

For the TRUE WITNESS.

THE CLOSE OF THE MISSION.

Beyond the pearly gates, to-night,
Throughout the highest heaven,
A song of thrilling joy is heard,
And praise to Him is given,
Whose mercy hath been limitless
To thousands kneeling there,
Around St. Patrick's altar bow'd
In humble heartfelt prayer.

For Christ's own chosen ones had come,
Those soldiers of the Lord,
Bearing His cross as standard, and
For arms His holy word.
Their war cry was of prayer, and of hope,
Of mercy and salvation,
And at its sound the heart's deep chords
Were wak'd to vibration.

Rebellious souls were captive led,
Bound by love's golden chain,
And Faith that long lay cold and dead
Awoke to life again.

The sighs that rose from contrite hearts
True sorrow's depths revealed;
The mercy sought was granted and
The pardon heaven seal'd.

Peace dwelt in every bosom now,
Joy on each brow did beam,
While grace, from God's white throne on high,
Flow'd like a golden stream.

In this last solemn, supreme hour
The tears arose unbid,
And shone like broken star-beams 'neath
Each downcast trembling lid.

Peace dwelt in every bosom now,
While on the incensed air
Arose in jubilation
A great harmonic prayer:
The "Te Deum laudamus," in
A clear exulting strain
Was heard beyond the starry skies
And echoed there again.

Ah blessed Faith! that gilds our days
And lights our nights of sorrow,
That leads us on, with tender hand,
To the Eternal morrow,
To thy strong arms will ever cling
Till calmly, on thy breast,
We close our eyes to find at last
A home of endless rest!

BELLELE.

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

CATHOLIC COLONY IN TEXAS.—The Bishop of Galveston has given his sanction to an enterprise about to be undertaken by Rev. Father McShane, O.S.A., who is about to establish in Texas a thoroughly Catholic colony.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION.—The Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, fell this year on Palm Sunday. While the indulgences attached to the day remain, the mass and office are transferred to the first vacant day after the Easter octave, namely Monday, April 9.

A LOVED PRIEST GONE.—The obsequies of the Very Rev. James Titta, O.S.F., were solemnly celebrated in St. Anthony's Church, Sullivan Street, New York, on the evening of the 14th inst. The deceased was pastor of the church, and died at the parochial residence on the previous Sunday, at the age of forty-five.

RECEPTION.—At the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Willowburgh avenue, Brooklyn, on Friday the 16th inst., Miss Sarah Carlyon, of Quebec, in religion, Sister Mary Gabriel, received the white veil from the hands of Rev. Father Thomas Taaffe, pastor of St. Patrick's who made some eloquent and very impressive remarks suitable to the occasion.

The remains of Sister Magdalene Mooney, daughter of Mrs. Mooney, of Dolphin's-barn, county, Dublin, were, on Feb. 26th, interred in the cemetery attached to the Convent of Mercy, Athlone. Deceased, who at the time of her death was in the eighteenth year of her religious profession, bore her short but painful illness with the most exemplary patience and resignation.

The *Unita Cattolica* announces with much satisfaction that the Duchess of Norfolk has just brought to a conclusion the works of the fourth of the five churches she vowed she would build in commemoration of the Wounds of our Lord. Monsignor Howard adds the *Unita Cattolica* will take his title of Cardinal from the church of St. John and St. Paul which was held by his ancestor, Cardinal Howard, who died in 1694.

A most successful mission, conducted by Fathers Johnson, Lombard, and Perranzo, from the Redemptorist Monastery at Kinross, Perth, Scotland, was brought to a close Sunday week, at Barhead. The exercises had extended over three weeks and had been attended by crowded audiences. On Sunday morning over 550 approached Holy Communion. In the afternoon the Most Rev. Archbishop Eyre administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 464 persons, mostly young. In the evening the closing service took place.

LATEST THINGS OF LOUISE LATEAU.—Even our non-Catholic English contemporaries are directing attention now to the wonders related in regard to Louise Lateau. Several of them have noted, within the last few days, the fact that the *Journal de Brazzaville* publishes a letter stating that Louise Lateau has not slept nor taken any kind of nourishment for four years. This is a fact, the writer of the letter states, which is affirmed on oath by the girl and her sisters, and it cannot be contradicted. Meanwhile notwithstanding the continued bleeding of the stigmata on Fridays, Louise is in as good a condition and looks as fresh as she did two years ago.—*London Weekly Register.*

FATHER DAMEN'S MISSION.—A correspondent of the *Catholic Review* adds some details concerning Father Damen's wonderful mission at St. Patrick's, New Orleans. "According to the pastor and the clergy Father Damen's mission was a grand success, yet, the Jesuit Fathers themselves accustomed to the overflowing missions of the North were not astonished by it. They had between 4,000 and 5,000 communions, thirty converts to the faith, among whom is Gen. Longstreet and several other persons of quality and education. Ninety-five adults were prepared for first communion. Father Damen has left for Mobile, where he gives a mission in Bishop Quinlan's cathedral. Father Brongseest with two other Fathers have gone to Montgomery, Ala.

BISHOP WALSA'S VISIT TO ROME.—Sunday, 18th inst., an immense congregation assembled in St. Peter's Cathedral, London, Ont., to greet Bishop Walsh on his first official appearance after his arrival from Europe. The proceedings were very interesting. High Mass was celebrated by Rev. G. Northgraves, and the whole staff of the Cathedral assisted. After the Gospel His Lordship addressed the congregation giving a very interesting account of his visit to Rome, and of his interview with the Holy Father. After High Mass, the Papal benediction was given by his Lordship the Bishop, accompanied by a "plenary indulgence," accorded by special authority by his Holiness the Pope.

The Confraternity of the Holy Family is making rapid progress, and a marked change in the people of Drogheda. The male portion of the Confraternity is placed under the spiritual guidance of

the Rev. Paul Ginnity, C. C., St. Peter's, and number about 1,500; the female portion, composed of young girls, about 1,000 in round numbers, is under the spiritual guidance of the Rev. Charles McEvoy, C. C., St. Peter's. Both these clergymen are most zealous and attentive to their charge, and the large numbers who usually attend in the church on each occasion of the Confraternity assembling for religious devotion is abundant proof of the good it is doing in the community.

THE JUBILEE OF HIS HOLINESS AND THE EDINBURGH CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.—The Council of the Edinburgh Catholic Young Men's Society have resolved to send an address of congratulation to his Holiness, on the occasion of his approaching jubilee as a bishop of the Church; and, at the same time, to present to his Holiness a jubilee offering, which they will strive to make worthy of the event. The council have also under consideration a proposal to make the day of the jubilee a day memorable in the history of Catholicism and of the society in Edinburgh, by holding a grand celebration of it in their hall, at which it is proposed, among other things, some clergyman or layman of distinction shall deliver a panegyric on the life and labours of Pius IX.

His Holiness has taken a very important step, in anticipation of the juncture when it shall be necessary to elect a successor to the chair of St. Peter. He has ordered a complete inventory to be made of all the property in the possession of the Holy See, and there is a clause in the instructions which provides that two catalogues shall be made out—one embracing everything over which the Pope has exclusive right of disposition, and another embracing whatever can give rise to any claims on the part of the Italian Government. When the inventories are completed they will be deposited in the keeping of the Cardinal Secretary of State, who will make such notes upon them as he may deem necessary. This measure, it may be added, is quite in harmony with the opinion held by Cardinal Simeoni since he assumed the responsibilities of his present office.

CATHOLICITY AMONG THE INDIANS.—The Indian Territory, with a population of 75,000 souls, has heretofore been attached to a diocese that is not able to give any material help to the missions of the Territory, or to assign a single priest exclusively to their care; but within the past year the Holy Father has erected this Territory into a Prefecture under the care of the Benedictines of France, who have named the Very Rev. Isidore Robert, a zealous young priest of their Order, Prefect Apostolic of the Indian Territory. He has recently established his seat at Atoka, and has entered on the discharge of his labors. The district of country known as the "Indian Territory" is bounded on the North by Kansas, and on the South and West by Texas. It is about equal in area to Arkansas, and it has been set apart by the Government permanently and exclusively for the Indians who are willing and are permitted to settle in it.

DIocese OF DOWN, IRELAND.—REMARKABLE FATALITY AMONG THE CLERGY.—Never (says the *Uster Examiner*, March 3rd), was there in the Diocese of Down and Connor such a number of distressing incidents within such a short space of time, and possibly we are the least prepared for it, from the fact that our Diocese has hitherto enjoyed, in this respect, an exemption as exceptional as the present cases are remarkable. The week opened with the death of the Rev. Father Fitzsimon. We were but a few days older, when Time, on the gray-haired pastor of Castlewellan, had done its worst, and a holy life of 59 summers was brought to a close. The news, though sad, was not surprising, for Father McAleenan had passed by nearly a decade the limits which nature has allowed to mortals; but surprise was not wanting, for with that news came also the tidings of yet another death in another district of our Diocese—that Father Martin, P.P. Daneeue, had closed his journey here below. Death has seized another victim from the ranks of our zealous clergy, for the Rev. Michael McCurtan, P.P., Portglenone, had breathed his last.

FATHER LANGAKE ON ST. PATRICK.—The last early morning discourse of the mission in St. Francis Xavier's, N.Y., happening to occur on the Feast of St. Patrick, the Rev. Father Langake made the saint his subject. There, were, he said, three great lessons to be drawn from his life. First, he was a man of prayer and penance. He used to get up at night to pray when most people were in their beds. Then he imposed upon himself the most rigorous penances, over and above those prescribed by the Church. We should at least observe the ordinary fasting days. Second, he banished toads and snakes from the Emerald Isle. Let all, young men especially, banish from the ale of their souls the toads of impurity and the snakes of drunkenness. Third, St. Patrick was an apostle of Catholicity. His children, scattered all over the world, should be missionaries likewise. In this country especially, they should, by their good example bring outsiders into the Church. St. Patrick is not honored by those who wear green ribbons, see the shamrock and listen to or make fine speeches, composed largely of gas, but by those who follow his example and practice the virtues and truths he taught.

ARCHBISHOP VAUGHAN.—A number of Catholic young men of the city of Sydney have presented to the Coadjutor Archbishop of Sydney a handsome crozier. The crozier is about six feet in height. The massive crook, which is composed of solid colonial gold, is of the orthodox pattern, and is made up of a number of scrolls, beautifully entwined one in another. The staff is made of polished myrtle wood, the joints or sockets being of pure gold fringed with golden leaves beautifully frosted. The whole, as it is held aloft, with its massive golden crook and beautifully polished and chastely ornamented staff, is a work of art that reflects great credit on the establishment that turned it out. The whole crozier is colonial, both in composition and manufacture, and is the first of the kind made in the colonies. There have been 30 oz. of gold used in the manufacture of it, and its estimated value is 200 guineas. On the top joint, at the base of the crook, Dr. Vaughan's crest has been beautifully engraved. The ferrule is also of solid gold. A beautifully polished colonial cedar case, richly lined and padded with silk and velvet has been made for holding it.

The new bell has been successfully elevated to its place in St. Patrick's new church, Belfast, which is rapidly approaching completion. The ceremony of blessing was performed by the Most Rev. Dr. Dorrin, bishop of the diocese assisted by the clergymen of St. Patrick's. Owing to its great weight—two tons—much difficulty was experienced in getting it hoisted into its position in the lofty tower. It is placed 100 feet from the base of the edifice, and is fixed in a massive frame, which has been constructed in a most ingenious and substantial manner. The process of raising it occupied about ten hours. The first note was rung by the Rev. Father Cahill, C. C., St. Patrick's. It may be mentioned that the bell tower, the completion of which was for some time delayed by the elevation of the bell, will be at once proceeded with, and it is expected that the finish will be placed upon it about July. The church is now in an advanced condition, and it is expected that it will be ready for opening by the close of the approaching summer. The present bell is only one of a peal which it is intended to put in the tower of the church, and it is so placed as to admit of the introduction of the remaining seven.

THE BRAHMO SOMAJ AND CATHOLIC CEREMONIES.—The *Ceylon Catholic Messenger* has the following: "The Archbishop (of Calcutta) recently presided at

St. Thomas' Church at the reception of a nun. One of the leaders of the Brahma Somaj and some Brahma ladies were invited to witness the ceremony. They readily accepted the invitation, and the impression they received, while witnessing one of our soul-elevating religious ceremonies, will be read, we doubt not, with special interest. A ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church is full of the profound symbolism of spiritual life. How much of spiritual life there may yet be in the ceremonies it is difficult for us to say; but the symbolism, when witnessed, cannot fail to awaken in the mind an intense appreciation of the glorious genius which underlies the faith and practices of the Roman Catholic religion. Last week we witnessed a reception service, at St. Thomas' Church, Middleton Row, with a number of Brahma ladies. A young lady took the white veil of the novitiate, and the service was performed by his Grace Archbishop Steles. In the precepts uttered on the occasion the principles of conventional life in relation to the freedom of will and deliberation allowed to those who adopt it were clearly explained, and the vows of Poverty, Purity, and Obedience were set forth and elucidated in a very effective manner. The young applicant for religious life seemed to understand her position very well. In fact, so far as these principles go, we have little to find fault with; it is their application to life that first creates the difficulty.

FATHER BRUYERE'S ELEVATION.—The following is a translation of the document brought by Bishop Walsh from his Holiness, elevating Very Rev. Vicar-General J. M. Bruyere to the dignity of a Roman Prelate, in recognition of his virtue and ability:—
To Our Beloved Son, John Mary Bruyere, Vicar-General of London, in Canada.
PUS IX., POPE.

BELoved SON.—Health and Apostolic Benediction. We are aware of your merits so consonant with the excellence and dignity of an ecclesiastical person, that we are induced to confer upon you an honor which will be an evidence of our paternal affection for you. Wherefore we absolve you from all ecclesiastical censures, which would be an obstacle in this matter, if you have incurred any, and by these letters, and our Apostolic authority, we choose, appoint and declare you to be a Monsignore of this city, that is to say our domestic prelate. Therefore, beloved son, you may freely and lawfully wear the robe and cape commonly called *Mantelletin*, of violet color, and outside of the Roman Court, the *Rochet*; and by the same authority, and in virtue of these presents, we grant to you the enjoyment of all the rights, faculties, indults, privileges, prerogatives and precedencies which our other domestic prelates use and enjoy, and which they are or will be entitled to use and enjoy, all other Apostolic constitutions and decrees to the contrary notwithstanding.

Dated at Rome at St. Peter's, under the Seal of the Fisherman, 12th December, 1876, in the 31st year of Our Pontificate.
(L. S.)

INVESTITURE OF A KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF CHRIST.—The solemn ceremony of the investiture of a Knight of the Pontifical Order of Christ, was performed on the morning of Friday, March 2nd, in the private chapel of Cardinal Borromeo in the Altieri Palace. The new Knight is Count Gabriel de Caix de St. Aymour, one of the private Chamberlains to his Holiness. Mass was said by his Eminence Cardinal Borromeo, and the Count de St. Aymour received Holy Communion. When Mass was terminated the Count was presented to the Cardinal by two Knights of the same Order, namely, Monsignor de Stacpole, Carmeriere Segreto, and Prince Altieri, captain of the Noble Guards of the Vatican. The brief of appointment was then read by Monsignor Cataldi, Master of Pontifical Ceremonies, and the new Knight then read aloud the formula of the Profession of faith and took the prescribed oath upon the Holy Gospels. The collar and cross of the Order were next placed by the Cardinal round the neck of the new Knight who received the embrace first of the Cardinal and then of the other knights present. The party then left the chapel and proceeded to an adjoining apartment, where the certificate of investiture was signed by the knights, and by those who had been invited to witness the ceremony. Among those present at this investiture were the Bishop of Laval, Prince of Altieri, the Duke della Regia, the Marquis Sacchetti, Porriere of the Vatican Palace; Commandatore Deshorties de Beauville, of the French Embassy; the Marquis de Baviera, Cavalier Paul Menacue, and Commandatore Datti.

THE CONFESSORIAL IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND.—"England is nearly twice, and Scotland nearly three worse than Ireland. Something worse had been added, from which no consolation can be derived. The proportion of illegitimacy is very unequally distributed over Ireland, and the inequalities are such as are rather humbling to us as Protestants, and still more as Presbyterians and as Scotchmen. The division showing the lowest figure is the Western, being substantially the province of Connaught, where about nineteen-twentieths of the population are Celtic and Roman Catholics. The division showing the highest proportion of illegitimacy is the Northeastern which comprises, or almost consists of the Province of Ulster, where the population is almost equally divided between Protestant and Roman Catholic; and where the great majority of the Protestants are of Scotch blood, and of the Presbyterian Church. The sum of the whole matter is, that semi-Presbyterian and Semi-Scotch Ulster is fully three times more immoral than wholly Popish and wholly Irish Connaught—which corresponds with wonderful accuracy to the more general fact that Scotland, as a whole, is three times more immoral than Ireland as a whole. There is a fact, whatever may be the deductions. There is a text, whatever may be the sermon; we only suggest that the sermon should have a good deal about charity, self-examination, and humility."—*Extract from the Scotsman, one of the leading organs of Presbyterian Scotland.*

THE CREED OF POPE PIUS IV.—As is well-known the professions of faith known as the Creed of Pope Pius IV. embodies the doctrinal definitions of the supreme ecclesiastical authority down to those of the Council of Trent inclusively, and is made by all Bishops, ecclesiastics charged with the cure of souls, rectors of universities, professors, &c., and others on special occasions. It is not to be wondered at that in this formula a paragraph has been now added containing an acceptance of the more recent declaration and definitions of the Vatican Council. By the Decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, dated the 20th January last, it is declared that the Holy Father, on the opinion delivered by that Special Congregation of Cardinals, has ordained and commanded that after the words, "precipue a Sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo," shall be added, "et ab Oecumenico Concilio Vaticano tradita, definita ac declarata, presentium de Romani Pontificis Primatu et infallibilitate magisterio," and that for the future this profession of faith shall be made by all who are bound to make it, in this and no other form, "under the comminations and penalties laid down by the Council of Trent and the above named Constitutions of Pius IV. of blessed memory." The paragraph as amended will accordingly run as follows:—"Cetera item omnia a sacris Canonibus et Oecumenicis Conciliis, ac precipue a sacrosancta Tridentina Synodo, et ab Oecumenico Concilio Vaticano tradita, definita ac declarata, presentium de Romani Pontificis Primatu et infallibilitate magisterio, indubitanter recipio atque et infallibilitate magisterio, indubitanter recipio atque et quascumque ab Ecclesia damnatas et reiectas et anathematizatas ego pariter damno rejicio, et anathematizo."

IRISH LANGUAGE.—Mr. O'Clery, M.P., Wexford county, has questioned the Chief Secretary for Ireland in the House of Commons regarding the conflict of consideration shown to Ireland and her native tongue, and that shown to the Welsh people, in the matter of Cymric, in primary schools under State inspection. Sir M. Hicks-Beech made some statements that are entirely unbounded with respect to the extent to which Irish is spoken, and others regarding the superior position, as a written language, of Cymric, which are mainly accurate, but the drift of his answer is eminently humiliating to Celtic pretensions. As has been already stated, a society has been formed in Dublin for the protection and the promotion of the Irish language, so that the whole question is sure to obtain the fullest discussion.

HOW IRISH WHISKEY IS MADE.—The *Freeman's Journal* gives the following:—"Before the Sunday closing Committee yesterday one of the witnesses examined was Mr. Superintendent Corr. In the course of his evidence he gave an astonishing account of the compound sold in Dublin by illicit dealers as whiskey. On one occasion he put a cork into a jar of night-house whiskey. It flew out with an explosion, and as often as the cork was put in the same thing happened! He also stated that one keeper of a night-house had confessed to him that he could make six or seven gallons of whiskey out of a pint of 'French polish.' This evidence fully confirms the belief we have always entertained that the madmen we have often seen reeling about the streets of Dublin are not drunk but poisoned."

IRISH INTELLIGENCE

There were exported from Cork, in the month of January, 18,721 firkins of butter.

The *Castlebar Telegraph* of March 3rd says:—"Early potatoes (fully the size of hen eggs), grown in the garden of A. B. Kelly, Esq., Solicitor, of this town, have been shown to us this week by his gardener, John McKeon."

The deplorable state of the entrance to the harbor of Wexford is now engaging the serious attention of the Wexford public, and a public meeting is on foot with the view of devising some means of restoring it to its former good condition.

Edward Perceval Westby, Esq., of Roebuck Castle, Dublin, and Doonahilly, Kildaha, county Clare, has been appointed to the commission of Deputy Lieutenant for the county Clare, in place of the late Admiral Sir Burton McNamara.

GOVERNOR POPE HENNESSY.—This gentleman, on vacation in his native city, has returned thanks for the freedom of Cork conferred on him. His speech is gracious and feeling, and such as must gratify the citizens of the Lee.

SUNDAY CLOSING.—Captain Talbot and the Recorder of Dublin have now been examined before the Select Committee, and no one can doubt that the weight of their evidence is against the scheme of total closing on Sunday.

The *Clonmel Chronicle* is informed, upon excellent authority, that within a considerable area around Clonmel there is noticeable a marked decrease in the number of cattle housed for stall feeding; in fact there is not one beast for the hundred which were "stalled" a few years ago.

The walls of Kinsale are placarded with notices to the effect that, on and after the first Monday in April, the masons in that town will cease to work for less than 5s per day, and will work only three quarters on Saturday. Some of the laboring hands are said to have struck also for 12s a week.

HOME RULE OFFICERS.—The Very Rev. Patrick O'Reilly, P.P., V.F., Drumlane, has been re-elected Chairman of the Cavan Home Rule Club for the ensuing year, John F. O'Hanlon Esq., Anglo Celtic Cavan, Hon Secretary, and Thomas Plunkett, Carrismore House, Treasurer.

The Assizes for the county Westmeath were opened on March 1st, at Mullingar, by Baron Deasy, who congratulated the Grand Jury on the satisfactory state of the county, as appeared by the reports of the county officials. Chief Justice Morris presided in the Record Court.

DUBLIN LIBRARIES.—The *Dublin Freeman* says:—"It is a melancholy fact that while in this city there are three noble libraries—Trinity College Library, with its 130,000 books; King's Inns with its 40,000; and Marsh's with its 20,000—all are confined to the better classes, and we have not scarcely the semblance of a popular library."

NOTICE TO QUIT ON THE GALTIE ESTATE.—We learn (says the *Cork Herald*) that fresh notices to quit have been served on some of the tenants of Mr. Nathaniel Buckley's estate, in whose cases a dismissal was given at the Clonmel Quarter Sessions recently. Notices are expected to follow in the cases of the remaining tenants who were defaulters on that occasion.

On March 1st, a meeting, convened by the Lord Mayor, was held in the Mansion House, Dublin, with a view to take steps to insure a proper representation of Irish art and manufactures at the Paris Exhibition of 1878. Sir James Mackay presided, in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Mayor. An influential committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the meeting.

KINGSTOWN AND QUEENSTOWN.—Sir Colman O'Loghlen, M.P., having made a blunder in his Bill to transfer the Gasbel seat to Kingstown, and the metropolitan suburban townships, a blunder exposed by the people of Kingstown, he tells them in answer that he will substitute Queenstown instead. The Irish people credited Sir Colman with more sense. Neither Kingstown nor Queenstown have any claim for the seat compared with Cashel and the other towns of Tipperary.

Messrs. Marsh and Son held their weekly sale of dairy and store cattle at their Repository, Copley street, Cork, on Feb. 24. There was a very large attendance of buyers and fair demand; upwards of 120 sheep were quickly disposed of, ewes fetched from 44s. to 57s., and hoggets from 30s. to 38s. each. There was about 60 head of cattle on sale; yearling bullocks and heifers sold from £4 to £7 5s., and dairy cows at from £13 5s. to £19 per head.

The several works of improvements at Ashford, near Cong, which were partially suspended during Sir Arthur Guinness' late illness, have been resumed, together with other works, and extensive employment is given to tradesmen and laborers in this town and locality. There are at present employed on the different works, 367 laborers, 83 tradesmen and artisans, 1 head and 6 under-stewards, 2 engineers, 2 clerks of works, 1 forester and 8 regular assistants, 1 head and 4 under gardeners, 2 time keepers, 2 game-keepers and 12 assistants, exclusive of horses and carts and farm laborers, office clerks, &c., &c., and stewards employed in minor positions.

On Sunday evening, 3rd March, the most noble William Drogo Montagu, Duke of Manchester, was admitted with more than usual circumstances of splendour a knight companion of the Order of St. Patrick. A chapter of the order was held at 10 o'clock in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, at which the Lord Lieutenant presided as Grand master. The knights companions attended in their mantles, stars, and collars. There was a grand procession of heralds, knights, and esquires, and the investiture of the Duke of Manchester with his sword, insignia, and banner was carried out with all ceremonial pomp. A well-trained choir under the direction of Sir Robert P. Stewart sang a noble programme of music.

IRISH LANGUAGE.—Mr. O'Clery, M.P., Wexford county, has questioned the Chief Secretary for Ireland in the House of Commons regarding the conflict of consideration shown to Ireland and her native tongue, and that shown to the Welsh people, in the matter of Cymric, in primary schools under State inspection. Sir M. Hicks-Beech made some statements that are entirely unbounded with respect to the extent to which Irish is spoken, and others regarding the superior position, as a written language, of Cymric, which are mainly accurate, but the drift of his answer is eminently humiliating to Celtic pretensions. As has been already stated, a society has been formed in Dublin for the protection and the promotion of the Irish language, so that the whole question is sure to obtain the fullest discussion.

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Mr. Thomas Nagle hold at the Commercial Sale Rooms, 121 George's street, Cork, on Feb. 24th, the following lots, situate in the barony of Duhallow near Kauturk the property of Cornelius O'Callaghan.—Lot 1.—Part of the lands of Dromskeh, containing 202 acres 0 rods 24 perches, producing £182 10s per annum; sold subject to a head rent of £64 12s 4d., and the rent—charge, £24 11s. 6d., in exoneration of the other lots. Mr. Barry, solicitor, was declared the purchaser at £3,320. Lot 2.—Part of Dromskeh, and the lands of Dromahoe, containing 643 acres 1 rood 36 perches, producing £387 15s. 5d. sold subject to a jointure of £300 a year to Mrs. Sarah Callaghan, now aged 72 years, for her life. Mr. Barry, solicitor, was declared the purchaser at £5,900. Lot 3.—Part of Dromskeh, containing 145 acres 0 rods 19 perches, producing £99 19s. 11d. a year. Mr. O'Connell was declared the purchaser at £2,250.

THE DEER OF CONNAUGHT IN OSSORY.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught lately spent a few days in Kilkenny Castle, one of the most splendid mansions in the three kingdoms, the guest of the Marquis of Ormonde, who gathered round his Royal Highness not only the rank and station of that splendid county and its adjoining ones, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford, Tipperary, and Queen's but also the middle and professional classes and the traders of the ancient city. In the hunting field H.R.H. met some of the most accomplished sportsmen to be found in Europe, Kilkenny being classic ground for country gentry. In the noble picture gallery of the castle the Duke of Connaught saw the portraits of more than one Butler, Catholic Archbishops of Cashel, one of them author of *Butler's Catechism*, an outline of Christian doctrine familiar over the globe wherever a child of St. Patrick is to be found. His Royal Highness expressed to many the intense gratification afforded him by his visit. He examined the city where the Confederate Catholics rallied for God, for the Church, for the King, and for the people; James, Marquis of Ormonde, being the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. These visits of the Duke of Connaught must soon familiarise him with the genialities of Irish life and attach him to the warm-hearted people amongst whom he is so cordially received.

WHAT HOME RULE MEANS.—The following extract, on the principle underlying the demand for Home Rule, is from a new book by Mr. McCarthy, M.P. It applies to all countries as well as to Ireland:—"But over and above these material advantages is the great moral one of Civil Liberty. If there be any one thing about which it is safe to say that all the civilized world and all political thinkers are agreed, it is that ordinarily speaking, a community gets on better when it manages its own affairs than when these affairs are managed for it by another community; just as, ordinarily speaking, a man gets on better when he has the management of his own affairs than when he is in bondage or tutelage to any one else. This thought underlies all the praises of civil liberty that were ever said or sung. Unless the community or the man be mad, they know their own business better than any one else knows it. Unless they be sneaks, they will feel as an intolerable grievance the pretension of any one else to supersede them in it. Keep a man in such bondage or tutelage, you will make him a milkop. All inventiveness, all brightness of genius, all force of character, all aspiration to achievement will die out in him. No such man does any real good for himself or any one else. Keep a community in such bondage or tutelage, and you emasculate it for all good purposes, and put it in the way of tamponing to all bad ones. Public spirit, self-reliance, self-control, self-knowledge, national faith, national hope, national charity will decline. No such community prospers, or ever yet prospered, since the world began." (pp. 16-18.)

A Cookstown, County Tyrone, correspondent of the *Derry Standard* is responsible for the following:—"I have it on reliable authority that an event, perhaps unprecedented in the annals of this country since St. Patrick converted the kings of Tara to Christianity, occurred last week a few miles from this town. The circumstances of the incident are as follows:—On the farm of a man named Barns there grew a very large tree, which defied human skill to cut it down. It is alleged that when any person attempted to bow it a voice from the inside would say, 'Don't cut it down,' and immediately the axe would turn in the hands of the hewer. On the present occasion a carpenter was working in the farmer's house, and, being unacquainted with the circumstances of the case, was "set drunk" by the man Barns, and despatched to cut down the tree. On giving the trunk the first cut of a hatchet, the usual words of admonition were spoken from the inside, to which our hero replied that he would take it to the ground if the old gentleman himself were in it. Accordingly he cut away, and in vain the voice entreated him to forbear; but when he had the trunk almost cut through, a figure, supposed to be that of a female, was seen by a crowd of spectators to leave the heart of the tree, while the carpenter fell to the ground in a spasmodic fit. The persons assembled to witness the fall of the wonderful tree were so terrified at the sight that they could not tell where the figure went. The unwise carpenter not recovering from his alarming symptoms, Dr. Henry Pomeroy, was soon in attendance, and pronounced his disease to be rheumatic fever. Some of the local inhabitants allege that there is a tradition to the effect that a female was hanged on the tree in former times.

INTERESTING IRISH RELICS. Speaking of the treasures of the Royal Irish Academy, which is open to the public, the *Dublin Freeman* says:—"In the Strong Room the visitor will find the gems of the collection—The Tara Brooch, the Cross of Cong, the Bells of St. Patrick, the Ardagh Chalice, the Donagh Airgid, in which our oldest MSS. of the Gospel, said to have belonged to our patron saint, was formerly enclosed. The leaves of this book have grown together, and the two parts look like brown dust heaps. The Cross of Cong will soonest catch the eye. An inscription on the Cross itself tells us that it was made for Turlough O'Conor, the father of the celebrated Roderick, the last of our native kings. It may indeed be fairly stated that "no finer specimen of goldsmith's art has been preserved in any country in the west of Europe." The late Professor McCullough, of T.C.D., presented this gem to the Academy. The visitor will not pass rapidly from this sacred treasure, or readily yield his admiration of its beautiful workmanship. Hard by you see the rude bells which in St. Patrick's time called the Irish to glad tidings of great joy. Its cover is beneath, and gives proof of the art of the time. The Tara Brooch will not fail to attract the admiring attention, especially of the fair. The story of the brooch is now dim, but the thing itself is rarely beautiful. The Ardagh Chalice, of which facsimiles have been made, will start a thousand reflections. A lad digging potatoes found it in Ardagh, County Limerick. It is of white metal, adorned with gold filigree and enamel of exquisite beauty. It is composed of no less than 354 pieces, held together by a score of rivets. It bears an inscription in strange letters, giving the names of the Apostles, St. Paul being named instead of Iscariot. There are also many autograph letters of men of note—of chivalrous Grattan and gentle Gerald Griffin, and blundering Goldsmith, and the fierce Flood, and the psill-anonymous Tyrconnell, and the last of the vaporing Stuart kings, James writes from Edinburgh, and scrawls in French.—There, too, we have a letter from the brilliant Berkeley, and an angry howl from the savage Swift. There is a chatty epistle from Thomas Moore, and a bit of his melody in words and notes. And, lastly, there is a bright, cheerful, hearty line from Brinsley Sheridan—the greatest mind that an age of wits produced."