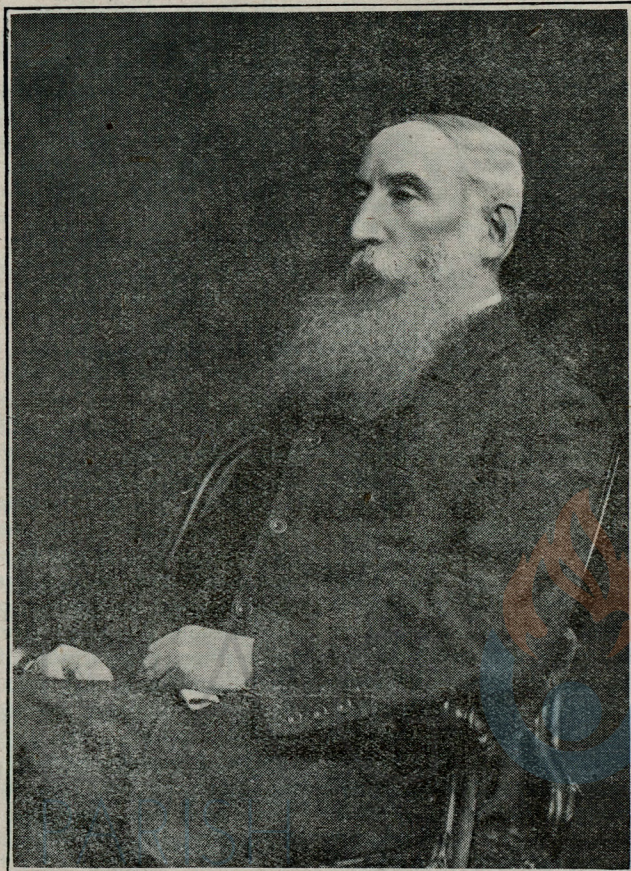


Seagoe Parish Magazine.

MARCH, 1915.



Mr. WOLSEY R. ATKINSON,

Rector's Churchwarden, 1914-15.

OUR readers will be glad to possess a photograph of one who is very highly respected both in the Parish of Seagoe, and in the town and neighbourhood of Portadown, Mr. Wolsey Richard Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson occupies this year the post of Rector's Churchwarden, his fellow-warden being Lieut.-Colonel S. W. Blacker, whose portrait appeared in our issue of August, 1914. Mr. Atkinson has filled at some time or other every parochial office which it is possible for a layman to hold. He has for many years been one of our three Parochial Nominators; he has on several occasions been elected Churchwarden, he has been for many years a member of Seagoe Select Vestry, and has acted as Hon. Sec. of the Vestry and Parochial Treasurer, since the retirement of the late Mr. James Atkinson. The Diocese of Down, and Connor, and Dromore, has honoured him by electing him as one of its representatives to the General Synod, and his Parish sends him as its own representative each year to the Diocesan Synod. During his tenure of office as Hon. Sec. and Parochial Treasurer, he has largely by his own effort and influence carried out the following improvement schemes in Seagoe Church and Parish—Gas Installation in Church and School; New Musgrave Heating Apparatus; Additional Class Room in Seagoe School, 1913, and last, but not least, the Glebe Purchase Scheme, which was launched in 1910 and, thanks to his energy and financial ability, seems likely in a brief space to reach a successful conclusion. Mr. Atkinson gives ungrudgingly of his time and interest to the welfare of the Parish, as his father and grandfather did before him. He not merely arranges all details for the collection of the Sustentation Fund each year, but has this year also acted as Collector in several Districts of the Parish. That Mr. Atkinson may be long spared to carry on his noble work in the Parish is the earnest wish of everyone who has the welfare of the Church at heart.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVALS.

During the past month Social gatherings have been held in all our Sunday Schools. Owing to the war it was agreed, by a self-denying ordinance, that the pupils would not accept any Book Prizes this year, and that the money so saved would go towards some War Fund to help our valiant Sailors and Soldiers. The children, in a most willing spirit, gave up the pleasure of receiving their prizes. Their action in the matter is just what we would have naturally expected from the loyal children of Seagoe Parish, who always set the interests of the Empire before all personal considerations. If the boys and girls of our Sunday Schools cannot go to the front and take their place in the Trenches, they have at any rate the satisfaction of feeling that they have done something by this act of self denial to make the lot of our brave soldiers and sailors less difficult than it might otherwise have been.

It was thought well that this year, although no Book Prizes were awarded, the Social gatherings should be held as usual. There are many things calculated to depress the feelings of our people in war-time, and the pleasure and exhilaration of the annual "Feast" must prove a useful corrective to such gloomy depression. The series of gatherings were characterised by much enjoyment, and the children appreciated them to the full.

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Monday, February 1st, was the date fixed for **Carne** Sunday School. The Hall was crowded. An ample supply of tea and cake was most kindly provided by the Teachers. A lengthy programme of musical items, readings and recitations was arranged. A notable feature of the programme, was, that almost every item was provided by local talent. At the close the Rector, who presided, presented Red Certificates for attendances, and Blue Certificates for answering to the successful children. Special thanks are due to Mr. David Murray, the energetic Superintendent of the Sunday School who made all arrangements. Mrs Coulter very kindly assisted in the preparation of the tea.

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Hacknahay Sunday School has had a very prosperous year, thanks to the unfailing attention of its worthy superintendent, Mr. George Calvert, ably seconded by Miss Calvert. The Schoolroom was more than crowded. A liberal supply of tea and cake was generously provided by Mr. and Miss Calvert. An attractive Programme had been arranged by the Principal of the Day School, Miss Chambers, assisted by Mr. Chambers, who kindly accompanied the performers. Several items were given by the pupils of the Day School, who delighted the audience by their singing and amusing movements in the action songs. Oranges were distributed at the close of the evening. The Rector on behalf of all present thanked Mr. and Miss Calvert for their continued kindness and help. A large number of Certificates were awarded.

Edenderry Sunday Schools, morning and afternoon, are the largest in the Parish, and under the care of the zealous superintendents, Mr. J. H. Stevenson and Mr. Thomas Dawson, have reached a high degree of efficiency. The Annual Festival is an event of prime importance. Some hundreds of children were present, and the Teachers kindly bore a large share in the expense of providing the Commissariat—consisting of copious draughts of sleep-dispelling gold-medal tea, and monster pieces of rich fruit loaves, whose exterior concealed innumerable currants, sultanas, and candied peels of the finest quality. The programme was excellent. The Dialogues were specially good, and the solo singing was far above the average. 'Wee' Willie Sherman, who recited splendidly, was the hero of the evening. The Band of Hope in Edenderry has conferred a double blessing on the parish, not only furthering the cause of Total Abstinence, but also in developing the musical capacities of our young people. The children received a large number of Certificates for Attendance and Answering. The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology. *

Seagoe had its "innings" on Tuesday, February 9th. It was one of the pleasantest gatherings held this year. The school is now so spacious that there was no overcrowding, and all the proceedings were characterised by perfect order. A plentiful supply of Cake and Tea was forthcoming, and after tea an interesting programme of music and recitations. Mr. Chambers kindly presided at the organ. The Rev. G. Bloomer recited "The Goblins," with wonderful effect. Mr. Boyle, the superintendent of Seagoe Afternoon Sunday School was present, and rendered great help in arranging the entertainment. "Barney O'Hea," as usual brought down the house. A large number of children obtained Certificates.

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The last of the Sunday School gatherings for this season was held in **Drumgor** on Monday, Feb. 15. Mrs. MacMullan, who has for so many years helped in the work at Drumgor, was as active as ever, and in the arrangement was capably assisted by Miss MacMullan. The school was fully represented in Teachers and Children. A programme party came out from Edenderry, in charge of Mr. Chambers, and they delighted all present by their songs and recitations. "Tipperary," sung by three girls, was much enjoyed, and the audience joined in the chorus with great energy. The Rector thanked Mrs. MacMullen for her kind help in the superintendence of the School, and spoke of the value of the Religious training given in the Sunday Schools of the Parish.

Offertories for February.

Sunday mornings £2 18 6
„ Evenings 1 6 1
Week-days 0 9 2

£4 13 10

The above includes a sum of £1 in aid of the Diocesan Temperance Society.

Seagoe War News.**A LETTER FROM THE FRONT.**

[Trooper Isaac Walker, "A" Squadron North Irish Horse, has arrived back at the front after a short stay in Seagoe. The Rector has received the following letter from him, dated St. Omer, France, February 21st, 1915. The subject referred to in the letter regarding the North Irish Horse is of great interest and importance. Was the North Irish Horse the first British Non-Regular Force to come into action in the present great war? If it was, the fact should be clearly ascertained. We hope to be able to settle the question by making further careful enquiry. Many other corps will be anxious to claim this notable priority in the conflict, but from Trooper Walker's letter, and the newspaper cutting he enclosed the case for the North Irish Horse seems to be very strong.]

I arrived back here all right and am going on just as usual. I am sending you a little cutting from the paper which concerns us. Other Voluntary Regiments claim to be under fire first. It is contradicted, and explained, that we were the first to be under fire. I and Walter Vaughan were the only ones out of Seagoe Parish who were with the N.I.H. on the retirement from Mons. Milton Boyle, of Drumcree Parish, and William Morton, of Ardmore Parish, were also with us. So there were only four altogether from Portadown serving with the N.I.H. I am glad to say we are all safe and sound yet. We had a Church Service to-day, but I did not get to it. Everyone likes to attend, but we can't all get. I think this is all at present. Thanking you for your kindness. I only wish this war was over till we all get back.—I remain, yours sincerely,

ISAAC WALKER.

[The following is the Newspaper cutting enclosed by Trooper Walker and referred to in his letter.]

NORTH IRISH HORSE.**FIRST NON-REGULARS TO GO UNDER FIRE.**

The "Daily Call" says:—An Officer of the North Irish Horse says in a letter—"I see there has been a lot of controversy about the honour of being the first Non-Regular Forces to go under fire. The honour has been claimed for the London Scottish, but it was clearly established that the Northumberland Hussars were in action before the London Scottish left home. It is now our turn to dispute the claim of the Northumbrians. The North Irish Horse arrived in France on August 26th. They were pushed forward at once, and reached the frontier in time to assist in the retreat from Mons. We had our baptism of fire near Compiègne on September 1st, and a few days later fought at Le Cateau. I don't believe in wrangling over matters of this kind, but if credit is wrongly given it is only right that the truth should be known. I believe that the South Irish Horse can claim to have been in action very early in the war, but have not the facts handy.

A Letter from Private J. Girvan.

Private John Girvan writes as follows from the front under date, Wednesday, February 10th, 1915—

There is not much change in the weather out here. It is raining every day. Our trenches are in some places very bad. I have been in every engagement that my Regiment has been in since the war broke out. Our Regiment has the honour of being the first Regiment to get into Armentières. There was some fun when we came to it, as there was a French girl and she said she would kiss the first French soldier that would come in. We had an interpreter with us, and he was the first one, and she ran out and kissed him. Our boys gave her a good cheer.

I got the "Seagoe Magazines" you sent me, and also the "Portadown News." I also got the gift that the Portadown people sent out to us, and I might let you know that Portadown was the first town to send to their soldiers in our Regiment among the twenty towns from which our men come. You were asking me did I see Whiteside, well, when I am writing this letter he is the next one to me. I sometimes see McNeill too.

Social at Levaghery.

Levaghery School, the oldest school building in the Parish, was the scene of a very pleasant 'Social' on Monday, February 8th. The hall has been recently improved by the erection of a new fire-place. The audience was very large. Proceedings began with tea. After the tables had been cleared, a Programme of Music, Dialogues and Recitations was begun. One of the most interesting items was a Recitation by one of the most junior members of the Sunday School, Sarah McDowell. Selina Bradshaw, another junior pupil also recited with great success. Mr. Chambers acted as accompanist, Messrs. Wright and Brown convulsed the audience with their comic duets. The Dialogues by Miss S. Martin and Sam Magee were very cleverly done and caused great amusement. Red and Blue Certificates were awarded for Sunday School work at the close of the evening. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Collins, the able Superintendent of the School and to all who had helped was heartily passed. The Proceeds of the sale of Tickets is given to the Red Cross Society.

Bible Class Social.

Shrove Tuesday has for many years been marked in the Parish by the Annual Social for the Bible Classes. This year, as in other years, it proved one of the most enjoyable of gatherings. The three rooms of Seagoe School were occupied, and during the evening presented a very animated appearance. All parts of the Parish were represented—Carne exchanged greeting with Hacknahay, and Edenderry played hide and seek with Tamnificarbet. After a few musical items, to which Mr. Wright, Miss Bella Robb, G. Price, and Davy Hughes contributed, a number of round games were engaged in. A large number of Special Certificates for a year's unbroken attendance were awarded.

PARISH REGISTER FOR FEB.**Baptisms.**

Baptized on February 6th, 1915.

Macauley—Edward Carson, son of Ephraim and Ellen Macauley, of Edenderry, and of Macleod, Alberta, Canada.

Sponsors—Jane Sharpe, Ellen Macauley.

M'Neill—David William, son of Samuel George M'Neill, Private 1st Batt. R.I.F., British Expeditionary Force, France, and Elizabeth Anna M'Neill, of Breagh.

Sponsors—Edith Fleming, Elizabeth M'Neill.

Cassidy—George Edwin, son of Thomas Cassidy, Private 16th R.I.R., and Elizabeth Cassidy of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Emily M'Crory, Elizabeth Cassidy.

PRIVATE BAPTISMS.

Roney—10th February, 1915, Myrtle, daughter of James William and Mary Isabella Roney, of Edenderry.

Cordy—28th February, 1915, Robert David Cordy, son of William and Margaret Cordy, of Portadown.

Marriage.

M'Cabe and Thornberry—February 3rd, 1915, Thomas M'Cabe, of Seagoe, to Mary Thornberry of Portadown.

Burials.

Walker—February 5th, Watson Walker, of Seagoe, Aged 70 years.

M'Cabe—February 5th, Rebecca M'Cabe, of Ballinacor, aged 84 years.

Pelan—February 6th, Matilda Pelan, of Armagh, aged 84 years.

Conolly—February 8th, Anne Jane Conolly, of Edenderry, aged 54 years.

Rogers—February 9th, Jane Rogers, formerly of Edenderry, aged 60 years.

Walker—February 16th, Abraham Walker, of Levaghery, aged 49 years.

Webb—February 20th, James Webb, of Clanrole, aged 79 years.

Spence—February 23rd, Margaret Spence, of Edenderry, aged 32 years.

"Cantata" Receipts.

Tickets sold £10 5s 6d; Expenses 13s 9d; Net profit £9 11s 9d; Cost of Desks £11 2s 9d, leaving a sum of £1 11s 0d still due. Mrs. Atkinson of Eden Villa, has most kindly sent a cheque for £1 11s to cover this deficit, so that we may congratulate Mr S. R. Chambers on having been successful in meeting the cost of the furnishing for the new Schoolroom.

Seagoe War Trophies.

War trophies are beginning to reach Seagoe from her brave soldiers at the front. Trooper Isaac Walker, on his recent visit, brought back a very fine pair of ebony drumsticks, mounted in aluminium, which were taken from a captured German drummer. He also brought a collapsible silver tumbler of fine workmanship in a leather case, and a pair of massive spurs which belonged to a fallen German officer.

Private Edward Miller, of the Irish Guards, recently sent home a German soldier's Helmet inscribed with the words "For God and Fatherland."

Many of our soldiers have sent home Queen Alexandra's Box, and also Princess Mary's gift.

Jumble Sale.

The Annual Jumble Sale will be held in Edenderry Parochial Hall, on Saturday, March 27th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Splendid bargains. Admission 2d.

ITEMS.

The 9th Batt. R.I.F., moved from the Palace Barracks, Holywood, to Newtownards Camp and Huts, on Friday, February 26th. We hear the Huts are comfortable, but 'mud' is the great enemy. Why could not some Fusilier with a turn for engineering devise an efficient and cheap plan for making mud-proof roadways in camps? Here is a chance for some of our smart Seagoe lads.

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The new Fusilier Band in which several of our Seagoe musicians have got places has made good progress, and provides stirring martial music on the route marches.

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The railway line and banks near Seagoe have recently been levelled, the water channels widened, and the rail spaces neatly filled up with broken granite giving the whole line a very tidy appearance. We congratulate the G.N.R. on their enterprise in this matter.

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The turf fire on a hearth in a house in Seagoe Parish has never been extinguished for forty years. Can this record be beaten?

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Farmers and owners of gardens should till and plant extensively this Spring as there may be a scarcity of food towards Autumn.

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The Rev W. R. Crichton delivered two most interesting Lectures on "Jewish Work in Hamburg," in Carne and Bocombra last week.

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The Superintendents of all the Sunday Schools received Reward Books this year.