THE MOTHERLAND

Latest Mails from ENGLAND IRELAND and SCOTLAND

IRELAND.

BELFAST.

The new Mater Infirmorum Hospital, which has been erected on the Crumlin road, was formally opened here on April 22nd under the most auspicious circumstances. The building, which it has already been described in detail in these columns, is very handsome and reflects the greatest credit on the Catholics of Belfast and the citizens generally. The opening ceremony, which was performed by the Lord Mayor of Belfast (Alderman R. J. M'Connell, L. P.), was presided over by his Eminence Cardinal Logue. The occasion was regarded as one of the greatest in local importance, and the utmost public interest was manifested in the proceedings. The attendance was enormous. The hospital was decorated with flags, and crowds of spectators quite filled the roadway in front of it. In addition to his Eminence and the Lord Mayor, the reverend Bishop of the diocese, the Most Rev. Dr. Henry, and the Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin, the distinguished visitors included the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, the Right Hon. W. J. Pirrie, and many others, besides a very large number of ladies. A choice selection of music was performed in the course of the afternoon by the band of the 4th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, under the direction of Mr. C. M'Bride, bandmaster.

His Eminence in opening the proceedings, said it gave him great pleasure to take part in the opening of an institution which was to be the very embodiment of Christian charity, and which was to make provision for relieving the suffering of their poor brethren. He did not believe there was any institution that was more in keeping with the spirit of the Gospel and with the example which our Divine Lord had set them than an establishment like that for the purpose of attending to the suffering members of Christ's flock. The care of the sick had been a characteristic of Christian charity from the very earliest ages. The spirit had taken hold of the people even down to the present, and he could think of no more striking proof of this fact than that magnificent institution which had been raised by private contribution. He concluded by offering his congratulations to all connected with the hospital that their efforts had resulted in that afternoon's ceremony (applause).

The Lord Mayor, in declaring the hospital open, said he, on his own behalf, and on that of his fellow-citizens, wished it every success, and prayed that the blessing of God might be given to every effort to relieve suffering.

The Marquis of Dufferin said it gave him the very greatest pleasure to be present on that occasion, and to find himself associated with his Eminence the Cardinal and the other distinguished ecclesiastics in advocating the claims of that admirable establishment. He congratulated them upon the success of their efforts and upon the happy auspices under which they were assembled on that memorable day. It had been his good fortune, when holding various offices under the Crown, to find himself in official communication with various members and dignitaries of the Catholic Church, and he must say that he was cordially impressed by the spirit of self-sacrifice shown by the representatives of the Catholic Church. But there was one especial class to whom his sympathies went forth, and it was to the Sisters of the various religious communities who were spread abroad throughout Ireland, Canada, and other parts of her Majesty's dominions. He had been much impressed with the admirable manner in which they discharged their sacred functions. He concluded by trusting that every prosperity, good fortune, and the blessing of Almighty God might rest upon the institution, upon the Sisters who administered its affairs, and upon the patients who found a blessed refuge within its walls (applause).

Mr. Pirrie and Mr. Wolff having addressed the company,

The Most Rev. Dr. Henry moved a vote of thanks to all who had taken part in the ceremony, and stated that the hospital was at present clear of debt. He hoped that before proceedings terminated, they would have the nucleus of an endowment fund.

Alderman Wm. M'Cormick seconded the motion, which was cordially passed, and

The proceedings terminated.

DUBLIN.

The annual report of the Technical Education Association for Ireland, which has just been issued, contains an interesting record of good work well done. The objects of the Association, as defined by itself in the preamble to the report now published, are as follows,—"To encourage those Educational Reforms which will improve the capacity of those upon whom our industries depend; without interfering with the teaching of trades in workshops, or of commerce in the warehouse—to develop increased dexterity of hand and eye among the young; without interfering with the literary instruction in our schools, to give the teaching therein a more practical direction—to extend the knowledge of those principles of Science and Art which underlie our Industries—to develop Evening Instruction for Clerks, Apprentices, and Working men, in Science, Art, Commercial, and Technical subjects—to encourage Agricultural, Dairy, and Fishery Instruction, and for teaching Science, Art and Technical Teachers for Ireland." These are all purposes with which everyone conscious of the need which exists for the advancement of our people in practical industrial knowledge describes at length the efforts made by the Association to secure the passage into law of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, as well as to obtain the introduction of various amendments in that measure as it was originally drafted. Some of the additions proposed by the Association appear to us to have been of a kind which might with advantage have been embodied in the Act, and we regret that the Chief Secretary did not see his way to adopt them. The Parliamentary situation was, however, a delicate one, and there can be little doubt that the Association exercised a wise discretion in asking Irish members of Parliament to support the measure as it stood in face of the refusal of the Government to accept amendments.

We do not think that the members of the Technical Education Association can be charged with egotism or self laudation in recalling the nature and extent of the services they have rendered since their organization was first called into existence. The services in question have been both practical and continuous. We are reminded, for example, that during the past few years the Association has been instrumental in securing the adoption, by Irish local authorities and Chamber of Commerce, of resolutions calling upon the Government and Irish members of Parliament to secure an adequate endowment of Technical Instruction in Ireland." There can be no doubt that in this way a great quickening of public intelligence has been brought about, providing a useful stimulus to induce the Government to undertake legislation. With reference, however, to the Act now in force, the association recalls the fact that—"In the first Bill introduced by the Government for the creating of an Agricultural Department, no mention was made of Technical Instruction and if it had not been for the action of the Association, the endowment of the Technical Instruction might have been allowed to stand over for a subsequent session; indeed, having regard to the heavy cost of the war now raging, it might have remained over an indefinite period." These words supply further justification of the policy of refraining from taking any steps which might have imperilled the Bill. The Association also claims credit for having taken an active part in securing the appointment of the Vicereigal Commission which inquired into the system of education pursued in the elementary schools of Ireland. The recent action of the Commissioners of National Education, designed as it has been to give effect to the recommendations set out in the report of the Commission of Inquiry, is, therefore, one more satisfactory outcome of the efforts of the organization. Altogether the members of the Technical Education Association deserve to be congratulated on the nature of the work they have done, and are still doing for Ireland.—Irish Catholic.

The Depot Committee of the Irish Industries Association, 21 Lincoln place, submitted to her Majesty during the day specimens of Irish lace, linens, and tweeds, with which she was highly interested, and was pleased to purchase some of the specimens. Her Majesty being anxious to see the workers who produced the lace, some of the girls were sent up from the Convent of Mercy, Kinsale, and had the honor of doing some of the lace work in the presence of her Majesty, who expressed herself greatly delighted. The girls returned to Kinsale yesterday evening, and the remembrance of the honor conferred on them will doubtless be an impetus in carrying on the beautiful work in which they are engaged, and for which there is so deserved a demand. The Queen also purchased from the Association some Irish linens, Foxford tweeds, and Donegal homespuns.

LOUGHREA.

On Monday evening at four o'clock there was a meeting held in St. Raphael's Convent of Mercy, Loughrea, at which a large number of the inhabitants of the town were present, for the purpose of starting a home industry for the manufacture of lace. The Rev. Father O'Donovan was the first to set the matter on foot, and he has already secured the services of a competent teacher. The Most Rev. Dr. Healy, D.D., Lord Bishop of Clonfert, presided, and amongst those present were—Mr. A. Mackay, Sheriff of Fife; Dr. Douglas Hyde, Edward Martyn, Tullyra Castle; Right Rev. Mgr. Madden, Mr. J. L. Rorke, manager National Bank; Rev. P. Egan, P. P., Donbry; Rev. T. Nobily, Adm.; Rev. B. M. Bowre, Rev. J. O'Donovan, Rev. P. J. O'Loughlin, Mr. P. Sweeney, Co. C.; Mr. P. J. Kelly, J. P., Co. C.; Rev. T. Joyce, Mr. Hastings, editor "Loughrea Guardian;" Mrs. Smyth, Mason Brook; Mrs. Comyn, Ballinderry; Miss Tully, Rathfarn; Mrs. O'Farrell, Dalyston; Mrs. Burke, Carrowkeel.

His Lordship, on taking the chair, said he was happy to have an opportunity of introducing Mr. Russell, who was one of the secretaries of the Co-operative Association in Ireland, who would explain more clearly than he possibly could, the object of their meeting there that evening. One thing was clear—that his purpose was to do something to promote her development of industries of every kind in Ireland (applause). It might be fairly said there is, perhaps, no country in the world that needs the development of native industries more than Ireland. Walking down the street of town, and looking at the state of squalor and poverty and chronic wretchedness which it at present displayed, as contrasted with the rich and mighty British Empire of which they heard so much, one could not help feeling that they had no share in England's prosperity (applause). He spoke to a few people present, who knew the time when Loughrea had a population of 8,000 inhabitants, and now it had less than 3,000. He did not propose to address them on the cause of this great decay. There must be some great cause for this most disastrous state of things. For his own part he regarded the primary cause as the absence of agricultural industry in this country, for agricultural industry was the basis of the prosperity of this country. They must till the land to have prosperity. The Society represented by Mr. Russell had done good work, and home industry was one excellent branch of this association. He knew that the ladies and gentlemen present would do all they could to diminish so many wretched houses in this town and neighborhood. Nobody could willingly say that people were not willing and ready to work if they got the chance. Nobody acquainted with the history of the country could say that people were wanting in taste and skill for every kind of industry, because they had given proof of this a thousand years before such taste was known in the West-ern Hemisphere. The noble results of their work still exist to substantiate the truth of his statement.

WATERFORD.

Mr. John Redmond at a meeting in Waterford on the 23rd of April was presented with an address, and in reply thereto delivered a beautiful and eloquent address dealing with the position of the Irish in the United States, which extract present on our space compels us reluctantly to withhold. In concluding he said—Let Englishmen talk to me about Home Rule and say they are afraid of an Irish Parliament because they think it would be a revolutionary body I cannot help smiling, because I know if we had a Parliament in Ireland it would be a sober, steady, and conservative body, anxious to maintain the property of every man and of every class, anxious to promote the prosperity of Ireland, that it would—as Parnell once said in the House of Commons—knowing that in any wild or rash action it would be driving a nail in its own coffin. I believe in discipline, but if England could only know Ireland I believe that we would obtain Home Rule to-morrow. Believe me, that those who are refusing Home Rule to Ireland are not the masses of the English people. I have met the English classes everywhere. The English workingman is pretty much like the Irish workingman. He is honest, generous, and straightforward enough. These are not the men who are depriving Ireland of Home Rule. The men who are depriving Ireland of Home Rule are the ruling classes in England, and if once we can convince them that Home Rule would not mean for Ireland the inauguration of a policy of anarchy or socialism, we would obtain Home Rule very soon. For my part, I am amazed that English statesmen do not seize the opportunity to do something for Ireland. If they do not, if they allow this opportunity to pass, then I say with full deliberation here to-night that all this business about the English wearing of the green, all this business about the London celebration of St. Patrick's Day, all this business about Queen Victoria visit to Ireland will, instead of doing good, do infinite harm, and still further embitter the relations between the two countries. I am afraid I have strayed very far afield from the presentation that has been made to me. All I can say on that subject is that I am very proud to receive this expression of good-will from the Waterford men and women of New York. I am very thankful to them for having sent this presentation to me here in the city of Waterford, and I can promise to you that whatever my shortcomings may be in the point of opportunity or of ability, that I never will be guilty of any act that can reflect dishonor upon this ancient city.

ENGLAND.

A meeting of the Catholic Bishops of England was held at the Archbishop's House on April 23rd. In the evening Cardinal Vaughan held his annual reception, at which there was a numerous and brilliant attendance, including nearly all the foreign representatives in London.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL.—THE VOTIVE CHAPELS.

Exclusive of the chapel of St. Peter, in the crypt of the new Catholic Cathedral, there will be twelve others, of which five have been provided for in whole or in part by benefactors. Every effort is now being made on the part of those responsible for the erection of the Cathedral to ensure the completion of two or more of these chapels, as regards their internal decoration, in time for the opening. That marbles and mosaics should be relied on, for the main part of the adornment and enrichment both of the Cathedral and its chapels, follows as a natural consequence upon the choice of the Byzantine style of architecture. Much of the more precious marbles have been obtained from the ancient classical quarries, one in Thessaly, and the other in Eubœa. It may be doubted if the former has ever been worked since the workmen of Justinian carved out the "verde antico" monoliths which are to be seen by the traveller under the dome of St. Sophia. As a digression it may be mentioned that several of these marble monoliths intended for Westminster Cathedral became the prizes of war of the Turks when overrunning Thessaly some three years ago. Fortunately their unwieldy bulk, coupled doubtless with a complete ignorance of their worth, saved them from transportation to Constantinople. As regards the mosaic work, it will probably be given, or a very considerable portion of it, to the most distinguished master of the new school which has, within the last forty years, sprung up in Rome, Professor Seitz. His father was a well-known artist and representative of the Overbeck school. The son has won fame throughout Italy. Leo XIII. has been his constant patron. The Borgian and other apartments in the Vatican have been restored by him. His most famous work, however, is that of the decoration of the choir of the Basilica of Loreto, undertaken by the Catholics of Germany. Other specimens of this work are to be seen in the figures of St. Peter and St. Paul in the Church of San Lorenzo, Rome. The chapels wholly or partially provided for are—(1) That of the Blessed Sacrament, subscriptions towards which are being collected by the Rev. Kenelm Vaughan, brother of Cardinal Vaughan, in Spain, and Spanish America; (2) the Lady chapel, for the building and decoration of which the late Baroness Weld bequeathed £12,000; (3) the Chapel of St. Joseph, the gift of Mr. Charles Weld-Blundell; (4) that of St. Gregory and St. Augustine, the offering of Lord Brampton; and (5) the Chapel of the Holy Souls, the gift of Mrs. Robert Walmesley. The historical decorations of the nave of the Cathedral will embrace no fewer than thirty eight scenes, each 25 feet by 12 feet, and some twenty or thirty single figures will be required.

The titular feast of St. George Cathedral was the occasion of a large gathering of Catholics from the various neighboring missions. First was a proof of the fact were only needed on Sunday evening, and a sermon on the life of St. George was preached by the Rev. Father Mason. On Monday Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in the presence of His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark by the Rev. Father Ryan, D.D., the deacon being Father Keating and the subdeacon Father Fickling. The assistants at the throne were the Very Rev. Canon Keatinge and the Rev. E. St. John. At vespers the annual choirs festival took place at which special music was rendered, under the direction of the Right Rev. Monsignor Connelly, by the united choirs of the Cathedral, Bermondsey, Chaterwell, Clapham, Deptford, Ely Place, Meller Street, Peckham, Red Cross Street, Walworth and West Battersea. The relic of St. George was carried in procession round the Cathedral, followed by the various confraternities attached to the mission. During the procession the grand organ was played by the Rev. Father Wilderspin.

The enthusiasm with which the Feast of St. George was kept all over the country on Monday, April 23rd, has awakened some curiosity as to the identity of England's sainted protector. He has been confounded with the Arian George, who succeeded to the usurped place of St. Athanasius as Bishop of Alexandria. The real St. George, however, had lived and suffered long before his scandalous namesake. He is said to have suffered martyrdom as early as 285 at Lydda, near Syria, and that at a very critical juncture in the history of the early Church. We find the name of St. George in almost all the early calendars of the West. Thus he figures in St. Jerome's martyrology, also in the sacramentary of St. Gregory. In the reign of King Cenulfe a monastery was dedicated to his memory at Tethford, and William I. founded the collegiate Church of St. George at Oxford. Richard I. of England is said to have rebuilt the shrine of the saint at Lydda, and since his time the people of England have ever manifested a growing affection for St. George, their protector.

The Catholic Bishops of England commenced their annual Low Week meeting yesterday at Archbishop's House, Cardinal Vaughan having returned from Bournemouth, where he has been recuperating after his severe illness, in order to preside. There were two absentees—the Bishop Vaughan of Portsmouth, the Cardinal's uncle, who, being too old and feeble to travel — as he is eighty-six years old—was represented by his coadjutor, Dr. Graham, and Dr. Vetrie, Bishop of Plymouth, who is indisposed. In the evening a reception of the Catholic laity to meet the Bishops was held by his eminence, about two hundred being present. The Conference of the Bishops is expected to conclude on Thursday, and I understand that it is not unlikely that a pronouncement from Cardinal Vaughan may follow, in which the Catholic newspapers will receive a further admonition as to their duties and limitations.

SCOTLAND.

The death is announced of Rev. Angus Macdonald, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. He was fifty-six years of age, and was a scion of the Macdonalds of Glendale, a Scottish Roman Catholic family that was identified with the fortunes of the Stuarts. One of his ancestors was the Bishop of Argyll, who consecrated the banner of Prince Charles on his arrival in Scotland in 1619. The Archbishop was famous as a Gaelic scholar.

WHALEBONE.

The obsequies of the whale recently driven ashore at Clifden, Ireland, were attended by a decidedly humorous incident. Two ladies, a mother and daughter, who were staying in a seaside resort near the village where the seamonster was stranded, made up their minds that it would be nothing short of a sin to let such good whalebone go to waste, in those days when fashion so conspicuously favors slender figures. They therefore secretly commissioned a fisherman, for a good sum, to attend the cutting up, and obtain as much whalebone for them as he could manage without attracting observation. The disappointment of the fashionable dames—whose education had not included zoology—may be imagined, when their commissioner returned with a ponderous block of osseous substance, about as flexible as a paving-stone, and explained that "that was all the sort of bones them basses did have." The real "whalebone" whale, as most people are aware, is a comparatively rare creature, that seldom visits our latitudes; and, in any case, its "bone" is a special straining apparatus placed only in the mouth, and has nothing to do with the animal's skeleton.

On Saturday last the Messrs. Cleeve sent a contingent of no less than 1,000 children from Limerick to the great gathering of youngsters in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. These were all children of the employees of the firm in their various establishments in the counties of Limerick and Tipperary. The Messrs. Cleeve are the largest employers in the South of Ireland, as they have working for them over 3,000 hands. This firm has revolutionised the condensed milk trade, having driven the Swiss milk completely out of the market, and in addition they turn out an enormous quantity of splendid butter each year.

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