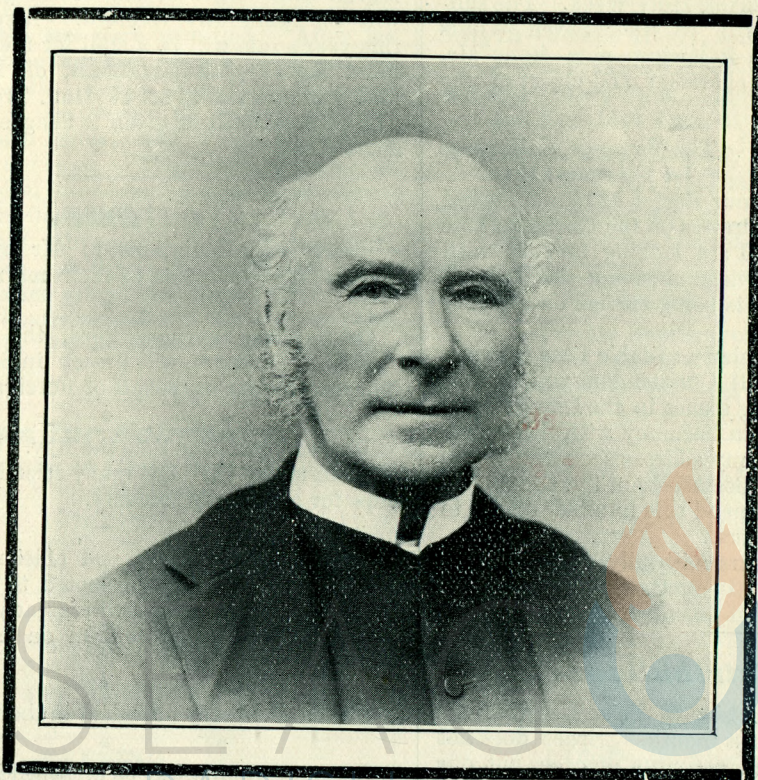


Seagoe Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1913.



THE LATE REV. CANON BLACKER.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of the Rev. Canon Blacker, of Carrickblacker, in the Parish of Seagoe, and of Woodbrook, County Wexford. The sad event took place at Woodbrook on Wednesday, January 15th. The end came quite suddenly from heart failure, but he had been spared to a ripe old age, having been born on January 29th, 1826, and so had reached his 87th year. Canon Blacker inherited the estate of Carrickblacker in 1897 on the death of his cousin, the late Baroness Von Stieglitz. He was always greatly interested in the Parish of Seagoe, and was a most generous subscriber to our Parochial Funds. His visits to the Parish were, of course, infrequent in latter years owing to his burden of age, but up to the last he kept up a constant correspondence with the Rector and others regarding the interests of the Parish, and every letter displayed the goodness of his heart and the kindly thoughtfulness which marked every action of his life. The full extent of his benefactions will never be known, for it was his invariable habit to cast the mantle of Christian reserve over all his kindly deeds. He seemed to be a Knight-errant of Christian chivalry, so modest and gentle was he in demeanour, and yet so strong in all noble virtues and so courageous in all that made for righteousness. The last occasion on which he officiated in the Parish Church was on September 2nd, 1903, at the baptism of one of his grandchildren. Canon Blacker's funeral took place at Killanne, County Wexford, on Saturday, January 18th. The Select Vestry of Seagoe sent a wreath, and, at the hour of the funeral, the bell of the Parish Church was tolled. The service on the morning of Sunday, January 19th, took the form of a Memorial Service. The Rector preached on the words—"I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me," Gal. ii., 20, and, in the course of his sermon, made reference to the character and life of Canon Blacker. We tender to Major and Mrs. Blacker and to all his relatives the sincere sympathy of the people of Seagoe, and our sense of the loss which we, in common with them have sustained in the lamented death of Canon Blacker.

Our readers will be glad to have the above excellent and characteristic likeness of the late Canon Blacker, and we have to thank Mr. Gilmour, of Hacknahay, for allowing us to copy it from a valued photograph in his possession.

A Week of Services.

The Rev. O. W. Scott, M.A., Rector of Gilford, has kindly consented to give a series of addresses in Seagoe Parish Church during Holy Week. The subject of the addresses will be the "Seven Words from the Cross." The following note from Mr. Scott will explain the character and object of the services;—

The Vicarage, Gilford,
1st February, 1913.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—Your Rector has kindly asked me to give a series of addresses on the Christian Life during Holy Week, and I am looking forward with much interest to the privilege of giving this helping hand in the work that is being carried on in your parish

Holy Week is a particularly suitable time for such a course of addresses. All Christendom will then be contemplating the closing scenes in the Life-Story of our blessed Lord. And in harmony with this sacred season, I propose basing my addresses on the Seven Words spoken by our Redeemer from the Cross.

May I earnestly commend this humble effort to your sympathy and prayers?

Yours faithfully,
OSWALD W. SCOTT.

Prize Distributions.

We have had a succession of Prize Distributions all through the Parish last month. Space does not permit us to give detailed accounts of each, but our impression is that we never before had such successful gatherings. Mr Chambers excelled himself in the Programme he had arranged for Edenderry, and he kindly brought the performers to Seagoe, Carne, and Drumgor, as well. A most pleasing feature of the evenings was the large attendance of the parents of the pupils. Some of the items were exceptionally good. "Urchins We," "The Hobblers," "The Quack Doctor," "The Hobby Horses," "The Basket of Flowers."

We print here the names of those who, in each Sunday School, obtained the highest marks in answering at the examinations held last December:—**Hacknahay**—Mary Flavell, Lily England. **Levaghery**—Nellie Lewie (medal). **Carne**—Sarah J. Price. **Edenderry**—Alice Hawthorne, William Watson. **Drumgor**—Tissie Quaile, Fanny Dickson. **Seagoe**—James McDonald. A silver medal was awarded to Mary J. Best, of Edenderry Sunday School, for having attended every service in the Parish Church during 1912. In most of the schools the Teachers very kindly provided the tea for the children. In Drumgor, Mr. Robert Gracey, and in Hacknahay Mr. Calvert and Miss Calvert, with their usual generosity, bore the expense of the entertainment, and we have to thank Miss Armstrong, Mr. W. J. Allen (Lurgan), Mr. Knox (Lurgan), and Mrs. McKeown (Edenderry), for special gifts.

Jumble Sale.

The Annual Jumble Sale will be held (D.V.) this year in Edenderry Parochial Hall on Saturday, March 8th. Gifts of old Clothing, Furniture, etc., will be thankfully received. A special feature of this year's sale will be a stall for the sale of Second-hand Toys. Miss Atkinson, of Eden Villa, has kindly consented to act as Hon. Treas. for the Sale. The proceeds will be given to Seagoe School Enlargement Fund.

ITEMS.

Hearty congratulations to Mr and Mrs Thomas Martin on the occasion of their marriage.

* * *

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Ven. the Arch-deacon of Dromore, will preach in Seagoe Church at Morning Prayer on behalf of Foreign Missions.

* * *

We regret to hear that the Rev. Dr. Quirk is somewhat seriously ill. His many friends in Seagoe will hope for his speedy recovery.

* * *

Mr Irwin the popular and efficient Stationmaster at Portadown has been promoted to be Stationmaster at Belfast. While we will greatly regret his departure, we congratulate him on his deserved promotion.

* * *

Influenza is very prevalent in the parish.

* * *

Special sermons will be preached in Seagoe Church on Wednesday evenings during Lent. See Handbills.

PUBLIC LECTURE.

A PUBLIC LECTURE on
"A HOLIDAY IN DENMARK,"

— Illustrated by Lantern Views. —

WILL BE GIVEN (D.V.) BY THE

Rev. J. E. ARCHER,

Rector of Seagoe,

IN EDENDERRY PAROCHIAL HALL,

On TUESDAY EVG., February 25th,

At EIGHT o'clock.

Tickets, Sixpence Each.

Proceeds in Aid of the Parochial Hall Fund.

Bible Class Social

The Bible Class Social was held in Seagoe School on Shrove Tuesday, February 4th at 7.15. There was a crowded attendance of the members of the classes. Only members were admitted. After tea the Rector took the chair and gave a short address on Bible Class work. Songs were then sung and much enjoyed. A succession of games followed which created much amusement. Prizes and medals were awarded at the close. The following won gold medals for unbroken attendance during three successive years—Isaiah Shanks (6 years), Thos. Ford, Alex. M'Cormick, James Sheppard, John M'Loughlin, Frank Parkes. No less than 18 certificates were awarded for unbroken attendance during 1912. Miss Armstrong most kindly provided at her own expense the prizes won by the members of the Edenderry Women's Bible Class.

Hymns for February.

"When they had sung an Hymn they went out into the Mount of Olives."

MORNING.

2nd	9th	16th	23rd
32	33	9	520
275	379	131	441
196	594	609	112
319	438	498	113

EVENING.

511	381	577	493
295	237	473	247
553	525	565	613
560	485	306	633
562	641 (i)	641 (ii)	641 (iii)

The Hymns printed in italics in the above list have not hitherto been sung in Seagoe. All the Hymns have been chosen with special reference to the Season of the Christian Year. Several Children's Hymns have also been inserted, and for the 23rd a selection of Missionary Hymns has been chosen.

Chants—New chants have been chosen this month for the Venite and Benedictus. The Benedictus will be sung on the Sundays in Lent instead of the Te Deum.

At the close of each Sunday Evening Service during Lent one of the Litanies of Penitence from the Church Hymnal will be sung.

Offertories.

"Give and it shall be given unto you."

Sundays—Mornings	£1 10 3
Evenings	1 19 5
Wednesdays	0 13 5
Total,	£7 3 1

Baptisms.

"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Baptized on January 4th.

Smyth—Joseph Henry, son of Thomas and Sarah Emily Smyth, Portadown.

M'Neill—Mary Jane, daughter of Samuel George and Elizabeth Anna M'Neill, Portadown.

M'Nulty—Ethel, daughter of William Henry and Mary M'Nulty, Hacknahay.

Brown—Joseph, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Brown, Govan, Glasgow.

Forsythe—William, son of John and Mary Forsythe, Killicomaine.

Private Baptism, on January 14th.

Robinson—Charles, son of George and Christina Robinson, Lower Seagoe.

Marriage.

"Love is of God."

Martin and Gracey—January 31st, at St. Barnabas Parish Church, Belfast, Thomas Martin, Kilvergan, to Sarah, daughter of Robert Gracey Balteagh.

Burials.

"Oh Death, where is thy sting."

Sergeant—January 1st, Alice Sergeant, of Belfast, aged 89 years.

Lyness—January 16th, Rose Lyness, of Drumgor, aged 84 year. (Interred in Shankill graveyard).

Fleming—January 16th, Mary Anne Fleming, of Edenderry, aged 50 years.

Austin—January 18th, Sarah Austin, of Belfast, aged 61 years.

Robinson—January 19th, Charles Robinson, of Lower Seagoe, aged 6 weeks.

Thornton—January 25th, Elizabeth Thornton, of Edenderry, aged 74 years. (Interred in Drumcree graveyard).

Thorpe—January 31st, Sarah Thorpe, of Lurgan, aged 86 years.

A Present for Our Readers.

A free packet of Flower Seeds will be given away with each number of the March issue of this Magazine. This is to encourage our Readers in Seagoe Parish to plant flowers round their houses. We are enabled to make this gift through the kind co-operation of Messrs. S. M'Gredy and Son, Royal Nursery Men and Florists, Portadown.

A Record in Cattle-Driving.

A farmer in Seagoe Parish started last Monday morning to drive a herd of 48 head of cattle to the County Dublin, a distance of 87 miles. We think this must constitute a record in the art of Cattle-driving. We have not heard how our friend and his charge fared, but the mere attempt to accomplish such a feat proves the determination and pluck which characterises our Northern farmers. Such a task would at any time be difficult, but the crossing of the Mourne Mountains in the teeth of the recent gales would take the energy of a giant.

Church Army in Seagoe.

Captain Lancaster with his Church Army Van will (D.V.) begin a Week's Mission in Drumgor Church Hall on Sunday, March 2nd at 7 o'clock. The Mission will be continued in Tamnificarbet beginning there on Monday, March 10th. Captain Lancaster has had a long experience of Church Army Mission Work in England and Ireland, and we hope that with God's blessing he will have a fruitful mission in Drumgor and Tamnificarbet. We feel sure that the Parishioners in these districts will give the Captain and his Cadet a hearty welcome.

Mr. J. J. Dobson.

We have much pleasure in announcing that Mr. J. J. Dobson is about to be licensed by the Lord Bishop as a Lay-Reader for Seagoe Parish. Mr. Dobson will reside in Edenderry, and assist in all branches of work throughout the Parish. We cordially welcome him to Seagoe and trust that the Divine Blessing will accompany all his efforts for the spiritual welfare of the people of this Parish. Mr. Dobson's special sphere of work will be in Drumgor District and in Edenderry, but he will do general work throughout the whole Parish. Mr. Dobson has already had a wide experience of Church work in Belfast and he comes to us with a good reputation. When he calls with you give him a hearty welcome. He hopes to move into the Parish next week.

Old Seagoe Notes.

A Bit of Old Seagoe—The Parish of Seagoe can boast of a pony which may fitly be described as a 'bit' of Old Seagoe. "Topsy" a thoroughbred Welsh pony, the property of Mr John Gilmour, of Hacknahay, is now 33 years old, and is nearly as fresh on the road as she was 20 years ago. "Topsy" was in her early days trained as a circus pony in Powell and Clarke's famous circus, and she is still capable of performing "tricks" not always to the satisfaction of her owner. "Topsy" is a great pet and answers to her name with much intelligence. We hope she will add many years to her already record score.

The Laying of the Ulster Railway, 1838—

Last month we gave particulars regarding the first engines and carriages on the line, this month we have something to say as to the laying of the line. The Ulster Railway was the first in Ireland to adopt the broad gauge, 6 feet 2 inches. The intermediate space between the lines being 6 feet 4 inches. The rails were of the "bridge" pattern with broad flanges at each side and were laid on longitudinal timbers. The rails were 15 feet to 20 feet in length and weighed 53lbs. to the yard lineal. The timbers were of American Pine with a lateral inclination of $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch. The cross section of the timber was 12 inches by 6 inches. The rails were supplied from the then well-known works at Dowlais, near Merthyr Tydvil, and cost £12 per ton. Cross sleepers were introduced at intervals of 10 feet or 15 feet under the longitudinal timbers. Each cross sleeper was 10ft long. The rails were secured to the timbers by screws 5 inches in length and weighing 6ozs. each, being inserted at intervals of 16 inches. The rails were not, as was then usual, bedded in felt to avoid vibration, but this was regarded as a mistake since the screws and bolts were liable to displacement.

Extracts from Archdeacon Saurin's Report on Seagoe Parish September, 1868.

—The only memorials of the Old Church in the Present Church are a rude black oak Communion Table and a very ancient sandstone septilateral (octagonal) font. The Glebe House has been thoroughly over-hauled by the present incumbent under memorial and a certificate granted by the Lord Bishop for £1,160. The cost was borne by the Incumbent. It is at present an excellent house and in perfect repair. The Glebe Lands consist of two Townlands held under patent from James I containing 500 acres, possessing the same title as the estates held by the Noble Proprietors of this Parish. If such title can be tampered with what security has any possessor of the fixity of tenure? These estates were granted to the present possessors on condition. They allocated the said Townlands for the support of the Protestant Church so by disturbing the title of such property, the security of all properties held under such Patents becomes shaken and undermined.

There are three schools established and maintained independent of State aid in connection with the Church Education Society. No National School in this Parish is under the patronage of the Clergy of the United Church. There is one National School under the patronage of the Duke of Manchester, two under Presbyterian Ministers, one Methodist and one Roman Catholic.

[In reading the above extracts it should be remembered that they were written when Mr Gladstone was threatening to disestablish the Church of Ireland. It is also well to remember that in 1868 the Parish included what is now a large part of Shankill (Lurgan) Parish.]