

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

APRIL, 1918.

THE EASTER VESTRY.

The Annual Easter Vestry was held in Seagoe School on Thursday, April 4th, at 8 p.m. The Rev. T. H. Scanlon, presided.

The minutes of the last Easter Vestry were read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. R. Atkinson.

The following Elections were then made—

Parochial Nominators.—Lieut.-Colonel Blacker, D.S.O.; Messrs. Wolsey R. Atkinson, Thomas E. Maginnis.

Diocesan Synodsmen.—Lieut.-Col. Blacker, D.S.O.; Messrs. D. W. Murray, James Twinem.

Churchwardens.—Mr. J. H. Stevenson (Rector's); Mr. J. G. Gracey (People's).

Select Vestry.—Lt.-Col. Blacker, D.S.O.; Messrs. W. R. Atkinson, Andrew Costello, Joseph Monroe, David W. Murray, T. Martin, T. E. Maginnis, John Montgomery, R. Price, Thomas R. Reid, J. Sands, J. Twinem.

Sidesmen.—Messrs. D. W. Murray, C. Montgomery, Wm. J. Caddell, G. Price, J. Twinem, D. Rock, W. J. Cox, W. McClements.

Glebe Wardens.—Lt.-Col. Blacker, D.S.O.; Mr. W. R. Atkinson.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.—Mr. W. R. Atkinson.

Capt. J. J. Dobson in Palestine.

[The Rector has received the following letter from Captain Dobson.]

16/1/18.

In sending you the enclosed photo of the graves at Tel-el-Keber as promised, I think it would be very nice for your Magazine. I saw those graves myself. I took off my cap and bowed my head to those mighty Empire builders, who, indeed did so much for their country under most trying circumstances. I am on my way to Palestine again. At the moment I'm stopping at the house of Mustafa Pasha. I think Mustafa means Lord, and Bey or Bay is equal to our Sir. I like Alexandria very much. There is one of the finest sporting clubs I ever saw quite close to the Town. About 50 Tennis Courts, and a 9-hole Golf course, and a race course as well. Some people think it a great weakness that there is not a good theatre in the town, but there is a fine yacht club, which is availed of to a great extent, as the sea is most magnificent for sailing in the summer season. The weather in Palestine has been dreadfully wet and cold for some time past. Down here it was quite nice, cold at night, but during the day nothing to worry about.

Kind regards to all the friends.

Yours very faithfully,

J. J. Dobson.

A French Landscape.

Living in France one sees many things quite unfamiliar to Irish eyes. Our men at the front, though naturally chiefly occupied with military affairs, are also necessarily brought into touch with habits and modes of life largely different from those existing in our own country. In the first place

THE FRENCH LANDSCAPE,

especially in Northern France, presents features which render it quite distinct from our Irish scenery. Possibly the country is level or only slightly undulating, and one can take long views such as is seen for example in Millet's famous picture of "The Angelus," familiar in many of our homes. And there is the great contrast between sky and field, the colour of the sky being so much deeper and clearer, and the grey-green of the fields being thrown by the bright skies into bold relief. But to come down more into detail, let us try if we can discover the particular characteristics which give distinctness to the French landscape. Let us look at

A FRENCH FARMHOUSE.

The roof has a very high pitch. The writer of this note asked a French farmer lately why he built his roof at such a steep pitch. His answer was "le vent" (the wind.) Very strong winds blow across Northern France at all seasons of the year, and if the roofs of the houses were as flat as in our land they would soon be lifted off, and the poor farmer would be roofless. Then again the houses are not slated, they are covered with bright orange-red earthenware tiles, the reason being that slates are scarce, but tile-clay is plentiful. The red-roofs are a very distinctive feature in every landscape. Again the French Farmer doesn't whitewash his house, or rather as an Irishman might say—"he whitewashes it with yellow whitewash." At least there is always some colour in the wash which he uses. One notices too that the windows are very different from ours. The shutters (usually painted a chocolate brown, or red or blue) are outside the window fastened against the wall. The windows too instead of opening up and down like ours open in the middle like a pair of doors. This is of course to give more air in the hot days of a French summer. There are also always more blinds and lace curtains about a French window to keep out the sun and let in the air. In summer time during the hottest hours the outer shutters are closed over and the inner glass windows are opened thereby ensuring a pleasant shade in the rooms. The chimneys are narrower and slightly higher than ours, and have often at the top a small brick arch to prevent a blow down. The Estaminets or Country Inns have, almost all, some special name. One quite near to where I write this, has the pretty name over the door "A Fleurs de Champs." (To the flowers of the field.) Another in the neighbourhood has quite a long sentence over the door. "Where shall we go? Let's

go to———'s Inn." One often sees now-a-days cards in English, in windows, "Coffee, Tea, Fish, and Chips, Eggs," in places frequented by our soldiers. The writer saw recently a notice "Washing (washing) for Soldiers."

THE HOUSES ARE VERY COMFORTABLE

inside. There are generally a great many pictures on the walls. There is no open fireplace, but every house is heated by a pretty little stove which comes out well into the room, and is kept very clean, with the burnished metal parts scrupulously bright. Linens, Curtains, Towels, and other washable things are as a rule, kept very clean and white. The French housewife seems always to be washing and scrubbing. A great deal of this washing is done outside, usually by the side of some neighbouring stream or canal.

The French Farmer is a very industrious man. He goes out on his land at daybreak. If he is ploughing he takes out with him his splendid horse. On every farm of any size the horse is of the heavy Flemish breed, very strong, well-fed, and in fine condition. He is very responsive to his master's voice, and understands French as well or better than our horses understand English. The word which he uses to urge on his steed is a kind of ventriloquial "Yeo." The French plough is a very ingenious implement. It has two separate blades, one above the other. Only one is used at a time. When the plough comes to the end of a furrow

THE FARMER PULLS A LEVER,

which brings the upper blade down, and the one he has just used comes on top. He then proceeds to plough a furrow beside the one previously ploughed. This makes the work simpler, and avoids the waste of time and effort in making the wide turning movement in our ploughing. The harrows have neat wheeled carriages on which they are brought to where they are needed. Rollers are very wide, usually containing 5 separate cylinders side by side. They are controlled by an iron lever at each end joined by a crossbar. The French spade is interesting. It has a very short haft split at the top to form a handle. The blade of the spade is very broad, but thin, yet strong, and more pressure seems to be exerted by the hand than by the foot in driving it into the ground. Much use is made by the small farmer of a kind of hoe, with a broad blade set at right angles to the haft with which he, for example, draws earth over the potatoes sown in ridges or furrows. The farmer's cart is very large. set on enormous wheels, sometimes four in number, sometimes three, sometimes two.

THE THREE-WHEELED CART

or waggon has a small wheel in front and two large ones behind. A very profitable crop is what is known as Chicory Beet, used in the manufacture of sugar. Brussels Sprouts are a favourite garden crop. Potatoes, Corn, Barley, and Rye are also widely sown. Just now (April 1st) the farmers are putting in their potatoes. The corn is already about three inches above ground. Manures, natural and artificial are much used. All land seems to be carefully manured.

Rotting grains fermented and kept closely covered during winter are also used as manure. Nothing is wasted. Attached to every farmhouse is a neatly kept

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN.

I have not seen any box borders, usually a line of bricks or tiles, borders the beds. There are currant and gooseberry bushes as at home. The apple trees do not seem to be carefully pruned. On the south wall of every farm-house a great Pear tree is trained. Sometimes a vine grows over the front of the house, or outhouses. The hedges are much more carefully made than in our country. The quicks are always trained to grow at an angle instead of upright, and they cross and interlace with the result that they form a very substantial protection. A note must be added as to the trees. In France trees are grown for use and seldom for ornament. They are either for shelter from sun and wind, or for the purpose of fuel. If for the former they are allowed to grow in their natural way, but if for the latter they are mercilessly cut and shorn of all their branches. As I write I see through the window rows of polled willow trees about 6 feet in height and 3 feet in girth, and with

A GREAT GNARLED TOP

from which all the growth of last year has been cut. Not far away I see another tree which might be mistaken for a telegraph post. It is about 50 feet in height, but has not a single branch, all such having been cut for fuel in these days of war, the polled willows form a fine protection against shrapnel, and guard the head nearly as well as a steel helmet. The heavy projecting summit forming a solid umbrella of wood as you stand under them. Perhaps in another letter I may be able to tell you something about the birds and animals which frequent Northern France, and also something about the wild flowers which brighten the fields in spring and summer.

Lce-Cpl. G. Preston.

[The Rector has received the following letter from Lce-Corpl. George Preston, of Ballinacor.]
Chimnitz, 25th Dec.

Reverend Sir,

Your much esteemed letter reached me safely, and found me in the best of health, thank God for it, who is ever watching over us captives. You will see I've written this on Xmas Day. Well, only for our French comrades we would have had a very poor one. I'm glad everything is going on well in Seagoe and neighbourhood.

I remain, obediently yours,

G. PRESTON.

Offertories for March.

Sunday Mornings	...	£8 17 8
" Evenings	...	2 0 9
Week-days	...	0 16 1

£11 14 6

Including £4 9s 9d for Parochial Sunday Schools and 7s 10d for Jews Society.

Sympathy.

[We regret that the following note was omitted from our last issue through lack of space.]

We express sincere regret at the death of Mrs. Stoops, which took place suddenly at her residence in Upper Seagoe. She had been in weak health for many years, but had rallied out of a serious illness a year ago, and it seemed as though she would have been spared for years to come. Her piety and patience were an inspiration to those around her. She always took a deep interest in the life and work of the Parish. "God's finger touched her and she slept," and we in the Parish are poorer for the loss of one whose influence was always on behalf of what was true and right. We sympathise especially with Miss Stoops, who, with great devotion tended her mother for so many years, and also with the other members of her family.

Another who has gone from among us is Mrs. Chambers, of Killicomaine, who had reached an advanced age. We offer our sympathy to her husband, who has lost his life-partner after many years of happy married life. Mrs. Chambers' kindness and sympathy won for her many friends in Killicomaine, and throughout the neighbourhood in which she lived.

ITEMS.

In a small house in Seagoe Parish one room is set apart as a War room. Four members of the family are in the army, and the photos of them and their chums adorn the walls, also special certificates which they have won. The table is filled with trophies of war sent or brought home by the members of the family. It is a most interesting War Exhibition on a small scale.

A large number of farms in Seagoe and neighbourhood are up for sale. This is due no doubt partly because of the high price of land, partly also because of the scarcity and expense of labour, and a third reason is no doubt the high rate of interest offered by the Government on War Investments.

A parishioner has offered a valuable and appropriate Memorial Gift to Seagoe Church. It will consist of a carved oak cover for the Font. The Font of Seagoe has gained a fresh prominence through the reproduction of it on the front of this year's Magazine. This memorial gift will accentuate still further what is undoubtedly one of the most interesting features of the Church—its Ancient Font.

It is proposed in this year's annual report, and in future years, to publish the Parochial Accounts up to 31st December, 1917, instead of to Easter, 1918, as in other years. Easter being a varying date each year is not so convenient from a book-keeping point of view.

The Memorial Tablet about to be erected to the memory of Mr. George Calvert is now in the hands of the Sculptors, and we hope will soon be ready for erection in the church.

PARISH REGISTER for MARCH, 1918.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Church on 2nd March, 1918—

Brownlee—Gladys, daughter of David Alexander and Isabella Brownlee, of Drumnagoon.

Sponsors—Margretta, Livingston, David Alexander and Isabella Brownlee.

McKeown—Ilene Isabella, daughter of John and Isabella McKeown, of Carne.

Sponsors—John and Isabella McKeown.

The following Children of George Brown Binks and Emma Jane Binks (Caddell), late of Tarsan, were baptised at Noscon, Canada, by the Rev. S. Clowes, on 17th February, 1918—Margaret; William George Edwin; and Joshua James Henry Binks.

Burials.

Fox—March 1st, Joseph Fox, of Mountpleasant, aged 87.

Martin—March 5th, James Martin, of Ballyhannon, aged 74.

McMinn—March 11th, Mary McMinn, of Junction Row, Portadown, aged 56.

Dell—March 18th—Sarah Dell, Carleton Street, Portadown, aged 76.

Haack—March 19th, Adolph Haack, Portmore Street, Portadown, aged 16.

Gibson—March 21st, Rebecca Gibson, Mullentine, Portadown, aged 89.

Mortimer—March 23rd, Joseph Mortimer, West Street, Portadown, aged 65.

Turner—March 24th, Anna Mary Turner, of Levaghery, aged 28.

Forde—March 26th, Sarah Anne Forde, of 22 James Street, Edenderry, aged 15.

Gilpin—March 31st, Patience Ann Gilpin, of Drumnagoon, aged 80.

Old Seagoe Notes.

Harris's Antient and Present State of the County of Down, 1744.—This rare and most interesting Book gives many particulars regarding the River Bann and Lough Neagh. It has a very long title—"The Antient and Present State of the County of Down, containing a Chronographical Description

with Natural and Civil History of the same, Illustrated by Observations made on the Baronies, Parishes, Towns, Villages, Churches, Abbeys, Charter Schools, Mountains, Rivers, Lakes, Medicinal and other Springs, etc., with a Survey of the New Canal, as also a New and Correct Map of the County," by Harris, published in Dublin by A. Reilly for Edward Enshaw at the Bible on Cork-hill.

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Interesting Facts about Lough Neagh, 1744.—In Harris's "Co. Down," on page 16 we read—The Royalties and Fisheries of Lough Neagh were granted to the Earl of Donegall under the name of Lough Sidney or Lough Chichester, by the former of which names some chuse to call it.

The Great Lake is fed by six considerable rivers, four of smaller note, and several brooks; yet has but one narrow Outlet to discharge this great Flux of Water at Toom, first into Lough Beg and from thence through the Lower Bann into the Northern Sea.

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A Bishop of Down on the Bann, 1738.—The Inconveniences arising from the flooding of the Bann and the Remedies of them are laid down by Dr. Hutchinson, late Bishop of Down and Connor, in a Pamphlet written in 1738 entitled, "The State of the Case of Lough Neagh and the Bann."

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The Source and Course of the Bann.—The River Bann takes its rise from a few Springs in the Plain called the Dear's Meadow, by some the King's Meadow, in the bosom of the mountains of Upper Iveagh, or the north part of the Mountains of Mourne. Not far south of Eight-mile Bridge it becomes a pretty large River, from a serpentine course near two miles east of Rathfriland, flows through M'Cay's Bridge down to Bann Bridge, thence N.N.W. by Seapatrick, Hall's Mill and Tullelish Church. So on to Gilford and Portadown, where it make a noble appearance, and after a course of about thirty miles falls into Lough Neagh near the Bann-Foot Ferry, in the County of Armagh.

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The Bann Pearl Fishery, 1688.—The Pearl Fishery of this river near Banbridge must not escape our observation. The Pearls are found in fresh water muscles—in shape and colour not unlike the sea muscles but of a larger size—the shells of which are sometimes used by the poorer people instead of spoons. The Fish of this Muscle cuts like the Oyster, is of a dark green colour and soon corrupts, but being of an insipid, disagreeable taste, it is seldom eaten even by the poor. The shell is fastened by two cartilages, one at each end, and in this particular differs from the Oyster and Scallop, which have only one in the middle. Sir Thomas Reading, in his letter to the Royal Society 15th October, 1688, gives an account of these Fish and of the manner of fishing for them. He tells us he saw the Muscles lying in part opened, putting

forth their white fins like a tongue out of the mouth, which direct the eye of the fisher to them, being otherwise black as the stones in the River.

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How the Bann Pearls are Formed.—The insides of the Shells are of a pearly colour and of a substance like a flat Pearl, and he was told by an Ingenious Person on the spot that he had observed in some shells under the first Coat a Liquor, orient and clear, and Sir Robert Reading judges the Liquor to be the true Mother of Pearl. He tells us that the Pearl lies in the toe or lesser end of the shell and out of the Body of the Fish between the two Films that line the shell. The shells containing the best Pearls are wrinkled, twisted or bunched.

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Bann Pearls worth £80.—He adds that a vast number of fair merchantable Pearls are offered to sale every Summer Assize, some of the Gentlemen of the Country making good advantage thereof. That he saw one Pearl bought for fifty shillings that weighed thirty-six carats and was valued at forty Pounds, That a Miller found a Pearl which he sold for four Pounds ten Shillings to a man that sold it for ten Pounds, who disposed of it to the Lady Glenawly for thirty Pounds, with whom he saw it in a necklace, for which she refused eighty Pounds from the old Duchess of Ormond.

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How to Fish for Bann Pearls.—The common method of fishing for these Muscles in the Bann is very simple. In the warm months while the River is low and clear the poor People wade into the water, and some with their Toes, some with Wooden Tongues and others with sharp sticks thrust into the opening of the shells, take them up. Sir Hans Sloan says these Pearls may probably differ little from the British Pearls mentioned by Tacitus to be *subfusca ac liventia* of a pale brownish colour.

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An 18th Century Description of the Pollan.—This Lake affords a Fish which is uncommon in other parts, called by Aldro-vandus the Alasa, by Rondoletius, Gesner and others the Clupea and the Thrissa, by the English the Shad or the Mother of Herrings, and by the Irish the Pollan or Fresh Water Herring. Ray differences the fish from the Herring in four Particulars, First, in the size being, as he says, of a Cubit length, four Fingers breadth, and four Pounds in weight. But they are not generally so large.

2ndly, That it is a thinner fish. 3rdly, that it has on each side the gills a large Black round spot and six or seven lesser spots towards the tail, and 4thly, that it is of the class called *Piscis Anadromus*, and mounts up into the fresh water rivers which the Herring never does.