

IRISH NEWS.

FROM OUR IRISH EXCHANGES.

YOUNG CATHOLIC IRELAND TO THE FRONT.

The young Catholics of Ireland have now an opportunity of showing that they possess talent and perseverance. The superiors of the Catholic schools of Ireland have presented a memorial to the Intermediate Education Commissioners, pointing out the several matters which ought, in their opinion, to be attended to in the examinations which are to be held under the act.

The memorial of the heads of Catholic colleges and schools must immediately attract the attention of all those who wish to see Catholic Ireland rising to her proper educational position. It is well known to all who understand the history of Ireland that Protestantism has had the monopoly of the "Endowed Schools," which sent forth so many clever and well-educated young men, while Catholic Ireland had no similar institutions.

And why should they not? Shall those Irish boys shrink from any intellectual encounter, who hold the same creed that has been held by O'Connell, Shiel, Moore, Meagher, Griffin, and a host of other gifted laymen, not to speak now of ecclesiastics, such as Doyle, Maguire, MacHale, and other luminaries of the Catholic Church? We firmly believe that they will win a laurel in the educational battlefield, and that the old glory of Catholic Ireland for mental triumphs will be well maintained.

The Catholic memorial points out that such has to be done before any success can be achieved. There is no doubt that in many departments of useful learning education is in a backward state in Ireland. This fact is candidly admitted by both Catholics and Protestants, and this frank admission is a good foundation upon which to build up Ireland's educational future.

In writing about such works as the higher classical authors, we of course refer only to such Catholic boys as aim at competing with those Protestant boys who are preparing for the universities. The Intermediate Education Act does not exclude such students, but we are well aware that the majority of those coming within its operation will not be taught so advanced a course. We hope, however, and believe, that if called upon, Catholic boys will fully equal even to the severest intellectual struggle.

Forward! should be the watchword now. Let no Irish Catholic be afraid to encounter those who belong to a creed which too long was highly favored. All creeds are equal before the law, and all Irish youths ought to strive hard to win the honorable rewards which a just, equitable, and impartial statute has placed within the reach of those who are determined to apply themselves to the task with honorable zeal.

Mr. O'Donnell, M.P. in a letter on the above subject, refers to the ineffectuality of the present programme of the Home-Rule League, and to the necessity of promoting without delay a common system of attack by the land reformers of England and the Irish tenant righters against the common enemy, landlordism, as it at present exists in Ireland and Great Britain.

When I say that the present programme of the Home-Rule League is totally inadequate to meet the national demands I mean no hostility to anything that is present programme. I only mean that thing that is a party simply bound together by the watchword of the restoration of our native Parliament is a party deficient in some of the most necessary elements for the realization of that object itself. At present such important questions as tenant-right and household suffrage are only indirectly connected with the Home-Rule movement.

I would entreat the tenants' defence associations in particular to believe that it is not by the sympathetic eloquence of Irish members to Irish audiences already fully acquainted with the miseries of the land system, it is not by blathering enthusiastic

benefit of Indian Viceroy and ex-Viceroy, and English Ministers and ex-Ministers, but it requires too large a stock of English hypocrisy and self-complacency to succeed in such a task. It is the duty, sir, of the representatives of the people to demand the redress of grievances before granting supplies. I, for one, shall exhaust all the forms of the House in refusing the supplies for this wicked war.

DEATH OF MCARTHY DOWNING, M. P. FOR CORK. A special cable despatch announces the death at Skibbereen of Mr. McCarthy Downing, a well known Irish Home Rule member of Parliament, and a solicitor in practice at Skibbereen and Dublin, and chairman of the Incorporated Society of the Attorneys and Solicitors of Ireland.

IRISH CRIMINAL STATISTICS, 1877. The returns of criminal and judicial statistics for 1877, in Ireland, has lately been published, and demands notice under some of its multifarious heads. For the past eleven years the number of indictable offences not disposed of summarily has steadily fallen from 9,260 in 1867, to 3,282 in 1877, being a decrease of nearly one-third, and a decline of from 16's amongst every ten thousand of the population in 1867 compared with 11.8 in 1877.

THE ANALYSIS OF IRISH CRIME SHOWS THE powerful part which drunkenness plays in swelling the statistics, and hence the general demand for Sunday closing, and other restrictions on the sale of intoxicating liquors. The suicides, largely connected with intemperance, were in England 381, and only 96, in an equal population, in Ireland; yet verdicts of the inquests in England of death from excessive drinking were only 107 against 114, in an equal population in Ireland.

MR. O'CONNOR POWER AND MR. SULLIVAN ON THE AFGHAN WAR—TWO ELOQUENT SPEECHES. Mr. Power said: "Ireland is often regarded as an integral portion of the empire, but my first duty as an Irish patriot is to assert the distinct nationality of Ireland, and to shut out from the observation of Europe, and her aspirations are judged by the caricature given in the English press. It is, therefore, when a question of an international character are before the House of Commons, that it is the duty of Irishmen to stand forward and declare that their first consideration is the nationality of their own country.

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN INDIA. An official calendar recently published at Madras contains full particulars of the establishment, connected with the Catholic Church in India, Ceylon, Burmah, and Siam, from which it appears that in 1877 there were 23 vicars apostolic, 21 bishops, 1,608 priests, 1,088,209 professing members of the various churches, besides 1,422 schools, containing between them 51,194 pupils. The archbishopric of Goa contained 766 priests, having under their charge flocks to the number of 156,162. These numbers compare with 20 vicars apostolic, 16 bishops, 790 priests, and 23 congregations of 915,590 persons, and 716 schools, with 27,068 pupils, in 1866.

in 1877 the numbers had increased to 85 priests, 141,250 persons professing the Catholic faith, and 67 schools with 4,000 pupils. Of this number of Catholics in the French colony of Pondicherry, only 3,000 were Europeans. Of the 85 priests, 25 were natives of India. The number of adult converts from heathenism baptized in 1877 was 1,920, besides 1,513 children, and 87 Protestants are said to have been converted to the Catholic faith in the same period. Pondicherry has four separate Orders of Sisterhoods. The greater part of the natives professing Catholicism are said to be descended from the converts made by the Jesuit missionaries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

THE JESUITS AND DOMINICANS IN CHINA. It has been wrongly attributed to the jealousy and rivalry of the Jesuits that the attempts of the first Dominican Fathers to establish themselves in China failed. We are of opinion that the great success of the Jesuits in China made them masters of the position, and there was nothing to be feared from other missionaries coming into China. They were too superior men to yield to such miserable motives of jealousy.

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