

IRISH TOPICS

Peter McCoy, a laborer, died at Newry, on Sunday, Aug. 19, aged 101 years.

County Monaghan contributed £96 18s. 4d. to the Evicted Tenants' Fund up to Aug. 23.

There died at Cluan recently, Thomas Kavanagh, who had attained the ripe age of 120 years.

Alfred Welsh, M.P., for West Waterford, intimates he will not contest the seat at the next election.

Mr. O'Reilly, of Doogra, Killeshandra, has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for County Leitrim.

Mr. Comerford was elected Clerk to the Kilkenny Union, on Aug. 23, by 25 votes to 24 cast for Mr. Fogarty.

William Fitzgerald, solicitor, has been appointed Clerk of the Peace and Crown for the West Riding of County Cork.

On the 18th ult., Richard Latchford, Jr., was sworn in before J. F. M. Miles, J. P., as justice of the peace for County Kerry.

Tipperary has the distinction of contributing the second largest amount to the Evicted Tenants Fund up to Aug. 23—£1,310 4s. 10d.

The death occurred, on Aug. 15, at the District Asylum, Killarney, of Margaret, wife of Dr. L. T. Griffin, Resident Medical Superintendent.

On August 19, Jeremiah McCarthy, a solicitor of Limerick, was drowned in the Shannon while on a yachting excursion with some friends.

Donegal stands generously by the evicted tenants, as evinced by the fact that up to August 23 she had subscribed £275 8s. 1d. to their fund.

The body of a farmer named Michael Crilly, residing in Carrickbracken, near Camlough, was discovered in the Bessbrook Canal, on August 22.

Mary Kilroy, a widow, aged seventy-three years, residing at Belfast, was found drowned in a water barrel in the yard of her residence on August 22.

John Milling, of Westport, son of Mr. Milling, County Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary, has passed an examination for a constabulary cadetship.

At a meeting of the board of the City of Dublin Steampacket Company, John Murphy was elected a director in succession to the late Michael Murphy, J. P.

The death occurred on August 20, at Lorette Abbey, Rathfarnham, of Ann (in religion Sister M. Petronilla), eldest daughter of the late John Byrne, of Inch, County Wexford.

The friends of Mrs. McDermott, principal teacher of Manorhamilton Female National School, will be pleased to hear that she has been promoted to first class as a result of the examination of teachers held in Sligo.

At Armagh Petty Sessions, on Aug. 23, an Orangeman named John Warren was fined ten shillings and costs for firing a revolver on the public road at Mullinstown, an almost exclusively Catholic hamlet, on July 27.

It is reported that Edmund M. Kirby, P.L.G., of Ballyhoodane, Caherelly, and Thomas D. Clifford, chairman of the Croom Poor Law Union, have been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for County Limerick.

The Dublin juries, who hate to be passed on the road by what they call "sycicle" riders, and who for a long time regarded the pneumatic tire with no friendly eye, have at last recognized its merits, and a drive on an "outside" car fitted with pneumatic tires is now one of the luxuries of "dear, dirty Dublin."

Michael Carroll, a respectable farmer, was found dead in one of his fields at Ballyvolane, near Fermoy, on August 19. He was aged seventy-six. Another farmer named Daniel Colbert, of Killphebeen, Conna, was working in his field in his usual health when he was attacked with a sudden pain, and being removed home died shortly after. He was aged seventy years.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed the following gentlemen to the Commission of the Peace for County Sligo: P. S. Kilkallen, of Orangely, Screen, vice-chairman of the Dromore West Board of Guardians; Thady Tiernan, of Woodville, chairman of the Dromore West Board of Guardians, and Dr. Martyn, of

Sligo. All are Catholics, and as the county magistracy has for so far been almost exclusively Protestant and Conservative the appointments have given widespread satisfaction.

Isolated cases of smallpox (variola) have occurred in Birr district. In the Portumna Union a man has taken the disease in a curious way. Three months ago a pensioner died from it, and this man attended him, although it is only now that the symptoms of the malady are apparent. In the Edenderry Union there are several cases, and two have had a fatal termination. In another instance a tramp was admitted suffering from a virulent type of the disease. Both Edenderry and Portumna guardians have adopted ample precautions against the disease spreading.

CRUEL EVICTIONS.

Two exceedingly harsh evictions are reported from the parish of Barryroe, in West Cork. The landlord is a young gentleman named Bennett, whose father in the Land League days was noted for his harsh treatment of his tenantry. The two victims of the eviction proceedings lived at a place named Carrigeen, in the parish of Barryroe, their names being Patrick Leary, rent £11 10s., and Patrick Fleming, £7 10s. The land is of poor quality, and the tenants owed only one year's rent each. The landlord and his bailiffs were accompanied on the eviction expedition by District Inspector Walsh, of Oronakilly, and a force of police, though no disturbance or resistance of any kind was threatened, the people in this district looking upon eviction proceedings of late as if they are quite innocent transactions, because a Liberal party is in power.

The local clergy, Father McCarthy, P.P., and Father Kearney, C.C., were present and pointed out to the landlord that the crops of the tenants were very promising, and that they would guarantee to pay their rents after the harvest. The landlord ignored these pleas and ordered the evictions to proceed. Fleming and his wife and six children were turned out on the roadside, and would not be admitted back as caretakers. Possession was taken of O'Leary's farm and premises, but the tenant's wife, an invalid 80 years of age, was not removed. Father McCarthy warning the landlord that if she was removed and fatal consequences ensued he would be held responsible. The eviction over, the police escorted the landlord and bailiffs home, without having met with a murmur of opposition, notwithstanding the cruel nature of the proceedings, the evictions being carried out just at the time when the tenants' crops, on which they had spent their toil and money, were coming to maturity. The utter absence of anything like the old Land League spirit under such circumstances is an eloquent testimony to the baneful effects of that West Britonism so industriously propagated amongst the people by Whig priests and Whig politicians.

ROMAN NEWS.

Mgr. Ferrata, Apostolic nuncio in Paris, is spending his vacation in Italy. Mgr. Celli, auditor of the nunciature, attends to the business of the Holy See during his absence.

Sixty Canadian pilgrims attended Mass last Sunday morning in the hall of the Consistory. The Pope acted as celebrant. After the services the Pope spoke a few pleasant words to each of them.

The congregation of Rites has taken another step in the progress of beautification of the Venerable de Marillas, co-foundress with St. Vincent de Paul, of the Sisters of Charity, by deciding that there was nothing contrary to faith in her writings.

Father Herzog has been appointed procurator of the Sulpicians at Rome, thus succeeding Father Captier, the new Superior General of the congregation. The Bishop of Orleans has in consequence confided to Father Herzog the charge of postulator of the cause of the venerable Joan d'Aro which Father Captier's position obliged him to relinquish.

Pope Leo on the Feast of St. Ignatius sent his blessing to an Irish nun, who celebrated her golden jubilee at the Rathfarnham Convent, near Dublin, that day. She is Sister M. Agnes McAllister, who entered the Order of Loretto on the

31st of July, 1844, at the age of 16 years, as a postulant. She was received as a novice on the 15th of October, 1844, and finally became a professed nun on the 15th of October, 1846.

The Romans celebrated the feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God, August 15, with truly remarkable fervor and devotion. His Eminence Cardinal Parrochi celebrated the pontifical high mass in the church of St. Marie, in Trastevere, which was the first in the city of churches that was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and it was to this circumstance that the unchangeable devotion of the inhabitants of that quarter of Rome is attributed.

A MISSIONARY LEGEND.

A TRADITION OF THE EARLY MISSIONS IN NEW MEXICO.

In the Catholic Times Father Hayes, S. J., relates the following tradition of early missions in New Mexico:—

The first faint traces of female religious work in what now constitutes United States territory were found among the Indian tribe of the Xumanas, in the heart of New Mexico, by Father John de Salas, a Franciscan missionary, in the year 1623. Pushing on from tribe to tribe over that uncultivated and uncivilized region, he was surprised to find, here in the depths of the wilderness, the Xumanas familiar with the Christian doctrine, which they declared they had been instructed in by a woman. The missionary showed them the picture of a nun; they declared that the dress was the same, but that the lady who visited them was younger and handsomer.

When Father Benevier, after having founded a mission among them in 1629, returned to Spain, he heard of Sister Maria de Agreda, and at her convent learned that she had, in ecstasy, visited New Mexico and instructed the Indians.

The Franciscan writers of that time speak of this marvelous conversion of the Xumanas by her instrumentality as a settled fact. The venerable Maria de Agreda was born in 1602, and at the age of 16, together with her mother and sister took the religious habit and veil in the order of the Poor Clares, and at the same time her father and two brothers entered the convent of San Antonio. It is said that Sister Maria de Agreda often during her life petitioned the Holy See to define clearly two points, which in our time have been declared articles of faith: viz., the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, and the Infallibility of the Pope. She died in 1665. The process of her canonization began soon after her death and has again been revived. The above is a matter of well substantiated history, never called into question by the chroniclers of that and subsequent times, neither do we doubt the evidences given. It furnishes a most remarkable starting point for the marvelous works accomplished since in real life by the thousands upon thousands of devoted women down to our time and in our own time.

CARDINAL GIBBONS ON POPE LEO XIII.

Cardinal Gibbons, in an article in one of the New York dailies of the 27th ult., treats of Pope Leo XIII., as the man, the priest, the pontiff, the statesman, the patriot and the father of his Church. We quote:—

"The Holy Father found the Church suffering, wounded, maimed. The mundane influence and glory of the Papacy had been lessened. The moral influence of Rome seemed shaken. In the seventeen memorable years of his Pontificate, however, Leo XIII. has regained all that has been lost, and won new glories for the Church.

"He has raised the moral, political and spiritual power of Catholic Christendom. He has earned the admiration of the people, the friendship of their rulers, the love of the Catholic clergy, and the willing or unwilling admiration of his adversaries. And all this he has accomplished by hard work, by prayer, by faith, by the force of his firm will, his high intelligence and his inflexible adhesion to principle.

"The spiritual and intellectual qualities which so pre-eminently distinguish Leo XIII. are eloquently reflected in his somewhat fragile and tender frame and his finely-shaped hands, and his expressive, warm and characteristic countenance.

It is plain that the divine fire burns brightly within that apparently delicate body.

"When he enters a room he glides rather than walks across the floor, seeming less a being of mere flesh and matter, like ordinary men, than, as it were, a temporarily embodied spirit. It is marvellous to see with what fortitude the Pope endures long ceremonies which would be trying to the strength of far more youthful priests. Often long after his attendants have retired and he is supposed to be sleeping peacefully, he is praying or reading.

"In his lighter moods the Holy Father is not averse to penning Latin Odes and Italian sonnets. His poems, which fill a moderate sized volume, are equally felicitous, whether they are written in Latin or in his native tongue.

"He is an ardent and patriotic man, eager for the glory of his country and yearning for the renewal of the links of loyalty which till lately bound it closely to the Holy See.

"In nothing has the wisdom and the foresight of the Holy Father been more plain of late years than in his increasing disregard of the more ephemeral phases of politics and his increasing interest in the far greater and more weighty social, moral and educational problems with which the twentieth century may be forced to grapple.

"In the United States this interest has found practical expression in the approval and encouragement afforded to the Catholic University at Washington, in his charitable attitude towards the struggling wage-earners, and in the extraordinary and personal part which he has taken in the spiritual direction of American Catholicism.

"At eighty-four the Holy Father still enjoys good health. His intellectual force and clearness are intact; his activity and zeal seem unabated. Leo XIII. will have a place in history with the great Popes. He is a great statesman, a pure moralist, a keen observer and a deeper thinker."

ANTIQUÉ GLASS.

The world of the Mediterranean sea eighteen centuries ago was rich in works of art and decoration beyond our experience and beyond our flights of imagination. It is an effort which few of us can make with success to picture the wealth in beautiful art of a great city of the empire. The marbles have been burned to lime, the bronzes have been melted into grossous or their equivalent, the stuccoes have crumbled from the walls, the paintings have gone down with their walls to ruin, the shattered pottery has been used in filling and grading and building, and its remaining fragments are of no value except for an inscription or an impressed name—mere potsherds, with now and then a scrap of antiquarian interest.

The shattered glass alone contains in its very substance such beauty and such completeness, even in ruin, that its fragments are treasured up and studied. These broken bits point to a general use of vessels of decorative glass, used as we use porcelain for the finer vessels of table and toilet, and an abundance of objects of pure ornament, of wall linings and floor coverings, made of the same splendid material. No other substance is like that—beautiful in itself, in its every essence. Fragments of glass have often the value that fragments of pottery sometimes have—the partial figure, the incomplete pattern on the surface—and they have also what no pottery and no other artificial substance has—the beauty we generally think of as peculiar to natural stones, to agates and to jaspers.

As a collector fills his cabinet with pieces of precious and semi-precious stones, with here and there a piece which has, as it happens, a head or a piece of a head carved upon it, so the enthusiastic vitreologist collects glass as glass, loving its substance and its surface, its translucency and its opacity, its set patterns and its vague cloudings; here and there a stamped or a wheel ground-pattern adds its own attractiveness, but the glass itself is the thing. Precious and beautiful is glass, even in fragments.—*The Century*.

A total abstinence society has been organized at St. Augustine's colored Catholic Church, Washington. No color line wanted in temperance. The red, the white and the black need temperance in America.