

## CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

The Rev. Michael Dynan, P.P., Ballinacally, than whom there is not a more zealous or excellent clergyman in the south of Ireland, is after building, within a very short period, two elegant churches in his extensive parish of Ballinacally, county Clare. On Sunday the Right Rev. Dr. Flannery, Lord Bishop of Killaloe, dedicated one of the churches; the dedication sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dr. O'Brien, P.P., V.F., Kilmane. The Rev. Mr. Hill celebrated mass. Among the clergy present were the Very Rev. Dean Kenny, Rev. Messrs. Roughan, Read, Kenyon, Newport, O'Connor, Moloney, Meade, Daly, Meagher, Hill, &c., &c. We are happy to state that the collection on the occasion realised 160*l*. The Rev. Mr. Dynan deserves the highest praise, and we heartily congratulate him on the success of this appeal.—*Limerick Reporter*.

The Most Rev. Dr. Walshe, Lord Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, has issued a pastoral letter to the people of his diocese, in which he warns them against sending their children to any other schools except those approved of by their pastors, and in which he dwells at very great length on the crime of drinking to excess, or indulging in the temptation of the ale house. The Right Rev. Prelate is particularly impressive and powerful in exhibiting the monstrous deformity of drinking, and in emphatic and energetic terms eulogises the blessing and benefits that abundantly flow from temperance.

The Ladies of the Presentation Convent, Carrick-on-Suir, most gratefully acknowledge the receipt of 25*l*. from the Rev. John Dowley, R.C.C., Stradbally, left by the late Mr. M. Dowley, Carrickbeg, for clothing the poor children attending their schools—a noble example of Christian charity.

Three Catholic missionaries have been despatched to Morocco from Spain.

In New York city, on the 26th ult., the Rev. Patrick Hennessey, in his 51st year. Father Hennessey was a native of the town of Clare. He was for many years the chaplain at Calvary Cemetery.—*Boston Pilot*.

The diocese of Philadelphia contributed nearly 30,000 dols. to the Papal Fund.

We are pained to announce the death of Rev. Peter Walsh, at the hospital of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Louis, Mo., on the 21st. ult. During a long and painful illness he bore his sufferings with edifying resignation, and the final summons found him contented and prepared. The rev. gentleman was a native of Ireland, but arrived in this country when very young. During the last years of his life he resided in St. Louis, some time as assistant pastor at the church of the Immaculate Conception, and later as chaplain in the College of the Christian Brothers. His engaging manners and unaffected piety won him numerous ardent friends, to whom his loss is a severe infliction. May he rest in peace.—*Western Banner*.

## A RELIGIOUS PROFESSION IN SWINFORD.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

On Wednesday a most interesting ceremony took place in Swinford, at the Convent of Mercy, the Most Rev. Dr. Durcan, Lord Bishop of Achonry, officiating. The nuns professed were—Miss Meagher, from Nenagh, in religion Sister Mary Augustine; Miss O'Beirne, in religion Sister Mary Teresa; Miss O'Connor, of Dublin, in religion Sister Veronica; and two lay sisters were received. Among the clergy present were the dean of Swinford, Very Rev. Dr. Durcan; the Rev. Michael O'Beirne, C.C., Crohan, brother to the nun; the Rev. J. Meagher, C.C., Kilmurray; the Rev. James Meagher, C.C., Newmarket-on-Fergus, county Clare, brothers to the nun; the Rev. James Halligan, P.P., Foxford; the Rev. P. O'Donohue, the Rev. Mr. Sodon, &c. &c. An appropriate sermon, of rare eloquence and merit, was preached on the occasion by the Rev. James Meagher. Starting from Castlerea to Swinford, a distance of 24 miles, we passed through Ballaghaderreen; here is the grand cathedral of the diocese of Achonry, lately erected by the Lord Bishop, the Most Rev. Dr. Durcan. A pure Gothic structure, rising with all its colossal dimensions, and commanding a prospect far and wide, it is to the traveller a happy break on the dreariness around. Seventy-five feet in height, in length, including the chancel, 150 feet; the width, including the aisles, sixty feet, not so large as the cathedrals of Limerick and Killarney, and on that account it would seem the more commodious and available. This cathedral, built in a district of very limited resources, is an imperishable monument of the zeal and labour of the Lord Bishop and his co-operators. From Ballaghaderreen to Swinford, a distance of 14 miles, the style and neatness of the Catholic churches particularly attracted our attention; they far exceed what the appearance of the country could lead us to expect. In Charlestown, a rising town of great promise, there is a neat little Gothic church, worthy of its generous patron, Charles Strickland, Esq., of Loughlynn; it has a stained glass window, the present of a Mr. Ellison. On the property of Lord Dillon, which reaches within a few miles of Swinford, the tenantry look rather comfortable. Lord Dillon is an English nobleman, but well represented by a most humane and kind-hearted agent, Charles Strickland, Esq. Closing Swinford the appearance of the country changed much for the worse; the land cold and hungry, great room for improvement; there is a want of that eager bustle always to be noticed where the tenantry are encouraged. Swinford, a middle-rate town in size and business, looks cold and cheerless. The convent of the Sisters of Mercy forms a happy contrast, built by the untiring exertions of the Dean of Swinford, the Very Rev. Dr. Duncan. It is on a rising ground, near the Catholic church, commanding a fine prospect. The order and neatness of the interior exceed anything we could say of it. In our experience we have not seen any convent so well and commodiously arranged. Only a few years since the convent was opened, and the change in the habits of the people is astonishing, even to those least disposed to be friendly. Swinford, once remarkable for intemperance, by the united efforts of clergy and nuns, is now the centre of teetotalism. The Society of St. Aloysius numbers most of the young men of the district under its ameliorating influence. The Sunday school for grown females is fast advancing the combined growth of intelligence and virtue; and Mr. Taaffe, of Dublin, who has built, at his own expense, a beautiful Catholic church on his property, within four miles of Swinford, is also one of the best benefactors to the convent. Oh, that other landlords would follow his example, co-operate in the religious and moral improvement of their own tenantry, and assist these religious whose motto is benevolence to mankind.

## NEW CHURCH OF ST. BAITHINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN.

St. Johnston, Derry, Feb. 17, 1861.

DEAR SIR—Will you allow me the very great pleasure to acknowledge in your columns the receipt of a bill of exchange for seventy dollars for St. Baithin's new church, St. Johnston, from a most kind young friend of mine in the "land of the west," Miss Bridget Coyle, Sangerties, Ulster County, New York. Miss Coyle is the niece of my most respected parishioner, Mr. Gilly Mulloy, of Manorcunningham, and her numerous friends in this parish have been delighted to hear of her happiness and prosperity in the land of her adoption. She resides with her brother in one of the most sparkling, genial, and charming villages in all America, on the banks of the Hudson and in the immediate proximity of that enchanting region, the Catskill Mountains, which rise to the height of nearly 4,000 feet above the rolling stream. I had the pleasure a few years ago, when in America, of passing close to them in one of the river steamers on my way to Albany, and I still remember vividly the delight with which I looked at them (from the hurricane deck), with bits of cloud on their lofty summits, like the smoke as it curls over the head of some Indian chief at his council fire, and appearing as blue as a piece of the blue sky above them. But everyone who has read over the writings of the late Washington Irving must be familiar with the surpassing beauty of this lovely spot, which, whilom, was the scene of many a varied incident in the life of the celebrated Rip Van Winkle. Miss Coyle talks of soon again re-visiting her native land and the pleasure she will feel in "telling her beads" in St. Baithins. It is no wonder to find her looking back to the dear old land of her birth with feelings of fond affection and devotion, for

"There is in the heart of woman  
A love for childhood's scenes and home,  
And she doth love to see again  
Her parent's roof and old hearthstone,  
Where she hath spent so many days  
Of pleasure in life's merry morn;  
Where loved ones ever strewed the ways  
With fairest flowers without the thorn."

To the Rev. Mr. Power and to the other kind contributors I must express my most grateful acknowledgments. Mr. Power is a fine specimen of the "Irish priest abroad," and by his zeal and untiring labour has done much for the church in America. He was formerly a pupil in the Irish College at Paris of the Rev. Dr. Dan M'Gettigan, of this diocese, to whom and to his fellow students, the Rev. Father Doherty and Reverend Father M'Bride, he desires to be warmly remembered.—Dear Sir, ever yours,

JAMES STEPHENS, P.P.

Names of the contributors—Rev. Michael Power, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Sangerties, 10 dollars; Mr. Dominick Coyle, 10 dollars.; five dollars each from Miss Bridget Coyle, Miss Anne Coyle, Mr. Gilbert Cullion, and Mr. Dominick O'Hagan; two dollars each from Miss Mary Ryan and Mr. Thomas Lecky; Mr. James Fitzpatrick, 1 dol. 50 cents.; 1 dol. 25 cents. each from Bernard Bradley, Hugh Bradley, Wm. M'Caffrey, John Holden, Miss Ann Daly, Miss Mary Anne Davey, and Mr. Patrick Coghlan; 1 dollar each from Michael Falin, Henry Stotch, Dominick Bradley, James Gregg, Patrick Wire, James Long, Frank New, Mrs. Coghlan, Miss Ann Falin, Miss Flanagan, Mrs. M'Caffrey, Miss Mary M'Bride, Mrs. Bogan, Nicholas Clare, and Michael Mathews.