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OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

Great enthusiasm is manifested on all sides in connection with the pilgrimage to the Old Land to assist at the commemoration celebrations of the century of '98.

Callant Wexford will, of course, be the central scene of the visit of the vast concourse of pilgrims, and Vinegar Hill, whose verdant slopes were once crimsoned with the blood of men, who, ill-armed and poorly equipped, fought with the countless spirit of heroes against largely superior numbers of trained British soldiers.

As Professor Ingram, of Trinity College, Dublin, well said in his poem, "Who fears to speak of Ninety-Eight?" All all have gone, but still lives on The fame of those who died;

Yes; the heroes and martyrs of '98 are remembered with pride, as the gigantic national pilgrimage of patriots next year will emphatically testify.

The Tribune, which has been devoting a great deal of space to interviews with business men during the past few days, says: In the opinion of some of the most prominent merchants of this city, the trade of the coming Spring bids fair to surpass that of any season since 1892.

For the coming Spring season, however, the prospects are considered to be most favorable. Several lines of goods, principally woollens, have, in fact, nearly been forced out of the market, the mills refusing to accept any more orders.

Mr. John Daly, the well-known Irish Nationalist, whose release was announced about a year ago, has been made the recipient of many receptions from different organizations since his arrival in this city.

One of the most important duties that Mayor Strong will have to perform before the reins of office pass from his hands and he steps from the chair of Mayor of New York into private life will be the appointment of one-third of the School Commissioners who are to preside over the education of the children of the enlarged city of New York.

The Catholic Citizen says: Irishmen in Chicago and the west will be interested in hearing that the Emmet Memorial Hall, soon to be erected in that city, is to be one of the most beautiful and architecturally perfect buildings in the country.

more than once with his appointments, and he may do so again with his final effort in this direction.

The outgoing Commissioners are Messrs. Banard, Huribut, Montant, Peaslee, Prentiss, Rogers and Taft.

The new Mayor will serve for a single term of four years, and his salary will be \$15,000. The new municipality contains 3,100,000 inhabitants, and covers an area of 359 square miles, with taxable property amounting to \$2,583,324,329 and a debt of \$170,000,000.

There is to be another census of the population of the United States. The last one cost Jonathan \$2,000,000, and it was very poorly done at that.

AN EYE-WITNESS. Mrs. Anne Armstrong Remembers the Tragic Times of 1798—She is Now 116 Years of Age—Her Mode of Life.

Mrs. Anne Armstrong, now living in Clare, Ireland, bids fair to behold the commemoration of many of the stirring events which she witnessed a century ago.

In the year 1781, when Lord Cornwallis began in joy and ended in disaster his campaign in Virginia against the American colonists, there was born at Fermansagh, Ireland, a girl baby who, living yet, at the age of 116 years, is believed to be the oldest person in the world.

That girl-child whose life began almost with that of the United States is Mrs. Anne Armstrong, now of County Clare, Ireland. She grew up in Fermansagh and married there.

The days that she has lived through have been fraught with the most wonderful events of the world's history, but the particular period that impressed its events most firmly upon Mrs. Armstrong's memory was that of the great Irish rebellion of 1798, when she was a lass of 17.

Mrs. Armstrong is still able to walk and to care for herself and her little cottage by the aid which her kindly neighbors give her.

EMMET HALL MEMORIAL.

Chicago Irishmen Will Erect a Great Memorial to the Patriot.

The Catholic Citizen says: Irishmen in Chicago and the west will be interested in hearing that the Emmet Memorial Hall, soon to be erected in that city, is to be one of the most beautiful and architecturally perfect buildings in the country.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Chicago is anxious that all Irishmen, of all classes and creeds, who reside in the middle west or beyond the Rockies, lend assistance that will ensure the early materialization of their plans.

The hall is to cost \$100,000 and is to be admirably arranged for varied uses.

meeting hall whose auditorium will seat 2,000 people. A commodious and fully equipped gymnasium will also be provided, to be furnished by contributions of Irishmen of Illinois.

Provision is to be made for a system of schools, whose sessions will be at night during the winter months, or from Oct. 1 to April 1. The structure is to measure 75 by 135 feet, the former representing the frontage. Rock faced granite will be used in the construction of the front of the hall and the finest grade of pressed brick will go into its other walls.

One of the artistic features of the new building is to be a statue of Robert Emmet that will stand within the auditorium at the height of eight feet or more. This statue is to be made of Irish marble quarried in Avondale on the estate of the late Charles Stewart Parnell.

THE OLD MONTREAL COLLEGE. Modera progress has no respect for relics, and memories of the past count for naught, whenever the exigencies of trade and commerce require the disappearance of an old landmark.

The above remarks were suggested by a recent view of the old Montreal College, whose back walls can be seen from William street, pending repairs and improvements rendered necessary by the fire in the Mullin building.

When passing through St. Paul from McGill to Inspector street the average business man hardly knows or remembers that, 40 years ago, the whole land on his left, from St. Henry to Inspector street, and for the same distance on William street, was closed in by a heavy stone wall and formed the Montreal College grounds and gardens.

The college was built in 1804 to replace the first city college which had been located in the Chateau de Vaudreuil, at the foot of Jacques Cartier square, and was then under the name of St. Raphael College.

The building forming the subject of the present sketch was used as a college until the end of 1861, when the priests of the Seminary of St. Sulpice ceded it to the military authorities for the accommodation of the regular troops then coming to Canada in large numbers.

Meanwhile, a portion of the old college grounds was sold to the city and now forms the hay market, and in 1871 Mr. Mullin purchased the college building and part of the grounds.

The Japanese have organized a society to make life-pleasant visitors to their country. We have read of certain other foreign lands where it is the particular delight of the people to make life interesting for everybody who drops in on them.

OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PHILADELPHIA, November 15, 1897.

That there are "many men of many minds" is an ever reiterated fact, and surely, it is a most satisfactory state of affairs to each and all of us.

OF TEACHING ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGE at all in the schools was questioned again, as it has been so often in the past, while also was raised the question whether to make the teaching optional or obligatory.

Assistant Superintendent Marble said that one view of the subject was that a large number of pupils went to the schools for only a short time, and that what they learned of English during that period was of much greater service to them afterwards than the little they could acquire in the same time of a foreign language.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY. A special Concert is now in course of preparation by the St. Mary's Young Men's Society, which will be held on (Thanksgiving Evening) Thursday, November 25 in St. Mary's Hall, cor. Craig and Janet Streets.

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OUR IRISH LETTER.

DUBLIN, November 5—His Eminence Cardinal Logue, in a letter to the secretary of the Anti-Gambling Association, says:—I believe that of all the evils which threaten the well-being of society at the present day gambling is one of the worst.

Foreign Language Teaching. "Foreign Language Teaching" is at present engaging the attention of the different Boards of School Commissioners in the United States.

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