

THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1897.

A GREAT deal has been lately written about the prospects of the Irish farmer and the Irish peasant during the coming winter. There is not a doubt that the potato crop has in too many places turned out extremely unsatisfactory. It has not, on the whole, been a prosperous autumn, for the very wet month of August had a very adverse effect. In some parts of this county the oat crop was not worth reaping, but in other parts a very fair result has been obtained. The potatoes are in general very poor, with occasional exceptions. The supply of turf is also a most important factor in the comfort of persons dwelling in those districts which are practically dependent on that fuel alone. Turf could have been saved during the hot dry portion of the year, but the downpour of August has woefully limited the available product. It is probably a fair view to take of the position that the harvest has been below the average; that over a large area it has been very bad, and that during the coming winter the peasantry over a considerable area will find it difficult to procure the very slender supply of necessaries that is essential to their maintenance as civilised beings. Indeed, it is to be feared that the "irreducible minimum" may be reached in districts where distress is not confined to this year only, but where the normal condition of the peasantry is only just above living point. The winter will be a hard one, judging from the condition of the autumn. At the same time we do not think there are sufficient grounds for predicting serious disaster, and as for anticipating a "famine," that may be classed, we think, amongst the workings of a lively imagination. At the same time it is incumbent upon the authorities to be fully prepared for the worst. It has already been candidly admitted that this cry of "famine" is raised in a certain quarter in order "to get some money out of the Government," as other people did. But such cynical selfishness should not be permitted to prevent a thorough examination into the existing state of things by those to whom the government of the country is entrusted. It will not do to "pooch-pooch" the warnings of coming distress as the empty statements of politicians in want of something to talk about. Distress may be used as a stalking horse, and doubtless is, but it is not improbable that the huge fiction of a gigantic famine may have a substratum of fact beneath it. Under these circumstances, we are glad to learn the Chief Secretary is about to make a tour through the Western districts.

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MRS. E. G. FITT.

With feelings of sincere regret we announce the death of Mrs. Fitt, wife of Mr. E. G. Fitt, which took place at her residence, 5, Wellington Terrace, on Tuesday evening. The deceased lady, who had been in delicate health for some time past, was the fifth daughter of Mr. Charles McKern, lately of this city. Amongst a wide circle of friends her early demise is deeply mourned, and the utmost sympathy is felt for her husband and her relatives in their sad bereavement.

The funeral took place this morning, the remains being removed at nine o'clock for interment in St. Munchin's Churchyard. The cortege was large, and representatives of all classes, testifying to the esteem and respect in which the deceased lady and her relatives were held. The chief mourners were—Mr. E. G. Fitt, husband; Mr. F. M. Fitt, solicitor, and Mr. Wm. B. Fitt, brothers-in-law; Mr. Thomas H. McKern, and Mr. Charles H. Fitt, cousins. Amongst the general public in attendance were—The Mayor (Mr. M. Curack), Mr. E. Langley Hunt, Mr. Wm. Beauchamp, solicitor; Mr. John Morton, Manager Provincial Bank; Rev. James Dowd, Mr. John Guinane, J.P.; Dr. Wm. Fogarty, Dr. George Fogarty, Mr. Wm. Hunt, Mr. Ed. Hunt, Mr. John Boyd, Secretary Harbour Commissioners; Mr. E. H. Roe Hosford, Mr. T. H. Cleave, J.P.; Mr. F. C. Cleave, Mr. J. Cleave, Mr. Richard Smith, Mr. Samuel Lee, Mr. Richard Lee, Rev. F. R. Carr, Mr. J. C. T. Day, Mr. Robert McNamara, solicitor; Mr. R. Hanna, Mr. Wm. Nelson, Mr. John DeCourcy, Mount Catherine; Mr. P. E. O'Donnell, solicitor; Mr. Stephen Dowling, J.P.; Mr. Murphy, Manager Bank of Ireland; Mr. H. L. Stewart, Mr. Morrow, Dublin; Mr. E. G. Winter, V.S.; Mr. Johnstone, V.S.; Mr. James Wallace, Mr. T. A. Ferguson, Mr. Benjamin Barrington, solicitor; Mr. James Welby, Mr. John Wallace, Mr. Vincent Nash, J.P., Dr. Holmes, Mr. Samuel Winter, senior, Rev. R. H. Semple, Mr. T. Ewart, Mr. W. Hosford, Capt. Kimmest, Mr. Wm. Christy, senior, Mr. William Christy, junior, Mr. E. Christy, Mr. W. Beddies, W. L. & W. R.; Mr. Joseph Stewart, Mr. J. B. Waugh, Mr. George Ledger, Mr. Goodwin, Dr. J. F. Shanahan, Mr. Alfred Baker, Mr. William Holliday, Mr. Frederick Finch, Mr. E. J. Denvir, Manager National Bank; Mr. Charles Doyle, B.L.; Mr. J. Doyle, solicitor; Mr. E. H. Wright, Mr. D. Donovan, Mr. H. Coyle, Mr. Woodhouse, Dr. Barry, Mr. E. F. Walker, Mr. G. Henderson, Mr. N. Barry, Mr. J. Barry, Mr. Hugh Earle, Mr. Cooper O'Donoghue, Mr. James Wilkinson, Mr. J. Gaffney, solicitor; Mr. Ambrose Hall, junior; Mr. Prosser, Dr. O'Shaughnessy, J.P.; Mr. J. Merrick, Mr. W. Fogarty, solicitor; Mr. G. Ryan, C.E.; Mr. Samuel Winter, junior; Mr. A. Cunningham, Mr. John Clune, J.P.; Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Robert Gibson, Mr. Robert Fogarty, C.E.; Mr. A. J. Eakin, Mr. George Belshaw, Mr. R. Belshaw, Mr. George O'Sullivan, Mr. E. Cole, Mr. W. Cromer, Mr. S. Jordan, Mr. B. Jordan, Mr. J. F. Bennis, Dr. Humphreys, Mr. Durdan, Master of Workhouse; Mr. James Kidd, Mr. F. McDonnell, T.C.; Dr. Laird, Mr. T. Hassett, Mr. Pike, Mr. P. Toppin, Mr. A. N. Barnett, Mr. P. Hartigan (George Hotel), Mr. Riddell (Walker's Distillery), Mr. William E. Corbett, City Surveyor; Mr. H. O'Shea, Mr. J. Lavertine, Mr. C. W. Metcalfe, Mr. Thomas Smith, Clarina; Mr. T. E. Bunting, Mr. W. Elliott, Mr. T. Bourke, Mr. E. T. Levery, Mr. John Ellard, Clerk of the Crown and Peace; Mr. B. Plummer, Mr. W. Leahy, Crown Solicitor; Mr. Archibald Murray, Mr. Bruce Murray, Mr. F. Johnstone, Mr. McArthur (Todd & Co.), Mr. N. G. Barry, National Bank; Mr. W. F. O'Grady, J.P.; Mr. Stephen McCarthy, Messrs. Ebrill, Mr. Michael Hayes (Cannock and Co.), Mr. Wm. Lloyd, Mr. A. Blood Smith, solicitor; Mr. J. J. Browne, C.E.; Mr. Rowand, Mr. H. Sterling, Mr. S. Hastings, solicitor; Mr. Thomas Hartigan, Mr. George O'Dea, Mr. Crinin (Todd & Co.), Mr. Martin McGuire, Mr. Charles O'Donnell, solicitor, Mr. W. E. Counihan, solicitor; Mr. Joseph Gaffney, Mr. John Ryan, solicitor; Mr. J. H. Parker, Mr. Jones, Mr. Wm. O'Connell, Mr. P. Herbert, T.C.; Mr. W. J. Howell, Mr. W. H. Owens, the staff of Mr. Richard Smith & Co.

LIMERICK DIOCESE SYNOD.

The annual Synod of the Diocese of Limerick was held to-day in the Jebb Chapel, St. Cathedral. Previous to the Synod there celebration of Holy Communion.

The Right Rev. Dr. Graves, Lord Bishop of the Diocese, presided, and there was a large attendance clerical and lay.

The proceedings were opened with the reading of a portion of Scripture and prayer by the Bishop, after which the roll was called, when the following answered to their names:—

CLERGY.—Adare, L. H. O'Brien, M.A., Treasurer; Askaton, S. J. Hackett, M.A.; Ballinacorney, J. R. Duff, J. E. Mills, M.A.; Cahignarry, M. Luther, M.A.; Croon, Edward Gabbett, Ch.; Corcomohide, Joseph Adderley, M.A. Corporan, John T. Waller, B.A.; Kilfergus, R. B.A.; Kilfinane, Francis S. Read; Killynuagh, F. Luther, B.A., C.; Killeady, D. E. L. Dickson, Kilmallock, T. A. P. Hackett, D.D., C.; Kilross-Lewin, B.A.; Kilpeacon, Harry D. B.A.; Nantunan, J. A. Haydn, LL.D., C.; New Rathronan, and Athea, Joseph Vance, M. Rathkeale, S. R. Wills, M.A., C.; St. John, F. bridge, M.A.; St. Mary and St. Patrick, Ven. T. Bunbury, D.D., Dean of Limerick, T. F. B.A., and W. E. Bentley, M.A.; St. Michael, C. Hamilton, M.A., Archdeacon of Limerick, F. R. Carr, B.A.; St. Munchin, T. B. Roberts, Trinity Church and St. Lawrence, J. F. C. M.A., and C. V. Atkinson, B.A.; Diocesan C. James Dowd, B.A.

LAY.—Adare, F. Fosbery; Askaton, Shanagolden, J. B. Hewson; Bruff, Bovan and J. Ross; Cahernarry, J. R. Corcomohide, T. Cleave and T. E. B. Add. Kilcornan, W. Waller; Kilfinane, C. E. V. leaur and E. Oliver; Kilfergus, W. B. Hassett; Killynuagh, A. Winters; Killeedy, G. Lord Clarina and Col. the Hon. Butler M. Killeedy, G. L. Ahern, M.D.; Kilmallock, Townsend; Kilpeacon, Colonel G. Finch & Crawford; Nantunan, Michael Ryan and Shier; Newcastle, Rathronan and Athea, Furlonge and E. O'Grady; Rathkeale, J. General Lloyd; St. John's, Sir Godfrey Th. Bart. and E. Gibson; St. Lawrence and T. Church, W. M. Beauchamp, J. Morton, Colo. Maunsell, and Captain W. Vanderkiate; St. M. G. Alcock, S. E. Lee, J. C. T. Day, M. Hewson, Fitt, J. Alexander, J. W. Cleave, A. Shier, Bentley, and E. J. Lee; St. Michael's, W. L. E. L. Hunt, and E. Fogarty; St. Munchin's, Finch and J. O'G. Delmege; Shanagolden, Loughill, Right Hon. Lord Monteagle and Langford.

At the request of the President, the Rev. Hamilton, son of the Ven. Archdeacon, was anonymously permitted to be present at the Synod.

His Lordship nominated the Dean as Secretary.

The Dean moved, and Canon Luther seconded that the Rev. Chancellor Gabbett be elected Clerical Hon. Sec.

This was agreed to. Lord Clarina proposed, and Colonel Massy seconded, that Lord Monteagle be elected honorary secretary.

Passed. Chancellor Gabbett proposed, and Canon G seconded, that the Rev. J. T. Waller be elected Clerical Hon. Treasurer.

Passed. On the motion of Lord Monteagle, Messrs. Morton, S. E. Lee, and J. E. Murphy were elected auditors.

The Rev. J. Dowd, Diocesan Secretary, read minutes of last Synod, which were signed.

The report of the Diocesan Council, Financial Report, reports of Board of Missions, Education and Temperance were placed on the table.

The President, on rising to address