THE MOTHERLAND

Latest Mails from ENGLAND IRELAND and SCOTLAND

IRELAND.

ARMAGH.

Among the many valuable prizes which have been received by his Eminence Cardinal Logue, for the forthcoming bazaar for the completion of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, special interest attaches to those forwarded by the Royal Family of Spain, which include a costly and beautiful bonbonniere presented by Queen Isabella; a fan of rare beauty and workmanship, given by the Queen Regent Christina. The Infanta Isabella sends a benitier (holy water font), of exquisite design, the background consisting of marble, to which is attached a cross, richly inlaid with gold and mosaics the font being formed of gold. A splendid vase and ashtray of bronze and copper are the contribution of the Infanta Eulalia, and a charming set of doll's furniture, richly ornamented with hand-painted work, is the gift of the Princess Clara of Bavaria The Duchess of Magenta sends a beautiful cushion worked by her own hands, and the Princess Paz of Bavaria presents an antique Bavarian clasp of solid gold, set with pearls.

BELFAST.

On April 22nd, his Eminence Cardinal Logue was presented with an address of welcome in Belfast, on behalf of the Belfast Branches of the Gaelic League. His Eminence, having replied in the Irish language, dwelt on the advantages of bi-lingual education, which should be maintained in the Irish schools the same as in the Highlands of Scotland and in Wales. He deplored the loss of our National music and other traits in our National character, and said that, of all the movements for the welfare of the country, the revival of the Irish language was most deserving of support; and he hoped that their efforts to place their mother tongue in the position which it should have—not as the only language in Ireland, but as the leading language in Ireland—would be crowned with success Most Rev. Dr. Henry, Bishop of Down and Connor, presided, and the address to the Cardinal was read by Councillor P. J. Magee.

DUBLIN.

The small amount of popular attention that the so-called "royal visit" attracted in Dublin and its vicinity was strikingly manifested on the occasion of the Punchestown races—on April 24th and 25th. "The Races,"—as they are familiarly called by the city people—have always been a favorite diversion of the Dublin population of the Irish capital, who could usually be relied on to throng to the race-course by every mode of conveyance and locomotion—from railroad expresses and four-in-hands to donkey carts and "shanks mare." On this occasion the managers of the race-meet anticipated an unprecedented rush owing to the announcement that the "royal party" would be present, in all the glory of escort and out-riders, regal liveries, and flunkies in general, of every rank and class. The actual result was (to these latter, at least,) a woeful disappointment. The accounts of the "meet" received by mail, state that, on the first day, "the attendance at Punchestown was so small that, not in the memory of the most habitual race-goer, did so few people journey to the famous plains, notwithstanding the weather was glorious, and the elaborate arrangements made for the reception of the 'royal party' were modelled on those which are followed at Ascot. The scene was particularly pretty, and well worth looking at; but as the racing could not begin until the arrival of the 'royal' visitors—who were more than half an hour behind the appointed time—the multitude had to wait that space for the opening of the sports, and there was grumbling accordingly. The general dissatisfaction appeared to infest even the racing with disaster. Mr. M. A. Hann got a severe fall while riding Pamela, in the Tickell Cup race, and the favorite horse, Prison (the son of Dog Rose), which represented Mr. J. Whalan in the Drogheda Plate, was so much injured that it became necessary to have him shot. Another horse which met with a mishap on the opening day was Willie, which, while running in the Military Stakes, fractured a small bone in his knee, and had to be withdrawn. On both days there was a marked falling off in the strength of the meet; and, in the course of nearly two score years' experience, the old habitues of Punchestown never saw so few people present."

LIMERICK.

The committee of the great Kincora fete to be held in Limirick on 13th June and three following days, are adopting an arrangement which will have very special interest for business people. It is expected that an immense number of visitors will be attracted to the fete daily, and in order that the advantage of such an opportunity may be availed of by business people it is proposed by the Fete Committee to have a special section devoted to an industrial exhibition, where goods and manufactures of all kinds would be on view, and facilities thus offered to enterprising business people for bringing their materials prominently before the public. For this purpose a large space at the entrance to the Butter Market in Cathedral place, and which will form the main public entrance to the fete grounds, will be set apart for exhibition and advertising purposes. A space of about six hundred feet in length and of sufficient depth will be here available for all classes of exhibits, and as this ground will be covered in and well lighted, both day and night, it will afford a very attractive place for the display of all kinds of manufactures, and shop goods. This feature of the fete promises to be most interesting and already applications have been received from many business people for exhibition spaces. All information in connection with this department may be obtained on application to Mr. Robert Hickey, hon. sec. Fete Committee, Catholic Institute, Limerick. A very energetic committee of the citizens have charge of the details of the fete, which promises to be a big attraction, both in point of amusements and attendance. As already announced, the opening ceremony will be performed by his Eminence Cardinal Logue.

MAYO.

On the 25th ultimo, in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, a strange incident occurred, which appears to have escaped record, so far, in any newspaper. An application was made in respect of property of the Knox family in the County Mayo, for directions from the court. There was produced before the tribunal a venerable Catholic relic which seems to have been an heirloom in the family, although Protestant, which was described by counsel as "The Mess Thierna." It consisted of a shrine, apparently of copper gilt, contained, it was said, some of the bones of St. Kieran. The estate, apparently, did not realize sufficient to pay all the creditors, and in the course of discussion one of the counsel asked how the Mess was to be disposed of. The Vice-Chancellor paused for a moment and then gave the routine direction that it be lodged to the privity of the Accountant-General. To the Bank of Ireland, therefore, the ancient shrine was sent, there possibly to be forgotten unless it can be treated as an asset which can profitably be disposed of for the benefit of the Knox creditors. As the incident has escaped notice we bring it before our readers so that inquiry may, if necessary, be set on foot to see whether some steps cannot be taken to place the shrine in worthier custody.

For the last quarterly return of marriages, births and deaths issued by the Registrar-General it appears that during the quarter ended 31st March the number of births registered in the 829 registrars' districts in Ireland was 26,345—a number equal to an annual birth-rate of 23.4 in every one thousand of the population, while the number of deaths was 21,178, representing an annual rate of 27.7 per thousand. During the same period, according to the best information available, 5,302 persoas emigrated, so that the total decrease in population from excess of deaths over births and from emigration during the first three months of the year was one of 10,135. It will be noted that the number of deaths—21,178—during January, February and March is abnormally high, being, in fact, 5,829 above the average of the corresponding quarter of the last ten years, and 11,864 over the number of deaths registered during the previous quarter, or 27.7 per thousand of the estimated population. The cause of the high rate of mortality is stated to be found in the ravages of influenza, with its complications, during a long and severe winter. One of the most interesting tables contained in the interesting return with which we are now dealing is that which sets out the population of Ireland, estimated to the middle of each of the seventy-five years, 1825 to 1900. A glance at the figures shows that from the year 1825, when it stood at 7,172,722, the population of this country steadily increased until 1845, in which year it was estimated to amount to 8,287,848. From that year downwards, however, the population has gradually gone on diminishing, until the total number of the present inhabitants is estimated to be only some four and a half millions odd. The story of this terrible shrinkage is one of the saddest chapters in Irish history, and constitutes the most damaging indictment of English misrule which could be formulated.

The Weekly Nation says: An American contemporary publishes some interesting facts concerning the great industry of Canada, which is yearly increasing in importance. The best authorities, we are told, say that there are at least 100,000 acres of undeveloped peat-bog in the Province of Ontario, principally in the Counties of Perth, Welland and Essex. The largest area lies in the County of Perth, eight miles north of the City of Stratford, on the Grand Trunk Railway. Here there is a swamp of 40,000 acres, with a depth of peat-bog that varies from a foot to twenty feet. The process of manufacture by which the peat is prepared for various uses as fuel, may be briefly described. The peat is cut and air-dried, after which it is pulverized by being passed through a picker, and automatically deposited in a hopper which feeds a steel tube about two inches in diameter and fifteen inches long. The pulverized peat is forced through this tube by pressure and formed into cylindrical blocks three inches in length and almost equal in density to anthracite coal. The fuel is non-friable and weather-proof by reason of its solidity and the extreme glaze imparted to it by frictional contact with forming dies. The inherent moisture of the peat is reduced to 12 per cent. of the mass. In weight it compares with coal as follows: Eighty-three pounds per cubic foot of peat equal seventy-three pounds of bituminous or ninety-three pounds of anthracite coal.

In view of the fact that Ireland possesses vast tracts of peat-lands, it is strange that no effort on an important scale has ever been made to utilize the advantages which nature has placed at our disposal. In numerous districts in every province these peat-bogs occur, and it is certain that if local enterprise, intelligence directed, applied itself to developing the natural resources, a profitable industry would spring up, with effects beneficial to those immediately concerned in carrying it on, as well as to the community at large. The excellence of peat as a substitute for coal has been proved by experience, especially in Canada, where its use is daily extending. In the first place, it is claimed for the peat that it is superior to coal in its absolute freedom from sulphur and the absence of dust, smoke and clinkers during consumption. In a great measure this solves the problem of furnishing clean, clear, uniform and reliable food for all domestic purposes, as it is equally serviceable for grates, stoves, cooking ranges and furnaces, giving a long, bright flame, and intense heat almost from the moment of ignition. It has been tested in locomotives with excellent results, showing that the thermal value of 100 pounds of peat is equal to 95.15 pounds of coal It was also tried at the powerhouse of the Metropolitan street railway, Toronto, and gave great satisfaction. The heat produced was much greater than that of coal, but it was 8 per cent deficient in lasting power. It requires but little draught and burns best in a shallow fire box. The machinery used in manufacturing peat fuel is not expensive and requires but little attention when in operation. Knowledge of these facts should stimulate persons of an enterprising disposition and possessing some capital, to make an effort to utilize the natural resources in which our country so richly abounds.

SCOTLAND.

A Tour in the Western Highlands—The Very Rev Father Archibald Campbell, S. J., recounted recently with the aid of limelight views on the above subject to the members and friends of the Caledonian Catholic Association. Starting from Oban the lecturer conducted the audience to Ballachulish, and pointed out the place where "Beum mas a Ghlinne—James Stewart of Glenduror—was executed for the supposed murder of Colin Campbell of Glenure He was tried by a jury of Campbells and condemned on very questionable evidence. Glencoe was next visited, and the scene of the historic massacre described. From thence we were carried to Tobermory and Iona. The historic ruins were graphically described by the lecturer, who also gave a brief biography of St Columba. From Iona we went to Castlebay, where Closmal Castle was described. We were also shown "Coillcag a Phrionnsa" and the Isle of Eiresgey, where Prince Charlie landed. The lecturer referred in fitting terms to the benefits conferred on these islands by the passing of the Crofters Act, which had raised them from tenants-at-will, entirely at the mercy of the landlord or his factor, into holders of crofts, with fixity of tenure and a fair rent fixed by an independent tribunal. He knew of no place where you could find more devout or earnest Catholics than in Uist and Barra. One felt in sympathy with all the surroundings—the very atmosphere was Catholic. These Catholics had special hymns or prayers associated with every duty. They never put to sea without having their boat blessed They carried a bottle of holy water in the prow of each boat, and they never throw out their nets or their lines without invoking the blessing of the Trinity on the action.

ALWAYS ON HAND.—Mr. Thomas H. Porter, Lower Ireland, P. Q., writes: "My son, 15 months old, had croup so bad that nothing gave him relief until a neighbor brought me some of DR THOMAS' ECLECTRIC OIL, which I gave him, and in six hours he was cured. It is the best medicine I ever used, and I would not be without a bottle of it in my house."

STRANGLED.

There is a legend in some Spanish book
About a noisy reveler who, at night,
Returning home with others, saw a light
Shine from a window, and climbed to look,
And saw within the room, hanged to a hook,
His own self-strangled self, grim, rigid, white,
And who, struck sober by that livid sight,
Feasting his eyes, in tongue-tied horror shook.

Has any man a fancy to peep in
And see, as through a window, in the past,
His nobler self, self-choked with coils of sin,
Or sloth, or folly? Round the throat whipped fast,
The noose give the face a stiffened grin.
'Tis but thyself. Look well. Why be aghast?

TOWN TOO VALUABLE TO LIVE IN.

A gold mine has been located on one of the streets of Keswick, Shasta County, Cal., and there are indications of an oil vein in another. The population will soon have to move away. The town is altogether too valuable merely to be lived in.

Help Wanted.

You will notice in this issue the big list of presents we are giving free with $1 00 or $2.00 mail order of any price Tea or Coffee, etc., for 60 days or till an agent is appointed in your district. We will give to your customers or friends every article mentioned in the $1.00 or $2 00 list and if you will canvass a few friends and get us a club order and send us in 25 one dollar order, or 15 two orders, we will present you with a heavy gold plated watch, closed case, warranted good time keeper stem and wind, set, beautifully engraved, artistic design ladies' or gents' size.
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Samuel Laing says: "In any true reading of history the Church and her establishments were the only asylums in which the spirit of freedom and of independence of mind was lodged, kept alive and nursed to their present maturity." And again: "All that men have of social, political and religious freedom may be clearly traced in the history of every country to the workings and effects of the independent power of the Church of Rome."

De Quincey says: "We maintain that in any one period of sixty years, in any one of those centuries which we call so familiarly the Dark Ages (yes, even in the tenth and eleventh), we engage to name more and better books as the product of the period given than were produced in the whole 350 years from Trajan to Honorius and Attila."

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP MACDONALD

In our last issue we published a brief announcement of the death of this eminent prelate. We now give an abbreviated account of his life, clipped from the Liverpool Catholic Times

A distinguished career characterized in an eminent degree by all those endearing virtues which tend to make an archbishop the beloved of all his flock has just closed by the sad death of the Most. Rev. Angus Macdonald, D.D., Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh and Metropolitan of Scotland On Sunday afternoon, April 29, at 4.30 o'clock, His Grace peacefully breathed his last, after enduring with quiet and uncomplaining fortitude a most painful and trying illness of about three weeks' duration.

Archbishop Macdonald it is interesting to learn, came of an old and distinguished Catholic Highland family, the Macdonalds of Glenaladale, who have been ever

TRUE TO THE GRAND OLD FAITH.

of the land and whose fortunes were so closely associated with the cause of the ill-fated Stuarts.

The elder brother of the late archbishop, Col. Macdonald, C. B., formerly commandant of the militia battalion of the Cameron Highlanders, is the present laird of Glenfinnan. It was accordingly a supreme satisfaction to Scottish Catholics to learn, about eight years ago, that a distinguished member of so old a Scottish family had been raised by the Vatican to the Metropolitan See, vacated by the death of Archbishop Smith. The youngest of three sons of the late Mr. Angus Macdonald of Glenaladale, the deceased archbishop was born at Borrodale, Inverneshire, on 8th September, 1844. He received his ecclesiastical training in

ST. CUTHBERT'S COLLEGE, USHOW.

where he proved a distinguished student in the philosophical and theological classes, and where he received the various orders up to the priesthood. After his ordination in July, 1872, his first mission was St. Patrick's, Glasgow, where, by the assiduous and zealous discharge of his duties, he won the esteem of his superiors and of the dense population amongst whom he ministered.

Speaking Gaelic as his mother tongue and having already become an acknowledged authority on the literature of that language, it was only natural that when, in the course of a few years, the ministerial charge at Arisaig fell vacant by the death of Father Mackinnon—himself a rather remarkable man in his way—Father Angus Macdonald should have been selected for the post. The energy with which he threw himself into the work among his Highland brethren in the new sphere marked out for him is still gratefully remembered in the locality. But early preferment awaited him. The Scottish hierarchy was re-established or restored in May, 1878, and, among all the appointments to which the new order of things gave rise, it was acknowledged that there was none more appropriate than the elevation of Father Macdonald of Arisaig to the See of Argyll and the Isles, which his ancestor had held more than a century and a quarter previously. Under his fostering oversight the Catholic body made

SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

and chapels and schools grew up in localities where the like had not been seen for centuries. His unobtrusive manner and his unselfish devotion to his work earned the admiration even of those who did not own his spiritual sway; and it is has been said that he often overtaxed his physical powers by the long and arduous journeys by land and sea which he was accustomed to undertake in all weathers, from Oban, his headquarters, in order to visit even the most outlying parts of his scattered diocese. Self-sacrifice seemed to be the guiding principle of all his actions.

When the Archbishopric of St. Andrews and Edinburgh fell vacant by the death of Archbishop Smith, the Holy See went very deliberately about the appointment of his successor, and it was generally supposed at the time that the delay in filling the vacancy was due to the adjustment of certain financial questions, as between diocese and diocese, which were then understood to be pending before the ecclesiastical authorities. When at length it transpired that the Vatican had decided to bestow the vacant pallium upon the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles it was felt that the decision was beyond cavil. In St. Mary's Cathedral, Broughton street, Edinburg, on the 25th of August, 1892, he took formal possession of his new see, and was

INVESTED WITH THE PALLIUM

the badge of archiepiscopal dignity. How he discharged the duties of his high office from that day until laid aside by the illness which has now terminated fatally is in the knowledge of the entire Catholic body in Scotland.

All knew him, and were personally, and in very humblest member of the community over which he ruled had as much attention and courtesy from him as had those of the highest social standing. As a Gaelic scholar he had, as has already been remarked, a considerable reputation, and he was one of the distinguished company which entertained the late Prof. Blackie to dinner in celebration of the foundation of the Celtic chair in Edinburgh University. Of written English, too, he had a fine command,

HIS PASTORAL LETTERS.

being models of style. His death is not only a loss to the Catholic church in Scotland, but is in the nature of a personal loss to every member of his flock who ever came into contact with him. Beyond the pale of the church Archbishop Macdonald had also many friends, who admired and loved the man for his gentle manner and saintly life and for the unselfish devotion to his work, which his friends knew was the spirit that animated all his actions.

When the funeral obsequies took place, with Bishop Maguire of Glasgow as the preacher, all the leading Catholic clergy of Scotland took part in the sad and solemn function. The Highland heart to-day mourns as no other heart can the demise of Archbishop Macdonald.

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