

Irish Survivors of Titanic Meet.

"You see," says Father Michael J. Henry, pressing his hands together as if they were bellows keeping the fires glowing in his twinkling eyes while he waited Monday in the doorway of the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary to welcome the Irish survivors of the Titanic to their reunion, "you see," says he, "it is necessary to explain before they come that an Irishman is all smiles and tears. That's the nature of him, and the tears shouldn't last long, praise be. So we want to keep 'em smiling this afternoon—make 'em feel they're right at home in America. Whishla! And here comes one."

Out went the arms of the priest as if welcoming a child, and his voice boomed a hearty:

"Hannah Riordan. As I live it's Hannah, and that fine I had to look twice to recognize her. And how are ye?"

The girl had approached with downcast face, her demeanor changed instantly. Before she knew it she was smiling with the jolly priest. They were chatting gaily when others arrived to be greeted by Father Henry, Father Mitchell and Father Anthony Grogan.

Here was little Margaret Devaney with the Irish blue eyes and the auburn hair, the only one of the four colleens from County Sligo who was saved; Alice and Agnes McCoy from County Mayo, who rescued their brother Barney, when sailors tried to beat him back with oars into the sea; and thirty or so others, all that live of the hundred sons and daughters of Ireland who sailed on the Titanic. Father Henry and his colleagues knew them all from visits paid to St. Vincent's Hospital or to the pier when the Carpathia docked.

The little mission which has furnished a temporary home for upward of 100,000 girls since it was opened, twenty-eight years ago, had kept track of every Irish survivor to arrive in New York on the Carpathia and issued invitations for Monday's reunion. All the guests except four were young women. The mission was formerly the old Custom House, and is one of New York's historic buildings. Its wide, high ceilinged rooms are little less commodious than those of an Irish castle. In the largest of them, overlooking the bay, the reunion was held. There were joyous although somewhat subdued greetings between those who met for the first time since passing through the perils of the disaster. A big table loaded with eatables, and with a huge tea pot steaming at one end and a coffee urn at the other, was in the centre of the room.

"We praise the blessed Lord for having you with us," said Father Henry, "and in a spirit of gratefulness we welcome you. We don't want to dwell on the tragedy through which you have passed. We will pray for those who have gone. You will find hands ever ready to help you here in America, and we want this occasion to be a token of the gladness which we feel in greeting Ireland's sons and daughters on American soil."

Michael McDermott president of the Irish Immigrants' Society, followed Father Henry with a brief address.

Stories of Girl Survivors.

About the time the second cups were being poured the young women took to recounting their experiences. Margaret Devaney, who found refuge in the home of her sister at No. 861 Sixth avenue, said:

"There were four of us from Knocknaree, County Sligo—Mary Burns and Kitty Hargodon, and a boy we knew. We were all on deck not thinking it was serious, when the boy comes along without his cap. 'Where's your cap?' we asks him. He waited for a time before answering, not wishing to frighten us and then he says: 'There bein' time to get my cap. You girls better get into a boat.' Then he holds out his hand sort of faltering and he says: 'I hope we'll meet again.' I got into a boat, but Mary Burns and Kitty Hargodon held back, thinking it was safer to remain in the ship. I never saw them again. We were in the third cabins when the alarms were sounded. The doors leading to the other decks were closed on us and we girls had to climb up ladders to the boat deck."

Agnes McCoy told of saving her brother's life, as follows: "Barney

joined us in the crowd and tried to lift us into a lifeboat. He was thrown back three times because the officers thought he was trying to climb in. As our boat was lowered we called to him to jump. He put on his lifebelt and threw himself over the rail, swimming toward us. When he came within reach of the boat the sailors struck at him with oars and fought him back. He came up again and we caught him with our hands, begging the men to let him be saved. Others in the boat also pleaded and so he was permitted to climb aboard."

Margaret Devaney recalled that she also was dazed by the cold. "The last thing I remember after being in the boat was the cries of the drowning," she said. "I said a rosary for them and thought it didn't much matter as to what became of me, only I knew my parents would grieve."

Margaret Murphy, who is with a relative at No. 3649 Olinville avenue, the Bronx, told of the heroism of John Kiernan, a young man who had lived near her father's house in Fostratown, Longford.

"I was trying to get to a lifeboat," she said, "when John shouted to me and came running up. 'Here, take my lifebelt,' he said, seeing I did not have one. He made me put it on and put me in a boat. He and his brother Philip were drowned."

Thomas McCormick was one of the four male survivors present at the reunion. He jumped overboard just as the ship was sinking and swam to a life raft. Eugene Daly of County Athlone bore the marks on his face of blows from sailors who fought with him against entering the last boat as it was lowered with many vacant seats. With five other men he launched a life raft and put off picking up a score or more of passengers and crew who were struggling in the water.

"We were only a little distance from the Titanic," he said, "when I saw her sinking and sinking, but I mistrusted my eyes until I looked and saw that the sea covered the place where she had been."

While the survivors were recounting their experiences Father Henry approached each with a gift of twenty-five dollars from a fund of \$1,000 supplied through Mr. McDermott from the Irish Immigrants' Society.

"There's more if you need it before you get on your feet," Father Henry told the grateful guests. The Mission plans to keep in touch with all the Irish survivors and stand by them until they become established in this country.

RENFREW PRIEST A BISHOP.

Rome, May 4—Father Patrick Ryan the parish priest of Renfrew, Ont., has been named titular Bishop of Clazomne, a city on the coast of Asia Minor, near Smyrna, and appointed auxiliary Bishop of Pembroke, Ont.

BOOMING MATRIMONY.

No Charge For Ceremony: Also A Present For Each Bride.

In order to boom matrimony in Lambertville, N. Y., Father Lynch, rector of St. John's church, has not only offered to perform all marriages during the year 1912 without cost, but to give a present to the bride, the pulpit, and those at the service. The priest announced his plan from spent the rest of the day communicating the surprising offer to those who had not been there to hear it.

SENATOR ELLIS AND A CHATAM EDITOR.

St. John newspaper reports of an Odd Fellows Anniversary banquet say that Senator Ellis in the course of a reminiscent speech, paid a high tribute to J. L. Stewart of the Chatham World, who was one of ten members of Pioneer Lodge who had become Grand Master of the Order in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Stewart feels that praise from Mr. Ellis, the dean of the newspapermen of the Maritime Provinces, is praise indeed, says the Chatham World.

LEAP YEAR STORY.

"Were you embarrassed when you proposed to me, Nell?" "Awfully; I owed over \$200."

A PROFESSIONAL CHURCH THIEF.

Smart Capture by a Wigan Priest.

At the Wigan Borough Police Court, on Thursday week, George Thompson of no settled address, was charged with frequenting St. Joseph's Church, Wigan, with intent to commit a felony, on Wednesday afternoon.

The Chief Constable stated that for a considerable time they had been troubled with persons frequenting different places of worship and breaking open the offertory box and stealing the contents. Father Wade, who had concealed himself behind the pulpit, saw prisoner enter the church at 5.20, kneel two benches in front of another worshipper, and when that person left noticed prisoner deliberately look round, and seeing the course apparently clear, go straight to the offertory box, put his hand on the lock, and try to open it. Father Wade immediately appeared in front of the prisoner, asked what he was doing there, and charged him with attempting to extract money from the box. Prisoner replied that he had put a penny in the box. Father Wade, from his position, saw that that was not so. In prisoner's possession were found a box of birdlime and a small key which could be used for opening similar boxes. Prisoner had 2s. 4d. in copper and 2s. in silver.

Father Wade gave evidence bearing out the opening statement, and said prisoner never put anything into the box. He could have seen and heard it had he done so. Witness asked prisoner, who struggled to get free, and asked to be allowed to go. Witness took him out of the church into Caroline street and held him there whilst sending for the police. Prisoner denied having done anything of the kind he was charged with, and witness said he would consider letting him go if he could show he had nothing incriminating in his possession. Witness did not know whether he did right or not, but he put his hand into prisoner's pockets and pulled out from an inside pocket a box of birdlime. Witness asked him what he used that for, and prisoner replied, "For catching birds." He knew that such stuff was used for the purpose of robbing offertory boxes.

The Chief Constable stated that prisoner had been convicted at Worcester, Leicester, Boston, Stafford Sessions, Stafford Assizes, Bedford, Chester, Salford, Bradford, Liverpool Assizes, and Birkenhead so late as January this year for breaking and entering a church.

Prisoner who smiled as the record was being read, was found guilty and sent to gaol for three months' hard labor.

MESSAGE OF MAY.

Than May, surely in the round of the year there is no lovelier month. From this time the days are processional. We are passing on through the glory of spring to the glory of summer and there is not a moment or hour of day or week in which something is not happening. The birds are busy, and as we watch them we see in microcosm our larger world. May-time is beautiful in the country, and it showers upon the city in lavish measure much of its potential charm. The park grown radiant in bloom, and the little spaces here and there in the city where there are fountains and flowers afford delight to the passerby. The heartache of May throbs dumbly in the city when one sees on the park benches men and women out of work, out of money and out of hope. They spend the days in apathy, for no man has hired them. The sadness of the city appeals to every heart and in some quarters where there are great throngs who are evidently the children of penury and want we understand how Jesus felt when He had compassion on the multitude because they were as sheep having no shepherd.

HAS RETURNED FROM THE WEST.

Mr. Joseph McMinamin has arrived in Fredericton from Black Duck Minnesota, having been called home owing to the illness of his brother, Herbert, who is still in a critical condition as a result of falling down the stairs at his home about two weeks ago.

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PAGANISM VS. CHRISTIANITY.

If the passengers of the Titanic were pagans instead of Christians the rule of procedure would have been different. "First," says the pagan, "rescue the men, then the children, and if there is any room stow away the women." Christianity first gave dignity to womankind. The incidental finding of half a dozen Chinamen stowed away in the bottom of one of the life boats helps to strengthen our opinion. —Valarian, Brooklyn Tablet.

GEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Driscoll, of Rodney street, West St. John, announce the engagement of their daughter, Anna Louise, to Jack Curtis of the Donaldson staff, Montreal.

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