowth, and in the presence of one of the largest funeral processions seen in that part of the country for many years past. The body was enclosed in an imposing coffin of splendid polished oak, with brass mountings. The funeral proceeded from his late residence, known as the Old Mill of Dowth. The distance to the churchyard was but short, and the coffin was borne on the shoulders of the friends and neighbors of the deceased, all of whom, together with the clergy, wore white scarfs and hats.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

On June 15th, an inquest was held on the bodies of two men, named James Kennedy and Henry Farrell, at Mountmellick, by William Clarke, Esq., Rathleague, coroner for the district. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased men were in the employment of the Canal Company, and that they were found dead in a room that they occupied at the Canal harbor about 4 o'clock on the previous evening. From the appearance of the room in which they were found, and of the bodies, it was ascertained that they went about preparing supper, and the other fell asleep on the floor whilst waiting. The first man must have fallen asleep. The bed in the room was set on fire, and the smoke arising from this must have been the cause of death, as neither of the bodies showed signs of suffocation. A verdict of death from suffocation was returned by the jury. Drink does not appear to have been the cause of this melancholy and fatal accident, as both the men, when seen on the previous night by the police patrol, were apparently sober.

LOUTH.

A movement is now on foot to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the late Archbishop Gossan.

CORK.

One of the collecting boxes of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Mallow Catholic church was forced on May 30th, and its contents stolen.

On May 30th, a gamekeeper named Healy, employed by the Earl of Kenmare, narrowly escaped being fatally poisoned. He accidentally took some rat poison, which, owing to the breaking of the case that enclosed it, got mixed up with bread he had in his pocket. In consequence of the sensations which he felt he dreaded fatal consequences and had medical assistance procured, and in a few hours he was quite recovered and able to proceed home.

KERRY.

The late malicious burning of the heath on the moorlands of Cloughfahla, the property of the late Mr. Hurley, of Fenit House, which resulted in the destruction of an extensive grouse cover, formed the subject of a magisterial investigation at the Limerick Petty Sessions, on May 31st. A prosecution was instituted, nominally at the suit of the occupying tenants, against Patrick Moloney and nine other farmers living in the neighborhood of the scene of the occurrence. The game-keeper on the estate established a *prima facie* case, and the defendants were returned for trial to the next Kerry sittings.

Mr. D. S. Lawlor, J. P., D. D., Killarney, has in consequence of the present agricultural depression, reduced the rents of the Kerry tenants 20 per cent. The Earl of Kenmare has also intimated his intention of making a reduction, but the amount is yet unknown.

At the Killarney Petty Sessions of May 31st, two farmers, named Thompson, residing at a place called Rockfield, were fined £2 each, with costs, for having trespassed in pursuit of game upon the property of the Earl of Kenmare on the 16th ult.

On May 31st a man named Looney, aged about 35 years, was found dead, his usual avocation as a crier on the Railway Hotel to the Gap of Dunloe in comparatively vigorous health. During the day he accompanied his party of tourists through the mountain passes in that famed scenic locality, with the agility of a considerably younger man, and turned to the hotel in the evening not much the worse of his day's toil. In the evening he, as member of the Confraternity of the Cord of St. Francis, assisted at the Rosary and Benediction in the Franciscan church. After having availed of the advantages of jubilee, and having retired to bed at a reasonable hour, he was found a corpse about four o'clock the following morning. The deceased was much respected for his integrity and as one of the oldest and truest of the inhabitants.

LIMERICK.

The Irish Times of June 4th, says of the weather and the crops:—"During the past week vegetation in this district has made rapid strides, and farmers state that they never remember such a rapid growth of grass within such a short period. This has led materially on the prices of milk and butter, which are plentiful and comparatively cheap. The best class of butter sells at 1s. per lb., and milk at half price per quart. The early potato crop looks splendid, so do the other root crops, and the cereals are most promising. Everywhere there are indications of a most abundant harvest, which it is hoped will be realized."

A Liberal Home Rule Club is about to be established in Limerick.

On June 6th, a shoemaker named Joseph Cox, committed suicide at Limerick, by cutting his throat while laboring under a fit of temporary insanity.

WATERFORD.

The Waterford Boat Club propose having a regatta in August, if the citizens will subscribe the funds.

The tenants on the Irish estate of Sir Trevor Wheeler, Bart., and Joseph Read, Esq., estate in the Old Parish, county of Waterford, and under the management of Sir John Henry Keane, Bart., Cappoquin House, have been allowed fifteen per cent. off their present half year's rent.

General Fitzgerald, J.P., a large landed proprietor in the county Waterford, died on June 3rd. He sent for his solicitor shortly before his death, and directed him to prepare leases for all his tenants for 999 years, at reduced rents, and also gave instructions for his will, binding his successor to carry out those views; but before the requisite documents for his signature were prepared he died. Deceased, it will be remembered, was a candidate for the representation of the county Waterford at last election, but retired from the contest.

Sir Charles Edward Kennedy, Bart., a large landed proprietor, in the county Waterford, has sent word by his agent to his tenants, stating that their rents for this year are to be reduced 25 per cent.

At Waterford, on June 4th, a woman named Margaret Langan was carrying a child in her arms, when she fell into the canal, and was once brought to the Market house. It was at once brought to the Lady Lane Dispensary and found to be dead. The mother has been arrested.

On June 6th, there was an extraordinary scene at a collection of rents by the agent of the Trinity College estates at Bonmahon, between Carrick-on-suir and Carrigrohane. The tenants came up with half the more, and said that they would not and could not pay any more. The agent refused to take the sum offered, and insisted on the full amount being handed to him, whereupon there was a difficulty, and nothing came of it but disturbance and dissatisfaction. The agent wanted the full amount; the tenants had not the sum to give, or said they had not. Finally, the agent went away with empty bag.

CLARE.

A little girl named Anne Curry, aged four years, while her mother was carrying her home, at Louisa, Killyser, on some business, on May 31st, fell into a tub of boiling water, and was severely scalded. The cries of the little one attracted the mother's attention, and she fainting on seeing the condition of her child, the sufferer died in great agony the following day.

TIPPERARY.

The Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, has given £50 towards the proper provision of the convent schools of New Inn, Celin.

John Williams, a private in the Tipperary Militia, who attempted to murder his wife in a wood in order that he might marry another woman, was on June 4th committed by the Clonmel magistrates for trial. He confessed his crime.

ARMAGH.

At an early hour on June 1st, a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. James Livingston, linen manufacturer and farmer, at Silverwood, near Lurgan, and before it could be extinguished a large quantity of farm produce and many farming implements were consumed, and the linen goods stored in the premises were much damaged, the loss sustained being considerable. The damage is fully covered by insurance.

DOWN.

On June 3d, a fire broke out in the top story of the house of Mr. Jones, chemist, druggist, &c., at Loughinisland. The house was attached to the service pipe, and in a short time a copious supply of water was playing upon the premises. The top rooms were gutted, but the progress of the flames was fortunately arrested before they reached the place where the other were stored. The shop was considerably injured by the fire.

DONEGAL.

Shortly after, and in consequence of the murder of Lord Leitrim, on the 2d of April, 1878, three additional police stations were established on the Leitrim estates. For the cost of these stations a police was levied for the last three quarters of a year, which pressed very heavily on the poor of the district. In one case, when the recovery of the tax was sued for at petty sessions, it transpired from the evidence of the collector, a constable of police, that he could find nothing to seize in the defendant's house where such a light poverty and want prevailed that he felt unable to go to the nearest grocer and procure some provisions for the starving family. From the present peaceable state of the district, however, a brighter era has promised to set in.

JERRY.

On June 5th, an inquest was held at Ballywilliam, near Donaghadee, on the body of a young woman named Campbell, who died from the effects of burns received in her father's house. The deceased, who was weak in the intellect, had been left in the house when the other members of the family were engaged in farm work. While she was attending to some cookey her dress took fire, and before assistance could be brought Miss Campbell sustained injuries from the effects of which she expired in a few hours.

Rebecca Nicholson, of Ballyknock, in the county of Down, widow and farmer, was, on the 23d May, adjudged bankrupt, on the 23d May inst., the foundation stone of a new church was to have been laid at Glenties, near Garvagh. Glenties is a somewhat secluded, although not a very remote, district; in that part of the county Derry. The immediate locality is about two miles from Garvagh, the foot of a high Alpe scenery the most striking and picturesque the county can boast of. Although the approach from three points of the compass is easy and pleasant, being over level roads and through fertile country, Glenties is on the fourth or western side, set off by a range of lofty mountains, which form a very formidable barrier to further progress in that direction. This mountain range is a continuation of the massive peaks of north-west Tyrone, and runs through Derry to Magilligan at the sea. In its glens and fastnesses, as well as on its numerous lofty crags, many an Irish outlaw sought refuge from "the King's troops" during the 17th and 18th centuries, when the order from the King and Council was to hunt down "all the unruly Irish."

GALWAY.

His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, accompanied by the Very Rev. Thomas MacAlell and the Rev. Michael Henry, C.E., left Tuam on June 2d, and proceeded to the chapel of Cross-boyne, where nearly 500 persons were on that day confirmed. The sermon (in the Irish language) was preached by the Rev. Canon C. J. Bourke, M.R.I.A., and P.P. Claremorris. His Grace and assembled clergy of the deanery were subsequently hospitably entertained by the Rev. William Flannelly, the respected pastor of the parish. On the following day, in the locality of Mayo, now so worthily governed by the Rev. Patrick Sheridan. His Grace received on his arrival at the church by the assembled priests and people. Nearly three hundred persons received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Mrs. Ann Coghlan died on the 25th of May, at May street, Galway, at the residence of her son, John J. Coghlan, Esq., C.E. Mrs. Coghlan was a lady who in life endeared herself to a large circle of friends by her kindness of heart and gentleness of manner, and is very much regretted by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.

MAYO.

A man named Patrick McAndrew was recently driving on his cart from Kiltaine Lodge, county Mayo, when his head struck against the wheel. He was thrown to the ground and his skull fractured. He was taken up insensible and died a short time after.

ROSCOMMON.

On May 30th, Pat Butler, a comfortable farmer, residing at Curry, county Roscommon, was found lying dead, his head beaten in, and a wound in his neck, in a field adjoining his farm. It is said that deceased, when last seen on the previous morning, was in company with a neighbor, Patrick Dolan, aged 20 years. Butler was aged 65, and was largely known throughout the country as an extensive sheep dealer. Dolan was arrested at Queenstown, on June 1st, as he was proceeding to America by the steamer Arizona, having taken a passage ticket in the name of Patrick Doyle.

On 5th inst. a wood situated about five or six hundred yards from the castle of Clonalis, in the Loughglyn direction, caught fire. All the underwood was burned, along with some large trees. The blaze was so high that it was seen within two miles of Ballaghaderreen and caused great alarm in several parts of the country. The origin of the fire is unknown.

IRISH ATTRACTIONS FOR THE TOURIST.

The Dublin Freeman, writing on this subject, says:—"We have a word to say for the country of which so-called traveled Irishmen knew least—their own. For the one cultured Irish gentleman who has been through the Donegal highlands or westerly shores to whom the show-places of Paris, Switzerland, and the Rhine are wearisome from repetition. You meet more of our countrymen couring the Mediterranean on board French Messageries' boats than upon the steamer up Lough Corrib. The hotel looks at Glenties, or Lecum, or even Glendalough, are inscribed with the names of Americans or English surnames, with addresses thousands of miles away, for the one O or Mac who has had the curiosity to come from Dublin, or Cork or Belfast. To be ignorant *sursum* is the nobility of nations. We do not for a moment mean to say that a man is a patriot bound to close his eyes to the world's past and the still mightier achievements of his living present, until he has spent a fortune in exploring every truncheon local race-show on the map of Ireland. Far less do we dispute that where health, not merely pleasure, is the goal, the doctor, and not the patriot, should advise the Irishman who can travel would do sensibly as well as patriotically to see for himself how the beauties of his own country contrast with those gaudier lands over which poets have so often languished and travelers have so often yawnd. If only this is dispassionately done, we have no dread in the world that that tourist will dependant on a happy summer at home. In mere wealth of coloring, in glorious mountain forms, in Southern warmth, in thousand-shifting shapes of beauty, Killarney or Glendalough need not dread the rivalry even of Leman's fairy lake. Glendalough, that dead sacred city of churches, has a history and a beauty, as inspiring in its way as the fabled of Pompeii. Connaught's glorious solitudes only want to be known to realize all that Mr. Davenport Dunn ever dreamed of his Southern elysium. Lisdoonvarna, with its wondrous spas and gay hotels and neighbouring giant cliffs; Trillick, upon its golden throne of sands; rich Tipperary, storied Kilkenny; the rich and storied Boyne Valley, that little Irish Egypt whose pyramids, too, are the tombs of kings; our hundred little seaside paradises from patrician Bray to modest trooks of velvet strand like Cushendun or Bundoran; all these are stored with bracing pleasures, beside which the confusing hubbly of a Continental excursion is as a feverish dream. This year there is no Paris Exhibition to debar the world with its cheap dissipations. The two greatest of the Irish railway companies, the Great Southern and Western and the Midland Great Western, have done their part to keep Irish tourists at home, as well as to bring foreigners here. We hope the Irish hotel-keepers will, in their own interest, be equally far-sighted. We do not at all share the flippant opinion that Irish hotels are excessively dear or excessively dirty. We believe that in both respects they would bear favorable comparison with their high-and-mighty rivals on the Continent. Irish hotels are no longer what they were in the days when Thackeray made his famous drawing of the poker supporting the window of the (then) Shelbourne Hotel. Fancy a window stuffed with an old hat, or a slatternly chambermaid in curl-papers resting on her sweeping brush to crack jokes with Cockney, to the Shelbourne of to-day! Still, in some of our finest pleasure places are even yet open to pretty heroic figures in the direction of cleanliness, tidiness, comfort, and cheapness. We might mention several, situated in the very centres of some of nature's grandest attractions, in whose administration and tariff there is ample room and much necessity for thorough reform. On our hotel-keepers we would strongly impress the imperative necessity of personal inspection of their rooms—the desirability of ventilation in all the apartments—and the propriety of almost daily communication with their visitors as to their wants and wishes."

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