

THE MOTHER LAND.

Latest Mails from Ireland, England and Scotland.

A small foundation in Oxford University... it will lead to the terrace of Catholic students both in Oxford and Cambridge...

The dispute between the ship joiners and their employers in Belfast has been arranged. The terms of the men were conceded.

The jury at the Belfast assizes refused to find guilty Letha Lloyd, the woman who fired upon the band of Abercorn on the occasion of her eviction. Mr. McHugh desired to ask a question in Parliament about the matter, but the clerk refused to receive it.

The police have discovered a number of private stills in Kerry, near Keady.

Subscriptions are coming in satisfactorily for the improving of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The estate of the late Dr. Gregg, Protestant parson, was valued at over £18,000.

The Nationalists of Carlow have won a smashing victory in the poor-law election.

A man named Coates has been killed by falling from a window over Murray's gun shop, Patrick street.

William O'Callaghan, P.L.G., was killed by his horse on March 22, near Kanturk.

Father McNamara, P.P., Glounthano, proposes to erect a new church. William Egan one the Ponsonby estate evicted tenants has become insane as a consequence of his troubles.

The Ulster farmers assembled at Coleraine have characterized as untrue the statement of the Chief Secretary concerning the agricultural situation in Ireland.

On the shores of Lough Neagh, on the night of March 28th, peacocks and bantams came into collision. The water-buffs were fired upon and an inspector named King was beaten on the head and rendered unconscious.

In a football match of Beesbrook against Danganon, one of the Beesbrook team was accidentally killed.

A memorial window to the late Sir Robert Stewart has been unveiled in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

W. Q. Judge, late secretary of the American Theological Society, was a Dublin man.

The national teachers have thanked the Archbishop of Dublin for his valuable services in their interest.

Mr. V. B. Dillon is retiring from the corporation.

Some excitement is witnessed on the streets on Saturday nights owing to the early closing movement of the drapers' assistants.

On March 27 Superintendent Talbot raided a betting establishment at 26 Temple Bar and 47 Fleet at George Redbourne, Henry Redbourne, Edward Lyons, Edward McCabe, Michael Malloy, Wm. O'Keefe, George Finlay, Thomas Byrne, and John Dunne were arrested.

Reverend Adjutor, Chicago, is visiting Dublin. He was born near the Vale of Avoca, and for a quarter of a century has been teaching in the United States.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Coa, Munskillen, has been dedicated by the Most Rev. Dr. Owens, Lord Bishop of Clogher.

The Congested Districts Board is spending £300 for a dock at Cleggan and £4,000 for bridges between the islands of Aunghlivan, Lettermore, Gorman and Lettermullen.

A beautiful high altar of marble, a memorial to the great pupil orator, Father Tom Burke, was consecrated in the Dominican Church, Galway, on March 22nd.

The Royal Society of Antiquaries held its second general meeting in Kilkenny on April 7. The society had arranged to visit Inislogue and New Ross.

Last year the use of strawsonia as a spray for potatoes saved the crop from blight. Mr. McDermott, member for North Kilkenny, is urging the Government to make the system universal in the coming season. Three and a half millions of tons of potatoes were grown in Ireland last year.

The smelting of iron will be renewed at the Croveira Smelting Works.

The Limerick Leader is being compulsorily wound up. Meanwhile the paper is being published.

During the pursuit of a mad dog in Limerick on the 28th March a man named Irwin was shot by a policeman, Irwin was a waiter in the County Club, and the wound is of a serious nature.

John McGarry, a Drogheda carman was killed by falling from the seat of a two horse morning carriage.

Mrs. Heine, who keeps a public house in Mullingar, and her maid, Bridget Doyle, have been arrested for sending a threatening letter to the military authorities who had forbidden them to admit to the public house.

The Guardians of the Roscommon Estor declare that the abolition of small holdings is bringing about the depopulation of rural Ireland and the people are leaving the land for ever leaving Irish prairies behind them.

John Brown, Guff's Lane Waterford attempted suicide through a case on the Lincoln landscape.

George F. Fleming, solicitor Ennis corby, points out that 23 army officers, 21 constabulary officers and 10 nondescripts are paid for administering the law in petty sessions courts.

To the Rev. John G. McKenna, late of Corpus Christi Church, Covent Garden, belongs the privilege of receiving subscriptions in the United States and Canada for the chapel to be erected in the Cathedral of Westminster in honour of St. Patrick and all Irish saints.

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1881 to 1891, and was principal of the new foundation of the Jesuits at Wimbledon previously to his removal to Oxford.

The Assessment of Catholic Schools. The question of the assessment of the Catholic schools of Edinburgh was under discussion at the meeting of the Appeals Committee of the Town Council on Monday 23rd inst.

Mr. Flannigan entered the Town Council and obtained exemption for them, and after some years of freedom from the tax, the question of payment was again raised this year. After a long debate it was decided, without division, to exempt St. Ann's, St. Catherine's and St. Mary's. On a division, St. Patrick's was voted exempt by a majority of eight to six.

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THE LAST MASS.

Lady Herbert in the Catholic World.

It was very-true in a beautiful old monastery in Poland when, one evening, the Mother Superior was told by the portress, Sister Donnicella, that a stranger wished to see her.

"Did he not say who he was or whence he came?" exclaimed the Superior.

"No, reverend Mother," replied Sister Donnicella. "I asked him, but he said he had a grave message to deliver to you, which he would tell you himself, and he added, that he wished to see you alone."

A feeling of fear and anxiety filled the heart of the venerable Mother. In those days it was impossible to tell friend from foe. When she had been elected Superioress she was healthy and strong, but the events of the last few years had aged her terribly.

Two years before a body of police had forced their way into the convent in the middle of the night, appropriating not only everything of any value in the church, but searching every cell, on the plea that the nuns were concealing certain individuals whom they wished to entice into the Catholic Church.

The police found no one whatever, nor any compromising letters; but they were brutal in their conduct and language, and threatened to close the convent very soon and send away all the religious. This fright acted so cruelly on the Superior that she had a sort of seizure and nearly lost the use of her limbs.

After that every message alarmed her, especially from an unknown quarter; and so on this occasion she begged a younger and clever Sister to accompany her to the parlor grating. This Sister, Seraphina, was not only a very holy woman, but prudent, sensible, and clear-headed, so that she was to be depended upon in any emergency.

On their way to the parlor they passed through the little cloister-garden. The day was at its close; the bright rays of the setting sun lit up the old gray walls of the monastery. In the garden everything was green and fresh and bright.

The statue of Our Lady was half hidden by large clusters of beautiful roses. The ivy which covered the arches of the cloister was full of twittering, singing birds, who were seeking their their birds' refuge. Under the thick, moss-covered walls, it was cool and very still. Through a large Gothic arch at the end of the garden the eye caught a glimpse of a beautiful valley, with green meadows, rice, corn fields, and a little further on, two large villages, once the property of the convent.

From time to time a gust of wind brought a gay song or a burst of laughter to the nuns from a group of young girls who were making hay. "Stopping for a moment to say an Ave" at the Virgin's feet, Sister Seraphina rose, and, looking at the glorious view, said, with a sigh, to the reverend Mother:

"Forty years!" "Forty years only!" replied the Mother Superior smiling. "That is not very long; I have been here nearly fifty years, and dear old Sister Coletta sixty-eight."

"Do you remember," continued Sister Seraphina, "now alarmed and distressed we were two years ago, and how we then prayed to God to avert the terrible calamity which then threatened our dear and holy home?"

"In these sad reflections, however, the mother superior interrupted her. "Let us go and see our visitor, sister; we have kept him waiting too long already," and so led the way to the convent parlor.

The visitor was still a young man. He seemed troubled, sad and anxious, but had a kind and sympathetic face. He was also evidently timid and shy, which spoke never, so that the nuns felt confidence in him at once.

"No, reverend Mother," replied Sister Donnicella. "I asked him, but he said he had a grave message to deliver to you, which he would tell you himself, and he added, that he wished to see you alone."

"Have I the honor of speaking to the reverend mother?"

"Yes, answered the mother, "I have been the superior of this convent for twelve years."

"Do you know Count M—— and Father A——, in B——?"

"Certainly," answered the mother superior. "Count M—— saved us two years ago. He went to B——, made use of all his influence with the highest authorities, and got leave for us to remain here. As for Father A——, he is our greatest benefactor. Since they confiscated our lands, and in fact took all our means of subsistence, we depend entirely on his charity, and on the alms he procures for us, to obtain our daily bread."

"Well," replied the stranger, "Father A—— sends me to you, this letter from the count, which please read."

The poor mother took it with an unguessed anxiety, but found it was full of indifferent matters; only at the end was an underlined postscript saying: "The bearer of this note will tell you all. You may trust him entirely."

"Good God! you do not mean to say we are to be turned out of our convent?"

"Yes," it's destruction, is officially pronounced; but as yet the fact is kept secret. The commission will be here in a week's time, and you must prepare for it."

"But the church? the church?" "He bent his head low still. "Yes, the church is to be closed, too. The dean sent me to tell you that he had received positive orders to come and take away the Blessed Sacrament and all your church ornaments."

"Then the poor mother felt that the worst moment for her was come—that in which she had to break the sad news to the community."

flaunt of all the property of the monastery by the government, no repairs of the roof or walls could be undertaken, so that in many places the rain and snow came in, and the cold and damp were terrible. They were also dependent on the charity of their neighbors for fuel, and the aged, their old doctor visited them from change and the chemist sent them medicines for nothing, still they could not abuse such kindness and rarely sent for them even in the most urgent cases.

The following morning was one of the Holy Communion days of the nuns, and after Mass was over the poor mother superior summoned all the sisters to the chapter-house. This had been once a beautiful building, but had fallen in ruin and decay of the monastery. The finely carved stalls had been moved into the church to prevent their ruin from the which came from the broken windows.

"You may speak freely and safely," He then said: "You must first give me your solemn word that you will never disclose to anybody the fact of my coming to you to-day."

The superior gave it and was not surprised at his question, for how many people in these sad times had been cut off for life by a single word! Then he continued: "Do you know Count M—— and Father A——, in B——?"

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"Not to-night," exclaimed Sister Seraphina, "not to-night, dear reverend mother! Let the poor old sisters have a last peaceful night."