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### **OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER**

ON "BELITTLING."

Whatever other faults I may pos-mens it is not likely that any one will ever accuse me of a lack of Whatever other faults I may possess it is not likely that any one will ever accuse me of a lack of frankness. Sometimes it does not do to tell the whole truth, or to make people "see themselves as others see them"; but, when you write for a purpose, and when that purpose is the good of your fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, it is a duty to tell things as they are and to avoid the pen of flattery. We are accustomed to being praised, to have our forefathers lauded to the skies, to hear over and over the story of our national glories and the greatness of our past. All this is very proper and very inspiring; but we are living in the present, and this is an age of cenimerce, of business, of push," of rush, of materialistic interests. The grandeurs of the past will count for very little in the contest of the present, unless we make use of them as models for our imitation and examples for our emulation. Dealing, therefore, with the present, we must look the world in the face and take it as we find it. We are told by would-be popular orators, especially on the occasion of our national festival, that we are the greatest race in the world. If not told so in so many words, at least, we are left to understand that such is the case. Now that is all humbug; and the one who seeks to gull us with such unlimited and unqualified praise, is a man to be carefully watched. We are neither the greatest nor the least; we are exactly, what we make ourselves We have countless advantages in our favor, and just as many obstacles to be overcome; and, unless we arm ourselves for the struggle, learn from the experiences of others, and make use of every opportunity to its fullest, we can only expect to fall behind in the competition. It is a principle of physics that in order to strike an object at given distance you must aim beyond it and above it; the same stands good in matters of individual and of national interest. Unless we aim even higher than we expect to hit, we are pretty certain to miss our shot entirely. to till the whole truth, or to make propie "see themselves an others see thems", but, when you write to a proper the proof of your fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, it is a duty to tell things as they are and to avoid the pan of flattery. We are accussed the pan of flattery. We are accussed the pan of flattery. We are accussed the pan of the pan

dropped a word of praise in regard to the men. At first I surmised that they were politically apposed to him, which would be only their right and their fair privilege. But soon discovered that such was not the case. They simply fell into the old habit of belittling, and they made a very poor impression on me, in so doing.

declining language, for not only is the death of any language, and par-ticularly of one with such interesting traditions as the Erse, a very melan-choly event but also, as Mr. Bryce well pointed out, there are distinct educational advantages about the bi-dingual system of instruction, which the Nationalist members ask to have put into force, wherever Irish is the chome language" of the people."

deciding lenguage, for not only in the death of any language, and any language and any language and any language and any language and the state of the supplication of instruction, which was a state of the supplication of instruction, which was an adjusted to the supplication of instruction, which was a state of the supplication of instruction, which was a state of the supplication of instruction, which was a state of the supplication of the s

the Archbishop of Dublin, who may be taken as an authority on the subject, has written a letter to the 'Evening Mail' in which he makes it evident that the teaching of Irish has not yet been considered in connection with the new code. This puts an entirely new complexion upon the matter, and if known before would have saved much uneasiness to those who are deeply interested in the question. CREMATION IN ENGLAND.

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AN EYE TO BUSINESS.

AN EYE TO BUSINESS.

A gentleman of the Hebraic persuasion possessed a small boat, and occasionally invited a co-religionist and boon companion to venture upon the occan for a short sail. During one of these expeditions a squall suddenly came on, and the proprietor, while attempting to turn the course of the craft, was pitched overboard. As he was struggling and fighting with the waves, and making futile efforts to reach the side of the wessel, his friend persed out anxiously at him over the same and ejaculated. "I thay, like," die man, if yer don't come up the third time, I are the heat?"

#### THE IRISH LANGUAGE MOVEMENT.

The debate on the Irish language movement in the British House of Commons on 20th of July was very interesting, and there is every reason to expect that it will be attended with satisfactory results, says the correspondent of the Dublin "Nation." Who thus summarizes the debate. The Chief Secretary declined to acquiesce in the Irish demand right off, but before many sessions have passed he will be driven from the Brish Benches was two-fold—bl-lingual education in Irish-speaking districts, and the teaching of Irish as a remunerated subject in other districts, and right well was it pressed on the attention of Parliament Mr. O'Malley opened the discussion with a rather elaborate presentation of the Irish Redmond, who delivered a very vigorous and sloquent speech, which much cimpressed the House, the percent being specially powerful and appealing. The Chief Secretary was sympathetic, but non-committal. He wished to appear desirous of meeting the Irish demand, the reasonableness of which he admitted, but there was sympathetic, but non-committal. He wished to appear desirous of meeting the Irish demand, the reasonableness of which he admitted a the reasonableness of which he admitted, but there was sympathetic, but non-committal. He wished to appear desirous of meeting the Irish demand, the reasonableness of which he admitted a the reasonableness of which he sadmitted, but there was sympathetic, but non-committal. He wished to appear desirous of meeting the Irish demand, the reasonableness of which he admitted authority nor control. Mr. T. M. Healy promptly swept away the goosame argument of the Chief Secretary. Quite the speech of the leveling was delivered by Mr. Herebert Lewis, one of the young Wales party. He sordially supported the Linguage and how resourced in favor of a bi-lingual eye-bert Lewis, one of the young Wales party. He sordially supported the Linguage and the promptly swept away the goosame argument of the Chief Secretary was spirated by the promptly swept and the promptly swept and the resource of th

## HAPPENINGS IN IRELAND.

cause with which they are identified shall have been carried to ultimate

FATHER ROONEY'S CASE .- The FATHER ROONEY'S CASE.— The Catholics of Newry are nobly aiding the Rev. John Rooney, C.C., of that town, who, for advocating the right of his co-religionists to a fair representation on the local Poor Law Boards, has been severely mulcted in damages and heavy costs by an exclusively Protestant jury, whose verdict was subsequently upheld by a bench of Protestant judges, as explained in these columns some weeks ago. At a meeting of the citizens it planed in these columns some weeks ago. At a meeting of the citizen it was decided to raise funds to indemnify him against the loss which he has sustained. This is only just, for although nominally it is Father Rooney's case, practically it is the case of the people whose battle he fought without any regard for personal considerations.

A NATIONAL SYNOD. — It is announced that a plenary Synod of the Irish Church will be held this year at Maynooth College. Fifty years have now elapsed since the first plenary Synod was held at Thurles, and twenty-five since the second was celebrated at Maynooth. The Synod will consist of the members of the Irish Hierarchy and the mitred Abbot of Mount Melleray. Diocesan Chapters are entitled by the laws of the Church to send representatives (technically called Procurators) to express their views and offer suggestions. Already the canons of the diocese of Cork have unanimously elected Canon O'Mahony as their representative, and Canon Hutch has been similarly choken by the Chapter of Cloyne. The Synod will meet under the presidency of Cardinal Logue, and is expected to last for a fortnight.

is expected to last for a fortnight.

IRISH LANGUAGE. — The movement in favor of the revival of the Irish language is rapidly assuming great proportions. The organization of clubs and societies in various important centres in Ireland has evidently borne good fruit. If, as an exchange says, the most fervid enthusiasm can succeed in doing so, the language of our forefathers will once again, and that in the near future, take its proper place in the affairs of our daily existence. A splendid meeting was held recently in the Rotunda to protest against the action of the Commissioners of Education in regard to the question. Letters of sympathy were read from several representative men, including Cardinal Logue, Mr. Davitt, Mr. W. B. Yeats, The O'Connor Don, and Mr. Edward Martyn. Mr. Douglas Hyde, who presided, condemned in the strongest manner the unparticule action of the Commissioners, Is this connection

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