

The Harvest Services.



Our Harvest Services this year have been marked by larger congregations, and more liberal offerings, and we feel there has prevailed a deeper spirit of reverent worship and thanksgiving. The service in the Parish Church on Thursday, October 11th, was very inspiring. Notwithstanding the heavy rain the Church was almost filled. The decorations were very pretty and more flowers than usual were forthcoming. Everyone was rejoiced to see and hear once again the Rev. W. T. Grey after his long absence in Japan. The Collection was in aid of Foreign Missions. The Services were continued on Sunday, October 14th, the preacher at Morning Prayer being the Rev. R. S. Morrison, Rector of St. Saviours's, and in the Evening the Rev. G. Bloomer, Curate of St. Mark's, Portadown. Mr. Bloomer in the course of his sermon made reference to the devastated harvest fields of France from which he has just returned. The Music this year was an important feature of the Services. It was chosen by Mr. T. H. Wilson, and he had conducted the Choir practices, but at the last moment owing to a sore hand he was unable to take his place at the organ. A very willing and capable substitute was found in Mr. Hardcastle the Organist in St. Mark's, Portadown, who at short notice most kindly took Mr. Wilson's place. The special music consisted of Caleb Simper's Harvest Anthem, "When thou hast gathered in thy Corn," also Jackson's well-known setting of the "Te Deum," and Mr. C. Wilson's (a Seagoe man) setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. The Te Deum, the Church's Hymn of Praise, was sung at the close of the Service on Thursday evening.

District Services.

District Harvest Services have been held during the month at Carne, Drumgor, and Tamnificarbet. The services at Carne were held on Sunday, October 7th. The Hall had been tastefully decorated, and at the hour of the service was crowded with the residents of the District. A choir had been formed and the music was good and hearty. The Rector preached on Sunday, and the Rev. T. H. Scanlon at the Monday Service. Drumgor held its services on Sunday 21st and Monday, 22nd. Special care had been given to the decorations, in fact for the whole week the decorators had been at work so that on the Sunday the room had been transformed, elaborate wheat fringes and large type texts in white on a red ground covered the walls. Some of the girl helpers carried giant heads of cabbage several miles to help in the decorations. The Hall was crowded and the people "offered willingly." The Rector preached on Sunday afternoon, and the Rev. F. H. Wilkinson, Senior Curate of Shankill on the Monday evening. Mr. T. H. Wilson kindly took charge of the music. Mrs. MacMullen who has for so many years super-

vised the work in Drumgor Sunday School is to be heartily congratulated on the arrangements for the Services which were in many respects the most encouraging ever held in the District.

Harvest Services in November. Edenderry Parochial Hall—

Sunday, November 4th, at 3.30.

Monday, November 5th, at 8. Rev. W. G. Millington, B.A., Curate of Waringstown.

Levaghery—Sunday, November 11th, at 3.30

Monday, November 12th, at 8.

The offerings on Sundays will be for Local Expenses, and on Mondays for Foreign Missions.

The Sustentation Fund.

The Collectors for this important Fund will soon be going their rounds. We hope the Parishioners will endeavour to increase the amount of their subscriptions. Last year the amount subscribed fell short of the minimum sum required. Unless additional money is subscribed this year it will in a year or two be necessary to make some radical change in the clerical equipment of the Parish. A sum of £200 annually is now a necessity for this Fund.

Lecture of the Rev. G. Bloomer.

On Tuesday, October 16th, the Rev. G. Bloomer gave a most interesting Lecture in Carne Church Hall on the subject of his recent four months visit to the Battlefields of France. The Hall was filled, and all present thoroughly enjoyed the Lecture. The Rector presided, and after a few words of welcome to Mr. Bloomer, called on him to deliver his Lecture. The Lecturer gave a detailed account of his experiences from the day he left Portadown platform to his arrival home four months later. He had some exciting times and had to endure a certain amount of hardship. He described the sad and ruined condition of many French towns. He had nothing but the highest praise for "Tommy" who seems to appreciate very much the efforts made in the Huts to satisfy his spiritual and temporal needs. Mr. Bloomer, at the close of his Lecture, referred in a touching manner to his visit to Herbert Murray's grave. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Lecturer on the motion of the Rev. T. H. Scanlon, seconded by Mr. David Murray, Rector's Churchwarden. In an interval during the Lecture Mr. Murray sang with good effect "The Long Long Trail" and Tipperary."

Offertories for October.

Sunday—Mornings,	£12 8 6
Evenings,	5 12 6
Week Days	0 7 1

£18 8 1

Special offertories included in above—October 11th, Missions, £4 1s 6d; October 14th, Church Expenses Fund, £13 3s 7d.

ITEMS.

Important.—Mr. Francis Maginn, B.D., of the Ulster Mission to the Deaf and Dumb, will hold a meeting on its behalf in Edenderry Parochial Hall, on Tuesday, November 13th, at 8-30 p.m. Tea at 4-30. You are invited to be present.

The Lord Bishop made reference in his address at the recent Diocesan Synod to the loss which the Diocese had sustained in the death of Mr. George Calvert.

Lieut.-Colonel Kelly, of the 1st Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers, has been appointed to the Command of our local Battalion in succession to the late Lieut.-Colonel Somerville.

Gifts of Apples would be greatly appreciated by those in charge of the Rest Room at the Station. The boys in Khaki are very fond of a good apple, so send to the Room a present from your surplus stock.

The Rev. W. T. Grey paid a visit to Messrs. Robb's Factory during his stay in the Parish and renewed many old friendships. Smiles, nods, and hearty handshakes greeted him in all departments of the works. He was greatly delighted with his visit.

The change in the weather has produced its effect in increasing the number of sick cases in the Parish, and also, we regret to say, in bringing bereavement to many homes in the Parish as will be noticed in our list of Burials.

Recent issues of the Magazine have all been sold off within a day or two of publication.

We are glad to learn that Lance-Corporal W. H. Gracey, of Drumgor, is recovering from his severe wounds. Lance-Corporal David Boyce, of Edenderry, is also stronger but not yet able to return home.

Messrs. T. J. Montgomery and James Twinem, represented Seagoe Parish at the Diocesan Synod in Belfast on October 30th.

The entertainment given last month by the Randalstown Troupe of Pierrots on behalf of the Rest Room was very attractive. Every item was first-rate. It was difficult to believe that all the performers had been wounded in the war.

We hope all possible help will be given by our readers to the Child Welfare Movement in Portadown, which will have its headquarters at Carleton House.

Captain Hamilton Hadden, M.C., R.A.M.C., who recently received a bar to his Military Cross has accepted Army Medical Work in India.

The Rev. W. R. Crichton arrived safely at Port Said and is, we hope, by this time in Madras, free from the submarine menace.

We regret to hear that Captain Dobson, who acted as Lay helper in Seagoe Parish some years ago, has recently had a serious attack of fever. He has been doing duty with the Salonika Field Force. We hope to hear favourable accounts of his speedy restoration to his usual health.

Some members of the Select Vestry have recently been doing very practical work in opening up and cleaning the rainwater drains around the Parish Church. They had become choked up with fallen leaves, and for some years had failed to carry off the water from the foundations.

A Sub-Committee of the Select Vestry has been appointed to choose a design for the Tablet to be erected to the memory of the late Mr. George Calvert

The sports organised last month by the Employees of Messrs. Robbs Factory proved a great success. The attendance was very large, and the sports and football provided a great attraction. A very substantial sum has been handed over to the Red Cross as a result of the effort.

We are glad to hear that some of our Seagoe lads who had emigrated to the States before the war have joined up with the U.S.A. Army. We would like to print in later issues a list of such names if relatives will kindly let us know,

War Honours.

The Rev. F. J. Halahan, M.C., C.F., Rector of Drumcree, has again received a notable distinction for devotion to duty in France. He has been awarded a Bar to his Military Cross. Another Chaplain who saw Mr. Halahan at work on August 16th, says that his bravery was magnificent. The Lord Primate in his address last week at the Armagh Synod said that an officer had told him that Mr. Halahan had on many occasions performed heroic deeds which fully deserved the Victoria Cross. Our readers will unite in congratulating Mr. Halahan on this fresh distinction, and we also congratulate the Parish of Drumcree on the possession of a Rector who has done such noble work for God and King and Country.

Sergt. John Milligan, of Century Street, has won the D.C.M., a splendid distinction. The Irish Guards have made a great name for themselves in the war, and one of their bravest men is our own parishioner, Sergeant Milligan. All the men of the family have gone to war, the father and three sons. This is a fine record, and we congratulate Sergeant Milligan and every member of his family on the distinction he has won. Sergeant Milligan has also been mentioned several times in dispatches, and has been awarded the Italian Military Medal for bravery.

Nature Notes.

Some interesting Nature Notes by a competent writer appear in the "Irish Churchman" each week. We reprint one on "Eels" from this week's issue. Pike, Eels and Doloughan (a species of Trout) are the three kinds of fish most frequently found in our local river—the Bann. **Eels**—A strange sight at times to be seen is that of the rocks and stones forming the dry part of a waterfall in some mountain stream near the sea, all thickly covered with young eels. They have come out of the water altogether and are wriggling their way up the moss and rocks, from one pool to the next higher one. The rush of water down the fall is too strong for them, and so instead they have taken to the land. This, indeed, is characteristic of eels. They can live on land as well as in the water, and may at times be found among the grass and rushes of the water side. But where are the young eels coming from? They are coming from the sea where they were born, for though the eel abounds in all rivers, its eggs are laid not in fresh water, but in salt. Then as soon as they are born, almost microscopic in size, they come swimming up the rivers in countless swarms. The water supply of the city of Cork is derived from the river Lea. But the young eels, so small in size, make their way into the filter beds and even manage to get through them and down the pipes into the city. At times you will find, after you have turned on your bath in the morning, a lively company of baby eels ready to share with you your matutinal ablutions. And the water tanks in your house may sometimes be a mass of these little fishes.

Stars—The very bright star noticeable in the heavens during the past few weeks and now rivalling in brilliancy the moon which shines in close proximity, is Venus, the brightest of the Planets. It is at the present moment 40 millions of miles distant from the earth, yet its light is so strong as to cast a distinct shadow. The diameter of the Planet is 7,600 miles. A transit of Venus across the face of the sun took place in 1874 and again in 1882, but even the youngest parishioner of Seagoe will have to live to be 87 years of age to see the next, which is timed to take place on June 8th, 2004.

Another very beautiful sight visible at sunset on any clear evening just now, is the planet Mercury, which may be seen for about two hours just over the setting sun.

PARISH REGISTER for OCT., 1917**Baptisms.**

The following were Baptized on October 6th, 1917.

Moore—Mary, daughter of David and Caroline Moore, of Kernan.

Sponsors—Mary Shanks, Caroline Moore.

Carville—Isaac, son of Valentine and Amelia Carville, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Mary Kelly, Amelia Anna Carville.

Beckett—Gerald, son of Robert James and Jessie Fitzpatrick Beckett, of Tamnifiglasson.

Sponsors—Robert James Beckett, Jessie Fitzpatrick Beckett.

Thornberry—William, son of William (Private, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, M.E.F.) and Elizabeth Thornberry, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Ellen Browne, Mary Kelly.

Marriage.

Askin and Honeyford—6th October, 1917, Thomas Askin, of Edenderry, to Elizabeth Honeyford, of Edenderry.

Burials.

Hoy—October 14th, Thomas Hoy, of Clanrole, aged 66.

Cordy—October 15th, Robert Cordy, of Killicomaine, aged 63 years.

Dynes—October 19th, Henry Dynes, of Lurgan, aged 59.

Hughes—October 23rd, William J. Hughes, of Tarsan, aged 68.

Burnison—October 25th, Harriett Burnison, of Lurgan, aged 16.

Wilson—October 26th, James Wilson, of Lisniskey, aged 83.

Gordon—October 31st, George Gordon, of Lower Seagoe, aged 54.

Condolence.

We have lost by death, as may be seen in this issue, several of our older Parishioners who were very well known to many in our midst. Thomas Hoy, of Clanrole, always took a deep interest in the welfare of the Parish and was ready to help in every good work. James Wilson, of Lisniskey, who passed away at a ripe old age, had spent all his long life in the Parish, and used often to recount his recollections of the days of Archdeacon Saurin and Clerk Walker. His simple faith was well expressed in the sentence of the Creed which he repeated shortly before his death, "I Believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord." Robt. Cordy, Wm, J. Hughes and George Gordon, will be much missed by their many relatives and friends. After long continued illness they have entered into rest. We offer the tribute of our sympathy to the sorrowing ones who mourn the loss of those who were very dear to them.

Old Seagoe Notes.

Jottings from the Lurgan Parochial Magazine, 1881.—In 1809 a piece of Cambrie was bought in Lurgan Market at 2 guineas per yard and presented to the Princess Charlotte.

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In the year 1710 there were no marriages in Lurgan Church, the Marriage Registers for that year contains simply the words "None at all."

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Lough Neagh contains 100,000 square acres of water.

In this Diocese the following attendances were made at the Church Sunday Schools in the year 1853, 13,832; in 1863, 21,472; in 1873, 26,500; in 1881, 33,619.

On December 28th, 1839, Lurgan Workhouse was contracted for and was completed in September, 1840. Cost of Building, £6,130, Fittings, £1,319 3s 9d.

In 1808 the Lurgan and 3 Belfast Banks made their notes payable in Dublin as well as at their own houses. The former had paper circulation of £170,000, the latter (Commercial, Northern and Belfast) had £225,000.

Sale of a Portadown Canteen, 1806.—The "Belfast News-Letter" for Tuesday, February 18th, 1806, contains the following advertisement—

"To be Let for such Term as may be agreed on, and possession immediately given, That extensive and well-situated Canteen in Portadown, consisting of a Brewery capable of turning out 12,000 Barrels annually. Apply Thomas Phelps, junr., Moyallen."

Ancient Inns in Seagoe Parish.—In former days Inns abounded in Seagoe and the neighbouring District. Every Inn had its special name and sign-board. The Rose and Crown was the name of a famous Inn at Moyraverty. The Black Skull was a famous Inn in the neighbouring Parish of Donaghcloney. In Lurgan the following were well-known Inns—The Draper, The Saracen's Head, The Highlander, The Cross Keys, The Black Bull, The Cock, and The Admiral Nelson.

The Font of Seagoe Parish Church.—The Font at present in use in Seagoe Church is very ancient, and was brought from the old Church in 1816, when it was dismantled. It is possible back to a certain point to fix its age. At one period of its history it was subjected to rough handling. Large chips were knocked from the stone, and apparently steel instruments were sharpened by rubbing on its sides. There was only one period when such treatment could have taken place and that was in the interval between 1641 when Old Seagoe Church was burned and 1666 when it was rebuilt by Valentine Blacker. During that period it was unprotected and liable to injury. If our surmise be correct the Font was in use in the Parish Church which existed before 1641. That Church must have been in existence for at least 100 years, but possibly much longer, so that the Font may have been in use so far back as Pre-Reformation Days. There is an ancient Font in Drumcree Parish Church with a remarkable sculptured border. The Font in Shankill Parish Church is also ancient, bearing the date 1684. It was presented to the Parish by the Rev. Legard Blacker, then Rector of Shankill and Prebendary of Dromara.

Colonel Wm. Blacker and "No Surrender."
—(Continued from August issue of S. P. M.)—
It may be of interest to many readers to have a brief memoir of this remarkable Ulster song-writer, who has not inaptly been called the "Orange

Minstrel." The interest is all the greater in view of the celebration of the 12th of July, which marks the centenary of the publication of the song.

William Blacker, of Scandinavian descent, was born at Carrickblacker, Co Armagh, on September 1st, 1777. He was the son of Stewart Blacker, Arch-deacon of Dromore and Dean of Leighlin, and Eliza, daughter of Sir Hugh Hill, Bart, M.P. After a few years at the Royal School of Armagh, he entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1796, and he had as fellow students such distinguished notabilities as Tom Moore, Robert Emmet, Wilson Croker, and others. In 1799 he graduated B.A., and proceeded M.A. in 1803, being at that date an avowed member of the Orange Society. In 1805 he obtained a commission in the 60th Regiment, of which he became Lieutenant-Colonel in 1812; and in 1817—being then married to Anne, daughter of Sir Andrew Ferguson, of Derry—was given the post of Vice-Treasurer of Ireland.

As early as 1815 he wrote a ballad on William Wallace, and then followed his first published song: "No Surrender," written for the 12th of July, 1817. During the years 1820 to 1827 he wrote much prose and verse, In the latter year he succeeded to the Carrickblacker estate on the death of his father, Dean Blacker (December 1st, 1826). Between 1833 and 1840 he contributed many poems to the *Dublin University Magazine* under the *nom de plume* of "Fitzstewart, Bannside," and published his rousing ballad, "Oliver's Advice," in 1834. This ballad contains the oft-quoted line:—

"So put your trust in God, my boys, and keep your powder dry."

His ballad of "The Battle of the Boyne" appeared in the *Dublin University Magazine* for March, 1839.

Colonel Blacker was High Sheriff of Armagh in 1811, and on January 17th, 1817, he was granted the freedom of the city of Dublin. He declined to stand for Parliamentary honours on several occasions, but was a prominent figure in political circles, notably as a champion of Orangeism, and as a consistent opponent of Catholic Emancipation. In 1842 he published a volume of verse entitled: "Ardmagh, a Chronicle," and later appeared "A Tale of Woe, for Children," followed by "Emmaus, a tale for Easter." At length, after a strenuous life of 77 years, he died on November 25th, 1855, leaving behind, in manuscript, three quarto volumes of prose and verse.

It may be added that the tune of "No Surrender" is coeval with the famous siege of Derry, in 1689, and it was printed in 1731, and again in 1791, also by O'Farrell in 1801, and in the "Ordnance Memoir" of Londonderry in 1837. Visitors to Derry may be interested to know that, on the anniversary of the Shutting of the Gates of Derry (December 18th) in 1839, the colours taken from the French during the siege were renewed, or rather replaced, by banners, of pure white silk, presented by the Conservative ladies of County Derry, and duly hung on each side of the chancel window, at which ceremony Colonel Blacker was present.