

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE CALVERT.

IT is with a sad heart we have to record in this issue the death of Mr. George Calvert, foremost in every good and useful work in the Parish of Seagoe and throughout North Armagh. In the long history of this Parish we cannot think that there has ever been a Parishioner more loved and respected than George Calvert. It is only since his death that we have begun to realise how many he helped by his kindly action and sound advice. He was "everybody's man," and whoever needed a helping hand George Calvert was ready to undergo any degree of trouble and spend any amount of time if only he could oblige those who came to him.

He was cut off very suddenly in the midst of his unselfish work. For some time he had complained of not feeling very well. The many positions which he filled in public life were beginning to prove too great a burden, and on several occasions lately he had said that he must surrender some of them. His illness only became acute on the evening of Sunday, May 6th. On Monday afternoon he suffered severe pain, and on Tuesday morning the doctor attending him decided that an immediate operation must take place. Before the operation he was quite calm and not suffering much pain. Every precaution was taken during the operation, but in the midst of it he passed away on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 8th. The Funeral took place to Seagoe on Thursday, May 10th, amidst every possible mark of respect and mourning.

We should like to say something here of the special work which George Calvert did for his Church and Parish.

As a member of Seagoe SELECT VESTRY, Mr. Calvert did splendid work for the Parish. He was present at every meeting, and took a leading part in all the discussions on Parish affairs. He was always ready to take more than his share in the task of collecting money for any special object. At the time of his death he had almost finished a collection in his District towards the debt on Seagoe School Building Fund. Year after year his collection for the Sustentation Fund always kept its high level. Everything was done with the greatest thoroughness. Almost his last work was to prepare the residence house at Hacknahay School for a tenant. Nothing was overlooked. Even the doorhandle had special thought given to it. He had been a member of the Vestry for 32 years, being first elected to it in 1885.

His terms of office as CHURCHWARDEN were very frequent. He was first appointed to that office as Rector's Churchwarden in 1885, and also acted as Churchwarden in 1886, 1891, 1892, 1895, 1896, 1899, 1900, 1906, and 1915. As Churchwarden he showed the same diligence and thoroughness in his work, safeguarding the fabric of the Church and watching over all Church property with constant interest.

In 1888 he was appointed to the highest office in the gift of the Parish, that of PAROCHIAL NOMINATOR, and in that capacity was a member of the Patronage Board, which met in 1905 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the late Dean Dawson.

Perhaps the work in which he took the greatest interest was that of SUPERINTENDENT OF HACKNAHAY SUNDAY SCHOOL. He was present there on Sunday, April 29th, although not quite in his usual health. The affection existing between the Superintendent and the Teachers and the Children of the School was very deep and real. The School was most efficient. The Roll Books and Prize Lists were most carefully compiled, and as a result of this care the attendance at the School reached the highest average in the Parish. The Prizes for 1916 were distributed by the Rector on the last day of Mr. Calvert's attendance at the School.

The Funeral.

The Funeral took place on Thursday, May 10th, leaving Mr. Calvert's residence, at Breagh, at 3 p.m. The procession was formed as follows:—At the head

of the procession, in front of the hearse, the members of Miss Calvert's G.F.S. Class walked, then followed the children and teachers of Hacknahay Day School. The Clergy, Churchwardens, and members of the Select Vestry walked on either side of the hearse. The members of the Orange Order, who attended in full Regalia and were present in large numbers, followed the hearse, and behind them were over 100 vehicles. Along the route large groups of people assembled to see the last of one whom they so loved and respected. A service was held in the Parish Church, which was crowded. The Rector read the opening sentences, the Rev. T. H. Scanlon said the Psalm, and Colonel Blacker, D.S.O., read the Lesson. The Rector gave an address, referring to the splendid work done by Mr. Calvert as a Christian citizen, and as a Churchman.

The Service was continued at the graveside, and at its close the children of Hacknahay Sunday School sang very sweetly and with much feeling the hymn "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Many beautiful wreaths were sent including one from the Clergy, Churchwardens, and Select Vestry of Seagoe Parish.

Everyone feels the deepest sympathy for Miss Rebecca Calvert in her great sorrow. She has received very many kind letters of sympathy. We pray that in the midst of her loneliness she may be comforted and supported by the presence of One who is the Divine Comforter and who is specially near His people in every time of trouble.

In our next issue we hope to print a portrait of Mr. Calvert and to say something about his work on the many Public Boards of which he was a member.

Appointment.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese has appointed the Rector to the Prebend of Dromara in the Cathedral Chapter of Dromore. The position also entitles the holder to a seat in the Chapter of St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

Rev. G. Bloomer in France.

The Rector has received the following letter from the Rev. G. Bloomer.

Y.M.C.A.,
c/o Town Major, Captain J. S. McArthur,
1st Army Corps, B.E.F., France.

Just a few lines to let you know I am still in the land of the living. I am kept fairly busy when at it. The work lasts about 7 hours each day. We start at 11 a.m., have intervals for dinner and tea, and close at 8 p.m. Sometimes we have great rushes of men wanting tea, cigarettes, tinned fruit etc. The first week was the most difficult, as there were only two of us, now there are three, and there are not so many men in the neighbourhood. We expect to open another place, under the management of this one, in a few days. It is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles nearer the line. There are none nearer than this at present. I am now about as far from the trenches as you are from Knocknamuckley. Just now everything is fairly quiet, the only noise I hear as I write is

AN AEROPLANE SOMEWHERE OVERHEAD

firing a machine gun. Sometimes the air fairly hums with aircraft. It's not all ours. We have some fine air fights. Last week I had the pleasure of seeing one of Fritz's being brought down by one of ours. We have plenty of artillery activity. You would fairly enjoy it all. The second day I was here over a thousand shells came into the village from across the way. Nobody seemed to mind about them except some women folk, who kept to the cellars until the storm went past. Very few have come this week so far, but one never knows when they will start. The week before I came here a shell came through the roof of this building. It did not kill anyone, as the men had already retired to the cellar, but one man had to leave through shell shock. We slept in the cellar for the first week I was here. It was safe, but it was not pleasant. What with the bad air and

FIGHTING RATS,

it was not pleasant when one happened to awake during the night. However, we have removed our quarters above ground again. It has some disadvantages. It is not very easy to sleep when a big bombardment by our own guns commences, as it often does about midnight. The last one was a few nights ago; it was mentioned in Monday's papers. I am a little less than seven miles from where Herbert Murray was killed, and less than that distance from a place called by the same name as the instrument you examine the insects on your gooseberry bushes with. If it were possible I should like to go and see where poor Herbert is buried, but it might not be possible, as it is very difficult to get from one place to another.

Everyone must keep to his own area. There are two cemeteries near here, and in one of them some of the Inniskilling Fusiliers are buried. I have not been to it yet; I only heard of it to-day, but I intend going to see it as soon as possible. There may be some R.I.F. men in it also, though not of the 9th. I have not seen any of our men, nor am I likely to, at least for some time. They are in a different army area but, of course, they may be changed into this area before I leave. I visited the

CHURCH ARMY HUT

in a neighbouring village last Sunday. I was greatly pleased with it, and with the men in charge. They are coming to have tea with us some evening soon. One of the Army Chaplains takes service in our hut every Sunday morning. They have asked me to take the Communion Services any time that the Chaplain cannot be there. Just now they are short of Chaplains, as some are away sick, and the others have a great deal of extra work. I have not met any of the Church of England Chaplains yet, but I expect to run across some of them soon. We have two services in this place each week, one on Sunday evening and the other on Thursday evening. We have not many at the Thursday service, but the Sunday one is very well attended; the place is crowded. I have arranged with the other man here to take the Church Service on alternate Sundays. I had my first one on Sunday. I did not know how it would do, but I was greatly delighted when I commenced the General Confession to find that they were nearly all joining in. The service was as hearty and congregational as anyone could wish, we had a professional organist at the piano, and the singing quite

DROWNED EVEN THE NOISE OF THE GUNS

that was going on all the time. Just after I commenced speaking to them a machine gun in an aeroplane rattled almost over our heads; no one took the least notice of it. We have got no service books but I intend asking the Chaplain for a supply when I see him.

I was very sorry to hear of George Calvert's death; it was very sudden. He will be very much missed in the whole community, and in Seagoe in particular. I see by the *Portadown Express*, just received, that the Rev. J. Taylor has been appointed to St. Jude's. It is a very good appointment. I think I will stop now, as you will be tired reading long before you get this length. The next time I write I will give you a description of the house I am living in.

Give my best wishes to all my friends in Seagoe.—
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BLOOMER.

ITEMS.

At a meeting of Sunday School Teachers and Superintendants held on Wednesday, May 23rd in Seagoe School, it was decided not to hold a Sunday School Excursion this year.

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The Rev. W. T. Grey has paid a brief visit to Dublin. He hopes shortly to visit Seagoe.

Lance-Corporal Herbert Murray.

The death of Herbert Murray so well-known to Seagoe Parish has caused deep and sincere regret. In our last issue we noted the unofficial announcement of his death. Since then it has been officially confirmed. The circumstances of his death are recorded in the following touching letter addressed to Mrs. Murray by one of his 'chums. It is a noble record of duty faithfully done even unto death—

Sergeant H. Howard, A. 10989,
"A." Section,

7th Canadian M.G. Corps.
May 1st, 1917.

Dear Mrs. Murray,—Please accept the sympathy of myself and the boys of the above section on your very sad bereavement. Your son Herbert was killed on Tuesday, April 24th, about midnight. Whilst standing on guard over his gun a shell dropped at his feet, knocking in the roof of the dugout in which I and two of his crew were partially buried. Herbert was rendered unconscious by concussion, and except for a bruise on the head was not cut. I had him removed to Headquarters with all possible speed, and looked with hope for the doctor's opinion. I learned the following evening of his death, which occurred whilst on his way to the Clearing Station several miles behind the line. The cause was a fractured skull. The hospital authorities arranged his burial with one of our officers in attendance. His personal effects including pay book, pocket book, etc. will be sent to you by these people. Other things in his pack and haversack will be sent through our orderly room as soon as we get out. Since coming out here nothing has quite so upset me. In very truth he was the nicest lad in the section, and I personally mourn his loss. He accompanied me together with another gun crew "over the top" on April 9th, and right well did he perform his duty. I might mention that our officer recommended him for his work and cheery behaviour on that day. I have enclosed herewith two small photos which you will probably like to have. His place of burial is noted, and anything else you desire to know I shall be only too glad to help. My home is in Belfast, and if fortunate enough to get leave in the near future I should like to call and see you. May the God of comfort be your strength and stay in this saddest hour. You have lost a worthy son, we a faithful comrade. God be with him.—Yours in sympathy, HENRY HOWARD.

Another testimony to the fine character and christian courage of Herbert Murray, is borne in the following letter sent to the Rector by his officer Lieutenant McKenzie—

In the Field,
May 14th, 1917.

The Rev. J. E. Archer.—Dear Sir,—In answer to your letter dated May 7th, Lance-Corporal Herbert Murray was killed by an enemy shell which burst very close to him. I don't think he suffered any pain as he was unconscious to the end. I attended to him

personally, and saw that everything possible was done for him. I felt the death of poor Murray very much, for he was an absolutely reliable soldier, and a very bright, clean-living boy. He was loved and respected by all ranks in the Company. I may say all his private belongings which he carried with him will be sent to his next-of-kin in due course, the same applies to any unposted letters found on him at the time of his death.—Yours very sincerely.

HUGH MCKENZIE, LIEUT.

7th Canadian M.G. Company.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge.

[This letter from Herbert Murray, received shortly before his death gives a vivid picture of the conflict raging on the Western Front, in which so many of our brave Seagoe lads are doing their bit for God and King and Country.]

April 13th 1917.

My dear Mother,—Just a few lines to let you know I have been in the big battle of Vimy Ridge, and am glad to say have again come through all right. We went "over the top" at 5-30 a.m. on Easter Monday, and although the weather was not very favourable, raining at first and then turning to snow, we penetrated the enemy's trenches to a depth of from a mile to two miles on a twelve mile front. Our artillery was splendid, and the barrage which covered our advance was timed so accurately, that, as the infantry advanced, there was absolutely nothing left but dead and dying Germans until we had gone as far as the third line where we were met with some machine gun and rifle fire, but our artillery was so perfect and concentrated that these were soon put out of action, and those that were not killed or were down in their dug-outs were taken prisoners. The Hun seemed to be stunned by the suddenness of our attack, as three minutes after our artillery opened up, the first wave went over, and in a few minutes more the second wave and so on, and we were upon the Hun before he had time to run away. I have never seen a finer spectacle in my life than I witnessed on Easter Monday as I walked over

THE MOST FAMOUS RIDGE

on the British front, and which the Germans sacrificed thousands of men to take from the French in the early part of the war. The German casualties must have been enormous, as I have not seen anything (not even at the Somme) to equal the bombardment we gave the enemy several days before the attack, getting more intense as time went on. Until a short time before the attack our guns almost ceased fire, we waited anxiously

COUNTING THE SECONDS,

when just to the very second every gun of all calibres burst into one great roar as if they all had been connected by an electric wire and some one pressed the button. The noise that followed was deafening, but we knew that our task would be easy as nothing could be left of the Boche or his defences, I am glad now that I have come through it, that I took part in the greatest and most

FAMOUS BATTLE OF THE WAR,
 the battle is still going on, and as we are resting a short distance behind the front line, I took this first opportunity of letting you know I am all right. I will be able to give you some more news later on, but I must close now, hoping you are all well.—I remain your loving son.
 HERBERT.

PARISH REGISTER FOR MAY, 1917.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on 5th May, 1917.

Humphries—Samuel Henry, son of Robert John and Martha Humphries, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Elizabeth Stewart, Martha Humphries.

Liggett—Thomas, son of Thomas (Private, 2nd Royal Irish Rifles, B.E.F., France) and Sarah Jane Liggett, of Drumnagoon.

Sponsors—Mary Forde, Sarah Jane Liggett.

Magee—Margaret, daughter of George and Hannah Jane Magee, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—George Magee, Hannah Jane Magee.

Stanfield—Thomas Edward, son of Thomas Edward (Corporal, 1st Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers, B.E.F., France) and Mary Jane Stanfield.

Sponsors—Anne Weir, Mary Jane Stanfield.

Burials.

Stenson—1st May, 1917, Mary J. Stenson, of Killicomaine, aged 70 years.

Metcalfe—6th May, 1917, Jane Metcalfe, of Tarsan, aged 89 years.

Gilpin—8th May, 1917, Thomas Gilpin, of Tarsan, aged 25 years.

Calvert—10th May, 1917, George Calvert, of Breagh, aged 61 years.

Webb—11th May, 1917, Sophia Webb, of Portadown, aged 4 months.

Hewitt—16th May, 1917, Sarah Jane Hewitt, of Edenderry, aged 24 years.

Offertories for May.

Sunday—Mornings,	£15	16	7
Evenings,	1	12	4
Week Days	0	10	8
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	£17	19	7

The above includes the following Special Collections—Jews' Society, £4 5s 0d, and Bishop's Fund, £8 10s 0d.

Old Seagoe Notes.

The Woolsey Family in Portadown.—We continue from our last issue the extract from the Rev. J. B. Leslie's book on "The Parish of Kilsaran," relating to the local history of the Woolsey Family in Seagoe and Portadown.—The family appears to have owned the greater part of the town of Portadown,

with the surrounding townlands of Clounagh, Tavanagh, Seagoe, Edenderry and Derreskinive John Woolsey was father of Benjamin Woolsey (will proved 1741) and of the Rev. William Woolsey, Rector of Dundalk from 1709 to 1728, and Chaplain to Primate Boulter. The Rev. W. Woolsey married Isabella, granddaughter of the Rev. George Walker, D.D., the celebrated Defender of Derry. He helped to introduce into Dundalk from Portadown the art of Damask Weaving, which Primate Boulter fostered. A son of his was the Rev. Thomas Woolsey, M.A., who in his will (proved in 1780) mentions a "Miss Anne Woolsey, daughter of Mr. Benjamin Woolsey, of Portadown." The family afterwards intermarried with the Bellinghams, of Castlebellingham. The present head of the Woolsey Family is Major-General O'Brien B. Woolsey, who resides at Milestown, Co. Louth.

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Edenderry in 1831.—The following items are extracted from *The Belfast News-Letter* for 1831.

The News-Letter for Tuesday, January 11th, 1831, records the following:—

Wm. Overend and Wm. Peden, Esqrs. having requested a meeting of their Tenantry at Edenderry, near Portadown, on the 4th inst., very generously informed them that they had resolved to make a reduction on their rents of 10/- per acre. The Tenantry were so highly pleased at this announcement that they chaired their respected and benevolent Landlords amidst the most enthusiastic cheering.

The following item occurs in the *News-Letter* for Tuesday, January 18th, 1831.

On Saturday afternoon between 400 and 500 men, consisting of the Seagoe and Portadown men, under Colonel Blacker, were inspected near Portadown. The appearance of the Corps was highly creditable and soldierlike, and from the general feeling expressed and the immense number of fine young fellows pressing forward for admission into different corps, there can be no doubt that if the hour of trial arrive the Yeomanry will be found the same loyal, high-spirited and efficient force they have hitherto proved.

Under date Tuesday, 25th, 1831, the *News-Letter* records:—

Died on 15th inst., at Breagh, Portadown, Mr. William Lutton, aged 90 years, senior tenant on the Carrick Estate.

Under date Friday, January 7th, 1831, we read—Important Arrest at Portadown. — On Friday last Mr. Patton, Officer commanding the police stationed at Portadown, arrested Wm. Wilson, formerly a Private in the 82nd Foot. He was examined before Colonel Blacker and Curran Woodhouse, Esq., and has made some important disclosures concerning the proceedings of Tommy Downshire's men and the new Union Society. Wilson was employed by certain persons from Portadown at 36 shillings per week to attend in the neighbourhood of the Shane Hill by night and instruct them in Military exercises and drill with arms.