

Eat Less Bread.

The Easter Vestry.

THE Easter Vestry was held on Thursday, April 12th, at 8 p.m. The Rector presided. A portion of Scripture, Ephes VI. was read by the Rev. T. H. Scanlon. The Minutes of the last Easter Vestry were read by the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. R. Atkinson. The Rector in his opening statement referred to the general condition of the Parish during the eventful year which had closed. A reference was made to the sad losses sustained by the Parish in the death on the field of Battle of so many of its bravest and best sons. The Annual Elections were then proceeded with. The Rector nominated as his Churchwarden, **Mr. David Murray**, and in doing so spoke of the good work which for many years Mr. Murray had done in many departments of Parish life. The election of Peoples' Churchwarden followed. On the motion of Mr. James Twinem, seconded by Mr. J. Sands, **Mr. Alan Bell, R.M.** was unanimously elected. The members of the Vestry were loud in their praise of Mr. Bell, who has won the regard and esteem of all the Parishoners since he came to reside in the Parish a few years ago. The following were elected Members of the Select Vestry. The names are in alphabetical order.

- 1.—W. R. Atkinson.
- 2.—Lt. Col. Blacker, D.S.O.
- 3.—G. Calvert.
- 4.—T. Dawson.
- 5.—J. G. Gracey.
- 6.—T. E. Maginnis.
- 7.—T. Martin.
- 8.—J. Monro.
- 9.—R. Price.
- 10.—J. Sands.
- 11.—J. H. Stevenson.
- 12.—J. Twinem.

Sidesmen were elected as follows—J. Sands, R. Price, T. Martin, J. Twinem, D. Rock, W. J. Cox, W. J. Caddell.

Mr. W. R. Atkinson was re-elected Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, and a very hearty expression of thanks was given to him for the great services he has rendered to the Parish during many years. The meeting was brought to a close by the Chairman pronouncing the Benediction.

Death of Mrs. Holmes.

We record with sincere regret the death of Mrs. Holmes, of Newstone. She passed away on Thursday, April 5th, after a very brief illness. On the Sunday previous to her death she was present at morning prayer in the Parish Church. The interment took place on Saturday, 7th April, at Dromiskin, Co. Louth. Mrs. Holmes was deeply interested in the parish of Seagoe, and she will be much missed from our Parish Church. We tender our sympathy to her bereaved relatives.

Death of Mrs. Montgomery.

Death has taken from our midst during the past month one who was very highly esteemed and respected amongst us—Mrs. Sara Montgomery, wife of Mr. T. J. Montgomery, who has for many years been a member of the Select Vestry of Seagoe, and has also filled the office of churchwarden. Mrs. Montgomery had been in weak health for some time. She had never recovered the shock sustained in the lamented death of her son, Lieutenant R. T. Montgomery, in France, on July 1st of last year. Hopes had been entertained that she might have rallied from her illness, but after a few days of extreme weakness she passed to her eternal rest. Her funeral on Saturday, April 21st, was the occasion of a wonderful display of sympathy on the part of the people of Portadown. Although it was market day, business was practically suspended during the passage of the funeral procession through the town. Shops were closed and blinds drawn all along the route. The service in the Church and at the grave was taken by the Rector, assisted by the Rev. G. Bloomer and the Rev. T. H. Scanlon. The Rector gave a short address. We desire to express our deep sympathy with Mr. T. J. Montgomery and his family in the loss they have sustained.

Nature Notes.

Our summer migrants have all arrived up to scheduled time. The severity of the weather has scarcely retarded their time of arrival. Again the honour of first observation goes to the quick-witted and sharp eyed observers at the southern end of the parish. The **Swallow** was first seen by **Mr. Thos. Walker, of Levaghery**, on Friday, April 20th,

This seems to have been the earliest observation made in Ireland, to judge by the notifications in the public press.

The **Cuckoo** was first heard on Sunday, April 22nd, by **Mr. John Lutton** of Edenderry. Two of our Seago school children, Maude Coulter and Hannah Rainey, also heard it.

The **Corncrake** was first heard on Tuesday, April 24th, at Seago, but so many heard it then that we cannot specify who was the first.

The first white Butterfly was seen on Monday, April 23rd, at Seago.

An anonymous postcard was received from Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan, signed "Reader of Magazine," in which the writer says—"Saw swallow 26th April, heard Cuckoo 29th April, 1917." Although the observation was later than in Seago, we are much obliged to our correspondent for writing.

PARISH REGISTER FOR APRIL, 1917.

Baptism.

Guy—7th April, 1917, David William, son of David and Hannah Maria Guy, of Upper Seago.

Sponsors—Isabella Clifford, Hannah Maria Guy.

PRIVATE BAPTISM.

Maginnis—13th April, 1917, Thomas Edward, son of Thomas Edward and (the late) Mary Adelaide Letitia Maginnis, of Breagh.

Baptisms (March).

[As the names of the sponsors at the Baptisms in March were accidentally omitted in our last issue, we reprint the entries this month.]

The following were Baptized in Seago Parish Church on 3rd March, 1917:—

Hoy—Violet, daughter of Thomas James and Francis Hoy, of Lylo.

Sponsors—Jane Anna Webb, Francis Hoy.

Porter—William Victor, son of Richard and Elizabeth Alice Porter, of Lower Seago.

Sponsors—Susan Jane Strain, Elizabeth Alice Porter.

McMurray—Margaret, daughter of George and Martha McMurray, of Lylo.

Sponsors—Martha Thompson, Martha McMurray.

Marriages.

Neill and Livingston—7th April, 1917, William Neill, of Ballymacrandle, to Mary Rachel Livingstone, of Lisnaminty, Parish of Knocknamuckley.

Shanks and Dawson—19th April, 1917, James Shanks, of Kernan, to Margaret Dawson, of Portadown.

Burials.

Holmes—April 7th, 1917, Jemima M. H. Holmes, of Newstone, Edenderry.

Crossley—April 7th, 1917, Elizabeth Crossley, of Edenderry, aged 15 years.

Montgomery—April 21st, 1917, Sara Montgomery, wife of T. J. Montgomery, of Portadown.

Ruddell—April 22nd, 1917, Elizabeth Ruddell, of Lurgan, aged 58 years.

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

Sad news, as yet unofficial, reached the parish on Wednesday, 2nd inst., to the effect that Lance-Corporal Herbert Murray, of the Canadians, a brother of Mr. David Murray, Rector's Churchwarden, had been dangerously wounded in the previous week and had succumbed to his wounds in No. 6 Casualty Hospital, France, on Wednesday, April 25th. Herbert Murray was beloved by all who knew him. His quiet, steady pursuit of what he felt to be his duty was the predominating influence of his life. He had been wonderfully preserved in all the severe fighting in which he took part. Letters received from him dated April 21st and 23rd spoke of the unceasing conflict raging around him. Two of his chums fell in the fighting at Vimy Ridge. Until the news of his death has received official confirmation we refrain from saying all that we might say about him. He has added another name to the lengthening list of those from the parish of Seago who in this titanic struggle of right against wrong counted not their lives dear unto them, and voluntarily surrendered all, even life itself, that the cause of truth and righteousness might prevail. Our readers will join with us in the expression of deep and sincere sympathy with Mrs. Murray and her family.

The School Debt.

A meeting was held in Seago School on Tuesday, April 17th, to consider what plans could be arranged for paying off the balance of the debt which was incurred in the building of an additional class room in the School. There was a good attendance. In the unavoidable absence of the Rector, the chair was taken by the Rev. T. H. Scanlon. It was finally decided that an appeal should be made to the parishioners for direct subscriptions to cover the debt. A subscription list was opened in the room, and a sum of £20 was immediately subscribed. Further sums have since been received, and collectors have been appointed to take up districts in the parish. In our next issue we hope to print a list of the sums subscribed.

Old Seagoe Notes.

The Mineral Resources of Seagoe Parish, 1837.—The following interesting letter appeared in the "Ulster Times" of Thursday, July 6th, 1837. It has reference to the Limestone Quarries at Kilvergan, at the place commonly called the "Low Mills." Archdeacon Saurin in order to provide work for the people in a period of great distress, opened the Quarries in the year 1836. For some reason the venture proved a failure, and the Archdeacon suffered heavy pecuniary losses amounting it is said to a sum of £4,000. The distress among the people at the time was caused by the great depression in the Linen Trade. A member of Parliament stated at the time, that it was not possible for Handloom Weavers to earn more than three shillings a week. The writer of the letter was J. St. Pierre Foley, Mining Engineer and Lecturer on Chemistry, Dublin. It is dated June 28th, 1837, just 4 days after Queen Victoria ascended the Throne. The heading of the letter is "Limestone Quarries near Lough Neagh."

Letter of J. St. Pierre Foley on Kilvergan, 1837.—Sir,—Having been called on by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Dromore to explore the glebelands of the Archdeaconry, and having found that district exceedingly interesting and valuable, permit me, as I am sure that you consider that whatever tends to the benefit of our country even in a minute manner is deserving the attention of the Public Journalist, to place before your numerous respectable readers, through your columns a few extracts from my general report on the mineralogical nature of that part of Ireland.

The subject of the present letter is centrally situated between Portadown and Lurgan, within one mile of Lough Neagh. It is chiefly composed of white limestone, in which is embedded marble of a very beautiful description, over which lie beds of a brown and blue clay, and grey and white marle. Nodules of various sizes of flint and silicious petrifications of shells, nuts, fishes, etc., lie in the marle and upper stratum of the limestone, the whole dipping northward at an angle of 60 degrees. Basaltic rocks or whinstone strata and some dykes surround the limestone and marble beds, and in some places shoot in like wedges, lying in and over the limestone, and producing branch beds and fugitive strata. On the North of the main quarry now opened the basalt is rapidly decomposing and passing into blue and brown clay, while on the East, South and West it is of the most compact kind forming large blocks of an oblong paralleloiped shape. The limestone is pure dry carbonate of lime, containing by analysis in every 100 parts 44 carbonic acid and 56 lime. In making lime every 22 tons of stone require $2\frac{3}{4}$ th tons of coal, a less quantity than usual producing 130 barrels of pure lime, which sells at 1/1 the barrels at the Kiln.

The limestone sells at the quarry, to the surrounding farmers who have kilns of their own, at from 2/ to 2/4. the ton.

White Marble and Lithographic Stones.

At the depth of seven feet from the surface blocks of beautiful white marble, which take an exceedingly delicate polish that renders it admirably adapted for statues, columns, chimney-pieces, architectural, ornaments, tables, etc., etc., are now taken up. The colour in descent assumes a bluish tinge and its structure becomes more compact and regular. On examining this marble and comparing it with the German and English for lithographic purposes, it has been found preferable to either, it gives the most delicate lines and shapes with the most pleasing effect.

In opening and preparing this quarry for work the Archdeacon was wholly influenced by a desire of giving employment to the labouring classes. He has expended a considerable sum for that purpose, and has succeeded. The poorer weavers who, from a comparative state of comfort, have been sorely distressed since the depression in the linen market are receiving employment in this work, and although they cannot be paid as much wages as they were formerly able to earn they are placed above want and are content.

This rich and abundant mineral might remain neglected and perhaps undiscovered, like many other valuable mines in Ireland, were it not for the anxious desire of this gentleman to assist in calling the resources of his country into action and in alleviating the distresses that are at present so prevalent. Other gentlemen in that neighbourhood are acting similarly, and peace, happiness, and good order, the effects of active and useful employment, do there in consequence prevail.

Marble and Limestone Quarries worth £270,000.—It is found on calculation that there are in this quarry 6,912,000 solid feet of limestone and marble that can be easily worked—every solid foot weighs 140 pounds—so that this quantity is equivalent to 462,000 tons. This would, on burning, produce 2,496,000 barrels of lime, the sale of which at the usual price would amount to £135,000, an enormous sum, the produce of one small portion of our mineral wealth. If the value of its marble and lithographic blocks be taken into account it would amount probably to as much more.

The petrifying property of the waters of Lough Neagh are, though well known, deserving of attention. On the gradual decay of wood or animal matter when confined and slowly decomposing silicious particles that are in solution—though how they are retained there is not so easily explained—take their place, and thus in process of time an apparent transmutation takes place and the whole is converted as it were into stone, sometimes into a species of calcedony, but chiefly into flint.

I am, with respect, etc.,

J. ST. PIERRE FOLEY,
Mining Engineer and Lecturer
on Chemistry.

Dublin, No. 2 Jervis St.,
June 28, 1837.

The Woolsey Family of Portadown.—[The Rev. J. B. Leslie, M.A., a former curate of St. Mark's, Portadown, gives the following interesting particulars regarding the Woolsey Family, of Portadown and Seagoe, in his history of the Parish of Kilsarran, Co. Louth, of which he is at present Rector. The name of Woolsey both as a Christian name and surname is so frequently found in this neighbourhood that any particulars regarding the original Woolsey family are of special interest.]

The Rev. J. B. Leslie writes on p. 67 of his History—The pedigree of the Woolsey family will be found in Burke's landed gentry, which also has full particulars regarding their relatives the Thornhills. The family has been honourably associated with the Parish of Kilsarran for nearly a century and a half. The family claims some connection with the celebrated Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, and the arms which they use are similar to his, but I have been unable to find any facts to show this connection. The first Woolsey will proved in Ireland is that of Benjamin Woolsey or Wolley of Portadown who died in 1690 and who had a son, John Woolsey, and whose son-in-law, Thomas Thornbury, is also mentioned.

[Owing to lack of space we are compelled to hold over the remainder of this note until our next issue.]

Jews Society.

Sermons on behalf of the Jews Society will (D.V.) be preached in Seagoe Church on Sunday, May 13, by the Rev. J. H. Adeney, B.A., Camb. Mr. Adeney has had a wide experience of work among the Jews abroad and at home. He was for several years a curate in a Jewish District in London. For more than a year he worked among the Jews in Berlin, and for 4 years he worked in Jerusalem. Since 1900 he has laboured in Bucharest (Roumania) and the Danubian Principalities.

Offertories for April.

Sunday—Mornings,	£7 18 9
Evenings,	2 3 0
Week Days	1 13 0
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	£11 14 9

The following special collections are included in the above total—Sunday Schools (Easter Day), £4 5s 3d, Jews Society (Good Friday), £1 1s 6d.

The Easter Services.

The services held each evening in the Church during Holy Week were well attended, and those present were enabled by the sequence of the addresses to realise the events in the closing days of our Lord's life on earth. The offerings on Good Friday for the Jews Society were liberal. The Church was decorated for the Easter Festival, and although flowers were scarce, there were sufficient to brighten the Church and to remind us of Nature's Resurrection to newness of life. The special collections at Easter were for the Parish Sunday Schools.

Band of Hope.

A Band of Hope meeting was held in Edenderry Hall on Friday, March 30th, at 8 p.m. There was a crowded attendance, and the programme proved very interesting. Items were given by a large number of our young Edenderry Total Abstiners. The Dialogues were well done and caused much amusement, but each had a useful moral in the story. A large number of new members joined, and their pledge cards will be given to them in the Parochial Hall on a Sunday during this month.

ITEMS.

The stereotype plates from which all copies of the Irish Book of Common Prayer were printed, were destroyed by the fire which broke out in Sackville Street, Dublin, during the Rebellion of last year. The plates were stored on the premises of Alex. Thom & Sons, King's Printers.

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The cost of half-tone blocks for photographic reproduction has almost doubled within the past few weeks, and we regret that just at present it is impossible to publish the photographs of our outgoing Churchwardens, Messrs. R. Price and J. Sands.

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The annual festival of the Lurgan Choral Union takes place in Gilford Parish Church on Saturday, May 26th, at 4 p.m. Seagoe choir is taking part in it.

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It is yet uncertain whether we can have our Sunday School Excursion this year. In our next issue we will be able to make an announcement.

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During the summer months (from May 1st), the Sunday Evening Services at Carbet, will be held only on the second and fourth Sundays of each Month.

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The Daylight Saving introduced on Easter Day, has brought us summer evenings in early spring.

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We have this year escaped both March dust and April Showers.

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Prizes were distributed in Hacknahay Sunday School last Sunday.

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The Rev. W. T. Grey and Mrs. Grey have arrived in England from Japan. Mr. Grey was ill after the voyage, and was for some time in a Nursing Home at Maidstone, Kent, but is now, we are glad to say, quite recovered. We hope soon to see him in Seagoe.

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The Misses Dawson have not yet been able to return to South America. Owing to the presence of submarines on the South American route, the authorities will not allow passengers to embark.

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The extra hours of daylight are a great boon to the "plotters" in the Parish. Everyone seems to be cultivating a plot.