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IRELAND.

BELFAST.

Last night, March 26th, a largely attended meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Catholic Association of Belfast was held in St. Mary's Hall. Very Rev. H. Laverty, V. G., President St. Malachy's College, occupied the chair.

The Very Rev. Chairman referred to the desirability of co-opting those who had taken an active part during the year in the work of the Congregational Committee (applause). Referring to the manner in which the representatives in the public Boards discharged their duties, he said that they took an interest not alone in the districts which returned them, but in all the districts loyal to the Catholic Association, and in saying that he meant all the districts of the city of Belfast (applause), because the result of the recent elections to the Central Executive and the appointment of the congregational committees in the different districts indicated pretty conclusively that Catholic Belfast was heart and soul with the Catholic Association (applause). He did not see why the Catholics of Belfast should not rally round that Association, which had done so much for them in the past, and which was capable of doing so much for the amelioration of the lot of Catholics in the city in the future. It was a most democratic Association (applause). The representatives on the public Boards were chosen by the people; the men selected to appoint their nominees for the public Boards were also selected by the people; and consequently, to his mind, there could not be a more popular organization than the Catholic Association (applause). He did not see why any person in Belfast who was a Catholic could take exception to that organization, because he could not object to it as being opposed to the National aspirations of the people, for he (the very rev. speaker) did not believe there was a member of the Central Executive who was not as good a Nationalist as he was a good Catholic (applause). The same could be said of the Congregational Committees. The members were just as sound Nationalists as they were good Catholics (applause). He, for his part, despised the man who, while professing National opinions, was afraid to profess his Catholicity (loud applause). He did not see that there was any meaning in trying to hide their Catholic faith while asserting Ireland's demands for justice as a nation (loud applause). There was no doubt that there had been some misunderstanding in the past with regard to the objects of the Catholic Association in the minds of some Catholics in Belfast, but he thought those misunderstandings were fading away, and that the Catholics of Belfast, as a body, were beginning to see that the Catholic Association was working for the best interests of all, and that the National cause would never suffer any detriment at the hands of the Association (loud applause). He looked forward to a time in the immediate future when there would not be a single Catholic in Belfast who would not be in full sympathy with the aims and aspirations of the Catholic Association (loud applause). He looked forward to a time when the Catholics of Belfast, while loyal to the Catholic Association, would also band themselves together in a strong National organization, for the time was coming when the whole country was about to unite in one grand effort to secure the National rights of Ireland (loud applause). He was sure when that time came that the Catholics of Belfast, and especially the members of the Catholic Association, would not be behindhand in working for the regeneration of the country (loud applause).

On March 30th, at a meeting of the Belfast Water Commissioners, on a proposition to present an address of welcome to the Queen,

Mr. Joseph Macauley, J. P., one of the two Nationalist members of the Board, said he would have much preferred that the Board, in accordance with propriety and good taste, had refrained from pressing that motion. Belfast, as a body, were beginning to see that the Catholic Association was working for the best interests of all, and that the National cause would never suffer any detriment at the hands of the Association (loud applause). He looked forward to a time in the immediate future when there would not be a single Catholic in Belfast who would not be in full sympathy with the aims and aspirations of the Catholic Association (loud applause). He looked forward to a time when the Catholics of Belfast, while loyal to the Catholic Association, would also band themselves together in a strong National organization, for the time was coming when the whole country was about to unite in one grand effort to secure the National rights of Ireland (loud applause). He was sure when that time came that the Catholics of Belfast, and especially the members of the Catholic Association, would not be behindhand in working for the regeneration of the country (loud applause).

The Duke said—Mr. Mayor, my Lords, and gentlemen—I am very sensible of the kind manner in which you have proposed my health. It is not the first time that I find myself in Cork, nor is it the first time I have accepted the hospitality of your city of Cork. In '77 I had the pleasure of dinner here, and I think with Mr. Mayor sheehan, and I have very pleasant recollections of the very kind manner in which I was received on that occasion. You, sir, have referred to my regret that I am not in another country, but on this occasion it would be the worst taste on my part if I refer to that. I assure you I am very proud of holding the very high position to which I have been appointed here, and it is a great pleasure to find myself back in the country from which I take my title and from which also I have the name of your patron saint (applause), and in which I have at all times received the greatest kindness and the greatest hospitality. It will be no fault of mine if I don't do everything that is possible to cement that good feeling which should exist between us in Ireland and those who come from England (applause). Gentlemen—You have lately seen how deeply touched all hearts have been throughout the United Kingdom by the gallantry shown by the Irish troops. Nobody rejoices in it more than I do (applause). The regiments that are serving there are well known to me. I have served with them in England, in Ireland, and also in India and other Colonies, and I am sure, sir, you only speak the truth when you said that Ireland had given all the best of her sons, both officers and men, who have fallen so nobly doing their duty to their Queen and to their country (applause). Gentlemen, I feel most keenly the warm welcome you have given me in the city of Cork on this occasion. I have come here on purely military duty, but at the same time you wish to show me that you receive me cordially, that you are anxious to show your respect to the Queen (applause), and I can assure you that I shall not forget it, and I hope it is not by many occasions the last time I shall have the pleasure of being amongst you (hear, hear). With your permission, Mr. Sheriff, I now propose the health of our host. I am certain I am expressing the feelings of all who are here this afternoon in thanking him for the very splendid lunch he has given us, and for the very cordial reception we have all received at his hands. I have only returned to Ireland a short time, and during that time I was invited to dine with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and keenly regretted not being present at his dinner. I had lunch with the Lord Mayor of Belfast; and now I have the pleasure of lunching with the High Sheriff of the city of Cork. It only shows me what I expected before coming to Ireland—that I should always receive that kindly welcome and that hospitality which is so dear to the hearts of all Irishmen (applause).

DUBLIN.

The usual weekly meeting of the sodality of the Sacred Heart was held on March 25th in the Father Mathew Hall, Very Rev. Father Nicholas, O. S. F. C., president, in the chair. Also present—Very Rev. Father Selley, O. S. A.; Rev. Louis Brophy, O. S. A.; Rev. Father Leonard, O. S. F. C.; Rev. Father Luke, O. S. F. C.; Messrs. M. J. Dunn, B. L.; Joseph Mooney, J. P.; M. J. O'Brady, J. Costello, J. Whitmore, Capt. Lynch, T. Reilly, D. Connor, Lieutenant Farrelly, M. Gorman, J. Cordeal P. Dolan, L. Bohan, S. Devoy, etc. Very Rev. Father Selley, O. S. A., who was enthusiastically received, delivered a charming lecture on "Matrimony." He described with brilliant sarcasm the institutions established by Henry VIII. in the days of the so-called Reformation to facilitate and legalise the infamous system of divorce, and in accents of touching pathos detailed the persistently indignant refusals of Ireland to acquiesce in the new marriage laws. He illustrated the conjugal fidelity of the Irish people by pointing out that when all other nations were sending multitudes of recruits to Salt Lake City to swell the ranks of sinful Mormons, Ireland only sent three, and four of these, on investigation, proved to be Scotchmen. His suggestions of the motives which should actuate young men and women in selecting a partner with whom to fight the battle of life were keenly appreciated. At the conclusion of the lecture Father Selley was vociferously cheered, and on the motion of Mr. J. Dunn, B. L., seconded by Rev. Father Leonard, O. S. F. C., who congratulated the Male Branch on the success of their Retreat, a vote of thanks was heartily tendered to the Very Reverend lecturer. The Very Reverend President congratulated with genuine pride the members of th eociality on the great success of the Retreat for the male and female branches. He sincerely thanked and complimented the Rev. Father Brophy, O. S. A., who conducted the exercises for the women, and the Rev. Father Leonard, O. S. F. C., who preached to the men, for their brilliant exertions in contributing so conspicuously to the achievement of this great object. Rev. Father Brophy, in a brief address, thanked the audience for the welcome extended to him, and felicitated the women on the glorious success of their Retreat. After renewal of the Holy Pledge, the proceedings terminated.

LIMERICK.

At a meeting of the City Branch of the United Irish League, March 30th, Mr. Henry O'Shea presiding, Alderman O'Mara proposed, and Mr. M'Mahon seconded a resolution expressing satisfaction at the pronouncement contained in the recent letter of Mr. Redmond, which urged the formation of branches, so as to make the forthcoming Convention representative, and approving of Mr. Redmond's suggestion, asking the cities of Dublin, Cork, and Waterford to take their proper places in the ranks of the United League, and promising him hearty support in his patriotic pronouncement.

Alderman Joyce proposed, and Mr. Bourke seconded, a resolution sympathising with the Boers in the death of General Joubert.

At a meeting of the committee of the Corporation March 30, Mr. Moran proposed, and Mr. Whelan seconded, a resolution of sympathy with President Kruger and the Boers in the death of General Joubert, and hoping this event will not injuriously affect the cause of the gallant people of the Transvaal in the struggle for freedom which has been the admiration of every country except England in the civilized world.

Mr. Stokes considered that when the meeting was summoned for a special purpose these matters should not be brought on.

The Mayor said he thought in the circumstances he would not be justified in refusing the resolution.

Mr. Prendergast—It might turn out Joubert is not dead.

The Mayor—There will be all the greater reason for rejoicing then.

TIPPERARY.

An important ceremony, the induction of the Rev. P. O'Keeffe, as parish priest of Cappawhite, took place on Sunday, March 24th.

The Very Rev. Canon Cahill, P. P., Tipperary, who conducted the ceremony, ascended the pulpit after 11 o'clock Mass. He said,—A word in explanation why I am here to-day as the Vicar of the Diocese deputed by the Archbishop, and in his name, and by his authority, for the purposes of formally inducting Father O'Keeffe as pastor of the parish. It was an ancient usage in this Church, but owing to persecution, it fell into disuse, but has of late years been revived. It consists of a profession of faith, that he cherishes that Holy faith in his own heart, and that he teaches that Holy faith—that Holy faith which we all love, and for which our forefathers died, and which has been handed down to us through many centuries, pure and undefiled as it came from the lips of Patrick, and without which it is impossible to please God, or to save our immortal souls. The Sacred Gospels delivered up to him signify that it will be his duty to preach the Gospel in simplicity and truth. The delivery of the keys signifies that he shall have exclusive authority over the Church. The beauty of God's House, and the magnificent schools bear ample testimony to the zeal, piety, and energy of our late pastor in the cause of religion and education, and I, and you, and we all pray that he is now reaping the reward of his labors, and it needs only that your present pastor, whom I have known long and well, follow in his footsteps. Everywhere he has discharged his duties with zeal and ability, and I congratulate you on getting him. Pray that he fulfil those duties as he ought, that they be meritorious to himself and the salvation of his people.

The profession of faith was then read by Father O'Keeffe. The delivery of the Gospels and keys followed.

The brass band paraded the town in honor of the occasion, and accompanied the Very Rev. Canon and Father O'Keeffe to and from the church playing National airs.

On March 29th the monthly meeting of the Executive of the United Irish League for the Parliamentary Division of South Tipperary was held in Cahir.

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell, J. P., Clonmore, president, occupied the chair, and there were also present—

Cahir—Mr. W. O'Loughnan, Mr. John M'Inish, D. C., and Mr. J. L. Broderick.

Bansha—Mr. John Cullinan.

Kilfeacle—Mr. Wm. Fogarty, D. C.

Clogheen—Messrs. T. Condon, T. G. Looby, and M. Hanrahan.

Burncourt—Messrs. T. Slattery and P. English.

Ballyporeen—Mr. T. Duggan.

Duhill—Mr. M. Walsh.

Knockgrafton—Mr. M. Byrne.

Newcastle—Mr. D. Fennessey.

Mr. Cullinan said that he had forwarded the resolution of the last meeting to Mr. Redmond, and wrote a letter to him, and received a reply which had been published in the papers. It was a full endorsement of their policy, and went as far as they wanted. There might still be some doubt after reading it as to Mr. Redmond's attitude towards the U. I. L. He had treated the matter with caution and prudence, which, in the light of recent troubles, was commendable; but any further doubt as to Mr. Redmond's earnestness towards the working of the United Irish League was removed by his letter to Mr. T. D. Redmond, of Waterford, published in the "Freeman," urging the necessity of organising the district under the banner of the League. Mr. Cullinan read the letter to the meeting amidst applause. Mr. Cullinan, in the course of further remarks in reference to the approaching demonstration, suggested the formation of a small committee to assist him in making arrangements for it.

President—I think you might leave that to the Cahir Branch.

The delegates agreed to this.

Mr. Cullinan said he had sent out circulars to the branches in reference to the appointment of delegates to the Cork Conference on April 26.

Mr. M'Nish suggested that they recommend the holding of the Conference in Limerick, as being more central.

Eventually it was decided that representation be made by the secretary to hold the Conference in Limerick, as being a central position, and as a compliment to the Limerick Nationalists.

Mr. Cullinan said the branches would require to take action at once about appointing their delegates to the Conference.

Mr. O'Loughnan proposed that Mr. John Cullinan be their representative on the Munster directory.

Mr. Fogarty seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Mr. William Fogarty, D. C., proposed, and Mr. Maurice Walsh seconded the following resolution, which was heartily approved of,—

"That in the face of Mr. John Redmond's expressed God-speed wish to the work of the United Irish League and the endorsement of its programme by himself and 65 members of the Irish Party, we would ask that the members of Parliament, at least the many who are not attending to their Parliamentary duties, should forthwith throw themselves into the work of organising the country, as we, the members of the South Tipperary Executive, could be no party to meeting a committee which would not be thoroughly representative of the full National element of the country."

Mr. Cullinan, speaking in support of the resolution, said he thought it very necessary that they should speak their minds out on the matter. Though Mr Redmond and th Irish Party had thrown in their lot with the League they could not help recognising the fact that there was a certain undercurrent which sought to assert itself lately, but with disastrous effects. The representatives of the United League through the country were not going to show by jubilation and delight over the reunion in the Irish Party that they were for one moment to throw the power out of their own hands (hear hear). He certainly held that the United Irish League had been the means of bringing around union in the Irish Party ranks (hear, hear), and he believed he expressed the feelings of the representatives of South Tipperary when he said they would hold on by the United Irish League, and to the power they had of making Members of Parliament and others who were kicking over the traces (no the line whether they liked it or not (hear, hear). The sooner that expression of their feelings was made known the better (hear, hear). They would not stand any more balderdash. Some parties did try to kick over the traces, but the country took them up and made them retreat. If they tried it on again they would be made retreat out of public life altogether (hear, hear). Mr. Cullinan, referring to the Queen's visit, said the Dublin Corporation did not represent the feelings of the Irish people in deciding to present a Royal address (A Delegate—Nor Dublin either). Most of these men acted in the interest of the shops. Dublin did nothing right. They never contributed to the National funds in the proper proportion. They were always turf hunting. South Tipperary repudiated the action of the Dublin Corporation, and they hoped the electors would deal properly with the

IRISH GENERAL NEWS.

At the meeting of Durgarvan Urban District Council (M. Hayes, J. P., presiding) Mr. Thomas Power, Chairman County Council, said when they had seen the welcome announcement in today's "Freeman" of the munificent contribution of £500 sent by Mr. Patrick Ford, the patriotic proprietor and editor of the "Irish World," to the founder of the United Irish League, Mr. William O'Brien. This was but a very small instalment of what Mr. Patrick Ford had done for the Irish people and the Irish cause, and he thought that through the length and breadth of their country, as well as the world over, wherever the exiled children of the Irish children had found a home, this latest patriotic effort of Patrick Ford would be received with the deepest feelings of gratitude. The resolution he had to propose was as follows,

"That we, the members of the Dungarvan Urban District Council, in meeting assembled, desire to place on record the sincere expression of our thankfulness and gratitude to that staunch champion of Irish liberty, Mr. Patrick Ford, editor "Irish World," and to those sons and daughters of our race whose contributions were included in the munificent sum of £500 to-day acknowledged in the Irish Press as the first instalment of the 'Irish World' Fund to the 'war chest' of the United Irish League, and acknowledged by its founder, Mr. Wm. O'Brien."

Mr. John Walsh seconded the resolution.

The Chairman, in putting the resolution, said that Ireland owed a very great debt of grazitude to men like Mr. Ford who came to its assistance in the time of need.

The resolution was unanimously passed, and copies were ordered to be forwarded to Mr. Patrick Ford and Mr. William O'Brien.

ENGLAND.

The following letter is published in the "Manchester Guardian," of the 27th ult.—"Sir,—Thirty Catholic peers have seats in the House of Lords, but none of them is eligible for the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The Catholic Emancipation Act came into force on St. George's Day, 1829. Would it not be a gracious evidence of the goodwill alleged to exist between us for a short Bill were whipped through the House of Lords and received the Royal Assent on the 23rd proximo, removing the bar to the governor of this Catholic country being himself a Catholic? Our Unionist friends need have no present alarm, as the practical Governor of Ireland would still be that ultra-Protestant, Englishman the M. P. for Leeds.—Yours, etc., Den Nella."

The Duke of Norfolk, who has gone to the front as an officer of the Sussex Imperial Yeomanry, is many things besides being Postmaster-General; he is by birth Premier Duke and Earl, Hereditary Earl Marshal and Chief Butler of England, he is Knight of the Garter, and he has performed public duties in a variety of ways, having been Colonel of Volunteers and Mayor of Sheffield. The Duke is 52 years of age. The loyalty of the Howard family has often been put to the high. The first Duke was attainted, and so was his son; so, too, was the third Duke, and his son, the Earl of Surrey, was executed by Henry VIII., while the fourth Duke was attainted and beheaded.

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The date for the consecration of the new Catholic Cathedral in London is fixed for the feast of Ste. Peter and Paul, 1901.

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