

The Weekly Messenger

SATURDAY, MAY 12.

ROADS.

A sage deliverance is the following one, attributed to a grand jury in Georgia:—"Bad roads, like bad whiskey, not only make bad morals, but, like bad whiskey, impose upon the people taxes, heavy, onerous, and if we only pause to contemplate them, perfectly appalling." If there is one matter upon which people nowadays are straying from sensible practices, it is the comparative indifference almost everywhere existing with regard to ordinary highways. Railways have so extended over every civilized continent that common roads have become local ways, and have therefore ceased in a large measure from being regarded as national concerns. Once a road was one of the most important cares of an emperor, and among the monuments of Imperial Rome none record the sagacity of their founders more than the mighty roads stretching across every country that ever the Roman eagles fluttered over. Now the opening up of a new road and its after maintenance is one of the petty affairs left to county and township boards, to be paid for by the people along their way, with whatever assistance legislatures may afford after almost every other public want is satisfied. It has become an easy task to start an agitation for a railway in a rural community, people generally being willing to make great sacrifices in order to have easy access by rail to markets and the centres of population. Too often has a town, village or farming township oppressed itself with taxes to subsidize a railway from which immeasurable benefits were anticipated, only to find when the line was in operation that its rates absorbed the cream of the profits upon home productions sent over it. Notwithstanding this, however, as well as other facts of a like nature which might be adduced, it would be folly to decry railways at this time of day, more especially as in the nature of things the power of oppression they undoubtedly possess ought to weaken accordingly as the countries through which they run develop wealth and are fully populated. It is not the depreciation of railways in popular estimation that is sought to be effected in these remarks, but that common roads might be restored, as they deserve, to a first position in public regard. Until modern invention brings swiftly-moving carriages to every man's door, an incalculable amount of convenience, comfort and solid wealth will depend upon the ordinary roads from the farming settlements to the towns and the railways. Bad roads involve serious wear and tear of horseflesh, gear and vehicles; much injurious jolting and weariness to all who ride over them, affecting health seriously and often for life, that being at the same time shortened, and are, moreover, more costly in the long run, from the ever-recurring necessity of repairs, than roads made good and durable and smooth in the beginning. It is probably the fact that, in nine cases out of ten, where railway projectors make considerable subsidies from the people along the proposed lines the conditions of their building, the railways have been determined upon beforehand and would be built anyway if they gave fair promise of a paying traffic. At all events capitalists ought to be allowed to build them entirely at their own charges, and if they are a necessity to the districts through which they are to run, the people will pay their share of the convenience soon enough

in freight and passenger tolls, the only legitimate method of direct taxation for railways levied on the public. Rather let rural communities devote surplus wealth to the perfection of their system of common roads, which are in these days a peculiar concern of theirs and by which they are judged to a great extent by travellers from abroad.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

Sunday last was the first anniversary of the murder of Lord F. Cavendish and Mr. Burke in Phoenix Park, Dublin. On Monday Timothy Kelly was put on trial for the third time for those crimes, when Hanlon, one of his fellow-prisoners who had turned informer, confirmed the evidence given by Carey and Kavanagh, that Kelly was one of the four principals in the actual deed. Carey testified that every one of the Invincibles, except Brady, had offered to become informers and that he himself had been the last to do so. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has commuted the death sentence of Patrick Delaney, who pleaded guilty to complicity in the murders. Persons who have suffered from violations of the law in Ireland are receiving compensation; fifteen thousand dollars each have been awarded Lady Mountmorres and Mrs. Blake for the murder of their husbands. True bills for murder have been returned by the Dublin grand jury against Tynan, the long-wanted "Number One," John Walsh and P. J. Sheridan, who are all in America, and in regard to whom the question of extradition is still open. It is said the British Government had agents attending the Philadelphia convention and has agents also in every Irish political society in the United States and Canada. In bidding farewell to emigrants Earl Spencer said the Government were determined as far as possible to assist those desirous of seeking a new life in a new country, and one of the conditions of assistance was that families go as a whole and not broken up. Nine men were arraigned in Dublin a few days ago for conspiracy to murder, and James Mullett and William Mooney pleaded guilty. Lawrence Hanlon pleading not guilty was tried, convicted and sentenced to penal servitude for life. Two hundred members of the Patriotic Brotherhood suddenly left Crossmaglen on account of revelations that implicated them in unlawful acts, and about the same number fled from Belfast under like circumstances. Cardinal McCloskey, New York, is said to have been interrogated through the telegraph by the Papal Secretary of State, Rome, as to whether it was true that he had received Alexander Sullivan, president of the Irish National Land League of America, and demanding an explanation. An odd story comes from Russia, that the Pan-Slavists of the Empire—those who aim at union of all Slavic peoples—who are great haters of England as the most formidable antagonist of their ambitious aims, desire to place large tracts of fertile but uncultivated land in Turkestan, the Caucasus and Siberia, at the disposal of the discontented population of Ireland. Not out of love, for the Irish, however, it is said, but from the belief that such a scheme would hurt England, does the movement originate. Mr. Merritt, Consul-General of the United States in London, has for some time been acquiring information, through the consuls throughout the island, regarding the real condition of the people. According to the evidence thus obtained, it is published that the state of the distressed districts has been largely exaggerated, that famine has not yet been reached anywhere,

that relief sent from the United States three years ago is suspected in some quarters to have been misapplied. As to the latter suspicion, it is believed that some of the potatoes sent from this side were not even accepted, being inferior to the Irish article and were sent back to America. The distress is said to be magnified by the local poor boards, so as to procure outside contributions that will relieve the draught upon their resources. In view of all the information collected, Americans are cautioned to be careful in choosing the channels for the conveyance of their charity. Complaints are becoming common in American quarters on both sides of the water of the immense numbers of poverty-stricken Irish people being deported to this side, most of whom land in the United States. It is anticipated that a hundred thousand Irish will cross the ocean this year.

CRIME.

Mr. Wasson, army paymaster, had twenty-five thousand dollars stolen from him in a sleeping car in Texas.

John A. Neal, who has wealthy brothers in Boston, was murdered for his valuables in the Indian Territory, where he had gone for his health.

James Marriott, who stole seventy-five thousand dollars worth of diamonds in Paris, France, has been arrested in New York, the diamonds being recovered.

John Callahan, of Winchester, Massachusetts, while on a spree forced his three-year-old child to swallow a large quantity of liquor, producing convulsions and death.

William Wilson, who shot a murderer named Bailey when the latter tried to escape while being taken to justice, has surrendered to the authorities of Bismarck, Dakota.

Frank Mallon, a policeman, was shot dead in New York by Michael Sullivan, whom he had told to move out of a doorway. Sullivan is said to have been twice an inmate of an insane asylum.

A white man named Sawyer gave two Indians, of the St. Regis village on the St. Lawrence, poisoned liquor, and one of them died, the other was in a critical condition, and the murderer fled.

A well-known citizen of Chicago, T. M. Fulton, while drunk in a saloon, gave eighteen hundred dollars' worth of jewellery to a lounge for safe-keeping, and never saw jewellery or keeper since.

Some scoundrel misplaced points and signals on the railway at Truro, Nova Scotia, and thereby caused the wreck of a freight train with a loss of ten thousand dollars, the train hands saving their lives by jumping.

Upon local prohibition going into effect at Anniston, Alabama, a party of whites and blacks had a farewell carouse in a saloon, which ended in a fight wherein one man was killed and several were seriously injured.

George Shaw, clerk in a railway office in New York, ran off on April twenty-first with a thousand dollars of his employers, three or four thousand belonging to a church, and an uncertain amount borrowed from friends.

Amos Bailey, colored, in a fight with Joseph Cain, a prominent farmer of Summit, Missouri, caused the latter's death by fracturing his skull. Fifty armed men took Bailey out of the hands of the officers of justice and hanged him.

At Elgin, New Brunswick, on April thirtieth, a constable named Dryden was shot dead by another constable named Steeves, while the former was forcing his

way into the stable of the latter to seize, under a search warrant, a horse that Steeves had seized from another man for taxes a few days previously. The murderer was arrested and a coroner's jury laid the crime to his charge, but the sheriff's officers allowed him to escape.

An eccentric old man named Alfred Zinklett, living alone on his farm at Almond, New York, on leaving the house a few days ago set a gun so that anyone opening the door would be shot, as the boys and young men of the neighborhood had been in the practice of raiding his premises in his absence. A lad named Peter Tippincott, aged fifteen, visited the place, sprung the trap, received the contents of the gun in his body and was expected to die.

Some time ago we gave an account of the murder of Mrs. Carlton, at Watertown, Massachusetts, with a paving stone, at her own door in early evening, the murderer escaping without being identified. Suspicion fell upon her husband, who is a liquor-seller in Boston, a belief going abroad that he had hired some ruffian to kill her. Late a man named Roger Amirault has been arrested in Nova Scotia for the murder and taken to Boston to be tried.

CASUALTY.

Thomas Daly, New York, fell from his roof while walking in his sleep, and was killed.

Over twenty business firms have been burned out in Union City, Indiana, and many dwellings suffered damage.

Fire, undoubtedly started by an incendiary, burned Tolinie & McMartin's furniture factory at Ridgetown, Ontario.

Six men were killed and a number injured in the Vale coal mines, Nova Scotia, by the breaking of a rope when they were being hauled up a slope.

A violent explosion of gas, supposed to have been ignited by a spark from a carpenter's pipe, occurred in the air shaft of a Wilkesbarre coal mine, killing two men.

While playing with his father's gun, at Plainfield, New Jersey, Edward Milliken fatally shot Thomas Blair, a playmate—another warning against leaving firearms in the way of children.

Powder accidentally ignited while shells were being filled in a Government powder magazine near Portsmouth, England, and an explosion followed, demolishing the building and causing the death of seven men.

Three little sisters were struck by lightning while playing under an umbrella during a light thunder shower, at Winona, Minnesota, and two aged nine and eleven were killed; the third was paralyzed in the side but likely to recover.

Earthquakes are reported under the same date from Tabreez, in Persia, and Helena, in Montana. The American one rocked a school house and scared the pupils; but the Persian was more terrible, destroying a great many houses with much loss of life.

The steamer "Grappler" has been burned off the British Columbia coast, and seventy lives lost—twenty whites, forty-eight Chinamen and two Indians. Twenty thousand dollars represent the value of goods and money lost. Accounts of the disaster by survivors are heartrending. The victims were driven by the flames to watery graves, and many who should otherwise have been able to save themselves were dragged down by struggling Chinamen.