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HAPPENINGS IN THE OLD LAND.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan's Remarks Regarding the Study of the Irish Language.

United Irish League Forging Ahead—Sir Robert Sexton Retires—Father Currie Heard from—A Question of Woman's Rights—Other Notes of Interest.

The praiseworthy efforts that have been made, during the past few years, to revive the Gaelic tongue and introduce it to the public and other schools of Ireland, have not met with the encouragement so deserving a movement was entitled to receive.

No definite decision was arrived at and at the close of the meeting, Mr. Sullivan felt that he was left as free to decide the matter, according to his own views and interpretation of the testator's wish, as if he had never asked the opinion of the conference.

Many a time since this subject came up for consideration I have thought of the fine old Irishman, Patrick Mullin, toiling for long years over his bench in New York, lovingly hoarding his savings for a patriotic purpose, nourishing at the same time in his breast the laudable ambition to have his name associated in the minds of his people with the gift he intended to bequeath to them—praying perhaps sometimes for the welfare of his distant but forgotten country in the language of St. Patrick and St. Columba; singing perhaps some stanzas of Gaelic song, every word and tone of which had a charm for his ear—or sometimes, it may be, unpadding his heart in vehement but melodious maudlinism against the oppressors and despoilers of his native land—ever and anon thinking with patriotic pride of his resolve to do something that would cause his name, or, preferably, that of a sister to whom he was greatly attached, to be held in loving remembrance in the green isle. To me, without having made me aware of the fact, he entrusted the administration of the money he bequeathed and the carrying out as far as possible of the wishes and intentions he expressed. That trust, according to my understanding of it, I will most carefully carry out. I will not have the Mullin Bequest expended in four years or in ten years; I will invest the amount in securities sanctioned by law for such use, and the annual profit accruing therefrom I will have applied to purposes connected with the preservation of the Irish language in Ireland.

My present idea is that the application should vary from year to year, according to special circumstances or requirements; in one year a meritorious publication might be helped; in another a prize or prizes at a 'Feis' might be given; in yet another the travelling expenses of an inspector to visit the country branches and give them a little stirring up, if they should need it, might be paid; and so on; the use of the money in each year to be arranged in consultation with the leading members of the Gaelic League and other such associations. In this way the name of the donor of the fund could always be connected with his gift; it would come to the front in each year, and so be kept fresh and green in the public memory. Such is the decision at which I have arrived. The course I have resolved to take will keep the capital sum intact, safe, sound, and fruitful; that sum can be withdrawn and otherwise applied at any time that good reason may appear for so doing; I will take all proper legal steps to ensure that it shall be available without

litigation, trouble, or delay when any condition arises rendering a new arrangement desirable. I believe I cannot do better in this case.

There are encouraging indications in all parts of the country that the new organization known as the United Irish League will be the most effectual medium in the great work of bringing about that much-wished-for solidarity in the ranks of Irish Nationalists. Monster meetings in quick succession are the order of the hour, and the leaders in the movement are fired with that spirit of enthusiasm which was so visible in the days which led up to the great victories in the British House of Commons when Parnell was in the zenith of his fame.

At a recent gathering held at Lashabeda, County Clare, Wm. O'Brien delivered one of his fearless and spirited speeches. In it he outlined in terse and vigorous language the policy which is to be adopted in fighting the crying evil of landlordism. The most thoughtful of the Irish lords, a gentleman of the name of Lord Mounteagle, said Mr. O'Brien made the remark a few years ago that the Irish landlords could never hope to be men of influence again, except on two conditions—one was that they should cease to be landlords, and the other that they should cease to act as the English garrison. That is as true today as it ever was. Let them only be honest Nationalists; let them, even in their own interests, co-operate in delivering the country from landlordism, and they will have honor and influence, and power galore. But after seven hundred years these foreigners have never yet taken out their nationalization papers, and so long as they maintain themselves as a separate foreign class, so long as their landlord conventions are trying to kill whatever little virtue there is left in the Land act, in stead of helping to abolish landlordism, so long as the landlords devote themselves to making examples of the evicted tenants and subsidizing land grabbers and thwarting the national aspirations of their country, so long they will be treated as foreigners and as foreign enemies and so long they will get back blow for blow, wherever this Irish League has an arm to strike, and then, no doubt, after a few years' experience of what the democracy of Ireland can do in the new thirty-two Parliaments, we will have the landlords and the House of Lords coming to the conclusion that one great National Parliament would be more tolerable than thirty-two local ones, and you will have them some fine day acknowledging, as tamely as they accept of the Local Government bill, that landlordism and English rule in Ireland are doomed institutions, and cast all the powers of earth and of their allies from the nether regions can never set them up again.

On Sunday the foundation-stone of the new Church of the Holy Cross, Charleville, was solemnly blessed and placed by the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Lord Bishop of Cloyne, and a sermon preached by the Very Rev. Dr. Keane, the eloquent Dominican. The need for a new church had long been felt, for the old edifice, which had done duty so well for close on a century, had become all too small, circumscribed, and primitive for the growing needs of this most prosperous district. At the close of the function Father O'Callaghan announced that there had been subscribed no less than \$900.

In presence of the new and, it is hoped, brighter, era about to dawn upon the country it is considered eminently desirable that the electors and those who control appointments to representative positions, should make it a sine qua non that all candidates for municipal, as well as for political, honors, should be in fullest sympathy with the new order of things, and that none others should be considered eligible or entitled to countenance or support. It is of paramount importance that this should be so, and that every safeguard should be adopted to ensure a thoroughly fair trial of the system, and that, in its inauguration and in all its initial stages, it should be under the guiding hand of loyal supporters and sympathizing friends. Thus only can it be expected that the new system will receive a full measure of fair play, and knowing, as all must, how essentially this bears upon the future interest of the country, it will be admitted that no efforts or precautions should be spared to secure it. With the prevalence of this feeling, it is not a matter of surprise that public attention should be directed, in an especial manner, to the necessity of placing the Chief Magistracy of the metropolis in the hands of one whose views are known to be in strict accord with the altered condition of the country's rule. The name of Sir Robert Sexton has been for some time before the people as a candidate for the Lord Mayorship, having been nominated for it by a small minority of the Corporation, but recently he withdrew it for reasons fully explained in a letter to the citizens. Personally, Sir Robert is popular. Few men are more so—not only in Dublin, but wherever he is known. His political opinions, however, are not, and have not been for years, in harmony with those of any section of the Nationalist party. It is admitted that he is, exceptionally well qualified to uphold the dignity of the

Mayorship and to maintain the social character of the Mansion House. He has served the city faithfully and well for years, and he thus stands out as one, in all these respects, well entitled to the preference of his fellow citizens. Under ordinary circumstances, Sir Robert's election would have been probably unanimous, but things have undergone such a material change that his accession to the Mayorship, under existing political conditions, would argue a degree of inconsistency and weakness which it would be difficult to justify or explain. The high position of Lord Mayor is of a national character, and is looked on as more so than ever at the present juncture, and the people of that great city will be false to their history and teachings of the year, false to the memories it recalled and to the benefit it brought forth, if they allow its Chief Magistracy to pass into the hands of a Unionist or of any one not sharing the principles and aims of those through whose exertions Local Government has been obtained and by whom it is accepted, not as a receipt in full, but as a first of the greater measure of independence which must follow at an early day. The office, which carries with it a salary of \$15,000, is therefore open for new competitors.

Rev. Father Curry, who, some two or three years ago, made an extended trip to the United States and Canada, in the endeavour to secure aid to build a church in his parish, has been enabled to begin the work, which is progressing well. Father Curry, so the report which comes from Nenagh states, expects the exterior of the building will be completed ere the close of the year.

With characteristic generosity, the report goes on to say, the Bishop of the Diocese of Killaloe, Most Rev. Dr. Mac Redmond, has subscribed a magnificent donation, and his priests are liberally assisting the undertaking also, while Father Curry's parishioners and the people of the neighbouring districts have contributed largely to the building fund; but after all is reckoned up the distinguished pastor will still have a heavy burden of debt to wipe away, and towards this purpose he is at present engaged in organizing a bazaar, the drawing in connection with which will take place on New Year's Day, when it is expected, the new church will be roofed. Father Curry has large claims on the people of Tipperary, more especially the inhabitants of Nenagh. The new church, which will bear the name of St. Mary of the Rosary, will be, it is said, one of the most beautiful specimens of ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland.

The Clogher Board of Guardians some months ago, on the death of a rate collector named Mr. Magill, made application for the vacant post for his daughter, Miss Annie Magill. The young woman, it is said, is fully qualified in every respect for the position and, having complied with other conditions imposed by the Board, the Guardians, by a large majority, gave her the appointment. The Local Government Board in the city are not, it appears, willing to approve of the action. When notified of the appointment they even refused to sanction it simply on the ground that Miss Magill is a woman, and they selected a Mr. Cuthbertson for the position. The Guardians have been requested to sign the warrant for this gentleman's appointment according to the requirements of the Act of Parliament, but they have resolved to stand manfully by the lady and to have no one else. The Central Board in London have sanctioned the appointment of female rate-collectors in Huntingdon and at Guildford, and now the point is whether Dublin and the men or London and the ladies are to prevail.

On Sunday another new church was dedicated at Rathra, in Lixnaw parish, in the presence of a large gathering. The new church is undoubtedly a real boon to an important section in Father O'Riordan's extensive parish, on which two churches are already erected—one in Lixnaw and the other in Iremonne. Heretofore a large number of parishioners had to travel long distances to attend Divine worship. Now the pretty little Gothic church which has been erected in Rathra, as a result of the unflagging energy of the respected pastor, affords the parishioners facilities for hearing the Word of God without incurring any serious personal inconvenience. The new church is suitably situated and affords excellent accommodation. In the construction of the sacred edifice Father O'Riordan was loyally supported by the parishioners and in the consummation of their noble exertions both pastor and people are to be heartily congratulated.

The Pope has appointed the Venerable Archdeacon Flanagan, parish priest of Adare on the nomination of the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, to be Dean of the diocese of Limerick.

At Monday's meeting of the Amnesty Association the release of another of the political prisoners was announced. Mr. Featherstone, who had been released, was one of the victims of Red Jim McDermott. He was sentenced, with young Deasy, who long ago succumbed

to the rigours of the imprisonment. The latest of the amnestied was set free dangerously ill. Much sympathy was manifested by the meeting for the released man.

The Archbishop of Cashel has received a letter from Monsignor Kelly, rector of the Irish College, Rome, in acknowledgment of this year's Peter's Pence from the archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, from which I take the following extracts:—

His Holiness desires to express his profound gratitude to your Grace, and to the clergy and people of Cashel and Emly, for their unflinching and generous support, conveying to all at the same time the Apostolic benediction. Your Grace will be pleased to hear that the health of the Holy Father is absolutely good. The keen and discerning look, the full tone of voice, and the lively, acute apprehension of every subject, seem to be ever at his command.

AMERICA AND HOME RULE.

Message from the New York Legislature to Chairman of Irish Party.

John Dillon, M. P., chairman of the Irish parliamentary party, has received the following message under the state seal from the New York state Legislature:

STATE OF NEW YORK IN ASSEMBLY.

Whereas, the members of the Assembly of the State of New York are deeply interested in the Irish home rule cause, and believe that a measure granting Ireland enlarged powers in the administration of home affairs would be in the best interests of Ireland and Great Britain, and redound to the honor and credit of the Parliament where both are represented.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Assembly of the State of New York, at the close of the annual session, hereby extends to the Irish Nationalist party and all Irish Home Rulers in both Houses of Parliament its sincere sympathy with all constitutional efforts on their part looking to the passage of such an act that will give Ireland in the near future that measure of autonomy consistent alike with the wishes of a free people, forming an important part of the British Empire, and the honor and dignity of their united government.

It is further resolved, that engraved copies of these resolutions be forwarded respectively to Mr. John Dillon, M. P., Irish Nationalist leader; to Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley, and to Right Hon. William E. Gladstone, by order of the Assembly.

JAS. M. E. O'GRADY, Speaker. A. F. BAXTER, Clerk. (Seal).

To this Mr. Dillon has forwarded the following reply:

2 NORTH GREAT GEORGE STREET, DUBLIN, SEPT. 13, 1898.

Hon. James M. E. O'Grady—Dear Sir: I deeply regret that owing to a mistake connected with the delivery, the engrossed copy of the resolutions passed by the Assembly of the State of New York on April 23 came to my hand only yesterday. Will you be so kind as to explain this to the members of the Assembly, and convey to them my apology for what must have appeared to be great carelessness on my part in not writing before now to acknowledge receipt and thank the Assembly for their resolutions.

This declaration of sympathy coming from the representative of the great State of New York grateful as it must have been at any time to the people of Ireland, has at this moment a peculiar value—in view of the statements recently made in America by a prominent English statesman that the Irish people have turned their backs on their national claim, and are content to be governed from London.

I gladly take this opportunity of sending to the people of the State of New York the warmest thanks of Irish Nationalists, and assuring the members of the Assembly that there is no truth in the statement that the Irish people are now content with the English government of their country; that, on the contrary, they are resolved to continue the struggle for self-government with unabated resolution; that all concessions wrung from an unwilling Government—such as the Local Government Bill of last session—will be used as a means to win National self-Government; that there never will be contentment or peace in Ireland till the people have a National Government as free as that enjoyed by the State of New York, and that the people of Ireland look with confidence to the people of the United States of America for a continuance of that sympathy in the struggle for freedom which has been so great a source of encouragement and strength to them in the past. I remain, yours very sincerely, JOHN DILLON.

The Catholic paper is the priest's best ally. Thank God, we have many priests who are conscious of its mighty power for good, and have proved their faith by words and works. One of the needs of the hour is to cultivate among our people a conscience on the matter of reading. This must ever be the function of the priest and the school. We recommend the good work of both.

THE CHINESE DIFFICULTY.

The Fate of the Emperor.

The New Order of Affairs—British Interests not very Safe According to Reports.

London, Oct. 1.—A special despatch from Shanghai, published to-day, says telegrams furnished by the local, or local Governor, to a Chinese paper here allege that the Emperor of China committed suicide on September 21 after signing the decrees which placed the Dowager Empress at the head of affairs in China. This, it is said, is understood to mean that the Emperor was assassinated.

All the English speaking Secretaries and the principal members of the Chinese Foreign Office, it is further announced, have been seized and banished.

A special despatch from Shanghai says the announcement of the death of the Emperor is confirmed. In reports as to the means employed in his killing, one story has it that he died by poison, and another that death was caused by strangulation, while a third states that he was subjected to frightful torture, a red-hot iron being thrust through his bowels.

The British Foreign Office received a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking saying that Mr. Morton, a member of the British Legation, on returning home yesterday with a lady, was insulted and attacked by a mob, which stoned and covered him with mud.

Later in the day, the despatch adds, some American missionaries were similarly attacked, as was the Chinese Secretary of the United States Legation. The latter's ribs were broken.

Sir Claude M. MacDonald, the British Minister at Peking, reports that there is a dangerous feeling abroad.

Steps have been taken to call the attention of the Chinese Government to these outrages.

According to a despatch to the Times from its Peking correspondent, the Imperial decree issued Friday dismissing from office and banishing to H. Chinese Turkestan, Chang Yin Huanan, Li Hung Chang's opponent in the Foreign Office, and former Minister at Washington, acquiesces the dismissed official of complicity with King Yuiwei, the Cantonese reformer, but convicts vaguely as 'treachery and treachery.' The true reason for his dismissal and banishment, the Times correspondent asserts, is that Chang Yin Huanan was a powerful supporter of the Emperor's party.

Rear Admiral Lord Charles B. Ross, who is on a special mission to China, has arrived at Hong Kong, and will proceed directly to Peking.

According to London despatches, the new regime is evidently at work. A despatch to the Times from Shanghai, says Huan Ta Po has been appointed President of the Court of Generals and a member of the Grand Council. He is Huan Ta Po's chief supporter and was recently dismissed from office by the Emperor. The projected Imperial review of the troops at Tien Tsin has been abandoned.

During the celebration of the Festival of the Moon at Peking on Sunday the drunken crowds which had gathered upon the streets threw mud upon all Europeans who had made their appearance. As a precautionary measure, the Russian Legation ordered an escort of Cossacks from Port Arthur. The British Minister also ordered here a guard of 25 marines from Wei Hai Wei.

A London despatch to the Sun says the palace revolution at Peking is treated here as a minor occurrence in the slow solution of the Chinese question. What the European powers are now striving to decide is whether the decrepit empire will henceforth be a dependency of the Czars, or whether the territory will be made accessible to the rest of the world to increase the world's wealth.

There is no need to dogmatize as to the question under which system the Chinese people would be happiest, but it may be affirmed from the standpoint of the struggle that the statesmen are now waging, that it will not affect the issue whether the Emperor of China is alive or dead. The new man who mounts the throne will, like Alexander I of Russia, be preceded by the man who murdered his grandfather, surrounded by the men who murdered his father and followed by the men who may murder himself. There is the best reason for believing that Lord Salisbury will hold steadily aloof from this turn of ill and intrigue. An influential supporter of the Government says today: 'Our concern is what the rulers of China will do, not who they are. If we restore the Emperor or any pretender to full authority, we must help him govern China. It would in the end require an army, and the job is too big for men of sense to undertake.'

Mr. Ford, in his London letter to the Tribune, after referring to the aspect

of foreign affairs elsewhere, deals as follows, with the Chinese situation:— 'It is in China that the British policy is enveloped in a black fog. Nointelligible account of what has happened there has appeared in the English press, not even in the Times, which is usually well informed on Chinese affairs. There is no certainty that the 'exposed Emperor is alive, although the versatile Empress-mother has summoned all the leading doctors of the empire for consultation respecting his needs. Whether he is alive or dead, British interests have received a staggering blow at Peking, and what measures will be taken by Lord Salisbury for their protection are problematical.'

PEACE COMMISSIONERS AT WORK.

An Adjournment Made at the Request of Spain's Representatives.

The Cause Supposed to Be in Connection With the Philippines.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Herald says: While it is the impression that Tuesday's joint meeting of the Spanish and American Peace Commissioners was again devoted to preliminaries, and that an adjournment to Friday was taken only to enable the secretaries to draw up a schedule of work, it was learned that the session was highly important and that the Americans have made a demand of such character that the Spaniards found it necessary to ask for an adjournment in order to enable them to consult with the Government at Madrid.

It is believed that the question concerns the Philippines, and it is known that the Americans are highly pleased at having so soon reached what they think is a very important phase of the negotiations, and they consider the two sessions thus far held as very satisfactory to the United States.

Spain desires to retain the Philippines under her sovereignty without any interference. Rather than have any control she would prefer to give up all pretensions to governing.

On the Cuban debt it may be urged that Cuba today more than ever, under new and improved rule, can well pay the interest. The Spanish Government hold that the United States has no legal rights in the Philippines beyond loan.

Secretary Hay received a despatch on Tuesday from Mr. Day, chairman of the American Peace Commission, announcing that a joint meeting of the American and Spanish Commissioners had been held and that an adjournment had been taken until Friday next.

While Mr. Day did not say so, it is understood by the administration officials that he has presented to the chairman of the Spanish Commissioners the demands of the United States and the delay has been allowed that time may be given to consider the proposals submitted.

Mr. Day is apparently hopeful of a favorable result to the deliberations of the Spanish Commissioners, for I am told his cablegrams are of a most optimistic character, and he evidently anticipates that the commission will end its work by the middle of next month, the date which he suggested before his departure from Washington.

The authorities will most anxiously await the reply which the Spanish Commissioners will make to the American demands. It is naturally presumed that the chairman of the Spanish Commission will telegraph the demands of the United States to Prime Minister Sagasta, and the authorities have equally little doubt that Senor Sagasta will communicate their nature to the representatives of the foreign Governments residing in Madrid.

From now on the authorities anticipate an effort toward the exercise of European pressure to secure a reduction of the American demands, and it may be that another attempt may be made to bring about a European concert designed to compel the United States to relinquish its present intentions with respect to the Philippines. This is a matter which is not worrying the administration, however, as it is satisfied that Great Britain would not consent to enter into such a concert, and without Great Britain the matter will certainly fall through.

If you had impregnable uprightness of character, if nefarious methods were abhorrent to you, there would be no attractiveness in vicious deeds, and they would have no more alluring power than the fire bars, which may coax you to thrust your hand into it, but which coaxes in vain.

Early knowledge is very valuable capital with which to set forth in life; it gives one an advantageous start. If the possession of knowledge has a given value at fifty, it has a much greater value at twenty-five.