

adds to the comfort and benefit twenty-eight per. cent., that is quarter of the male inmates employed in effecting these improvements the occupation itself must be beneficial to the minds of those inmates. Of the females more than half were usefully engaged in domestic kinds. The total expenditure for the year was £12,222, giving as the average number of patients 1,000, the average cost was reduced to £12 17s 5d. Deducting the amount the Treasury pays £10 8s of each patient to the county is saving has been effected over the year by a lowering of the careful examination of each article. In his first report as the early portion of the year the Lord Lieutenant was joined by Dr. Courtenay Inspector of Asylums, vacant through the death of Dr Nugent. Your present appointment was in March, and I found the asylum in a satisfactory condition, reflecting the ability of Dr. Courtenay's unceasing connection with the Institution and attendants who so much to promote the welfare of the interests of the Institution thanks are due. I have to thank the Lord Lieut. and the Board of Governors for their cordial administration of the Asylum, and the consideration shown to me in the exercise of my office. It is much to be desired that though coming after he has been able to maintain the continuity of the Institution, and has the hearty and unanimous approval of the Board of Governors.

Bill of Mr Jesse Collings, to provide facilities for the employment of agricultural labourers, read last night in the House without any opposition. The object of the Bill is to provide, as far as possible, the almost total rural population of England, and the large number of the population is being employed in such an extent that the employment of agricultural labour is very difficult to be, and the labourers are in a state of things. To provide an authority is empowered to hire land for the creation of small holdings, which are then re-sold to purchasers, at not more than one-fourth of the purchase

sheep on the catalogue, which will include 110 in-calf heifers, 30 dairy cows and strippers, 20 yearlings, and 30 hoggets. This promises to be one of the best sales of the season, and a large attendance is anticipated. Sale commences at half-past one o'clock.

MILITARY.—Lieutenant Colonel E. Carrington, Worcestershire Regiment, has been placed on half pay. Captain C. E. Telfer to be Major, vice J. L. Rose, promoted. We are glad to observe that Serjt. Major E. Patterson, Derbyshire Regiment, has been promoted Quarter-Master of the corps, with honorary rank of Lieutenant, vice Hon Lieut J. Hogg retired. This month's Army List has it that the 2nd Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), now in Belfast, will be transferred to Limerick; 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, Glasgow to Belfast; and 2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, from Limerick to the Curragh.

THE WATERFORD AND LIMERICK RAILWAY STRIKE.—In accordance with a requisition numerously signed by local merchants and traders, the Mayor has convened a public meeting for to-morrow evening at the Town Hall at four o'clock, to call attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which the traffic is worked on the Waterford and Limerick Railway, and its consequent injurious effects on the interests of the city. Also to again direct attention to the attitude of the directors in locking out the passenger porters, goods porters, and guards who struck work in the month of December, and in favour of whose reinstatement according to the terms of the agreement a very strong feeling prevails in Limerick. Of this fact our readers are so familiar that there is no necessity for referring to it at any length.

DEATH OF THE REV. E. GABBETT, M.A., KILKEE.

The many friends of the Rev. E. Gabbett will hear of his death with regret. Mr Gabbett was incumbent of Shanagolden up to the year 1872, when he resigned, and fixed on Kilkree as his residence. The Rev. Mr. Gabbett, though he had given up the performance of clerical duties, occasionally assisted the Rector of Kilkree with the Sunday services, and his beautiful reading of the Liturgy once heard was never to be forgotten. In private life, Mr Gabbett surrounded himself with a number of friends, who held him in high esteem. He was remarkably well read, and his conversation was full of anecdotes and interesting reminiscences not always gleaned from books. It is seldom so charming a conversationalist is to be met with, and his death removes a typical clergyman of the old school, at once a divine, a scholar, and a gentleman.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON LOUGH DERG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CHRONICLE.
SIR.—I have read with interest the articles in the *Chronicle* with reference to the passenger traffic on Lough Derg, but I cannot see that any alteration of goods, in the "Lady of the Lake" will fit her—as suggested in last *Chronicle*—for carrying passengers. If the goods are stowed below where are the unfortunate people to go when a shower sweeps over the lake? I have frequently, during the time of the Sunday excursions, seen the deck crowded with people, vainly endeavouring to shelter themselves from the sudden squalls for which this lake is famous; and sometimes on Mondays hats, &c., are found washed ashore. I often wonder that so many can be got to go under such uncomfortable conditions, especially as I seldom see an advertisement in the *Chronicle*, or adequate notice given of these water trips. How different it used to be in the days of the

Castle, where Mr and Mrs Mackintosh, with unusual hospitality, entertained a large field. At luncheon we made tracks to Castletown, which is seldom untenanted either, and where, indeed, only a fortnight since we had a red-letter day. On this occasion we feared disappointment, as the hounds were actually drawn off, when a welcome whistle, and then a "gone away" behind, caused no little excitement. The "little red rover" was on foot, running up wind close to us! The party were at once on the line, for-it-ahead! Down a deep ravine, up an almost perpendicular steep, we crossed the road above the village of Castletown and on to Dargans Hill. This point reached, there was a check. Reynard hung covert; and here the event of the day occurred, which we pass over now, preferring to stick to the hounds. (They wavered for a few minutes, hitting off again!) Hounds struck out for the open going a hat over the bottoms, bog-stones flying higher than March dust (so much the better for scent), and where, in marshes, more than one aspiring Nimrod changed the hue of his trowsers—ran into Liskennett, and here the good fox saved his brush after a nice spin of forty-five minutes. Amongst those out were—Mr Roche Kelly, D.L.; Mr A.E. Bannatyne, H.L. Sheriff; Mr T.D. Atkinson, D.L.; Mr and Mrs Wyndham Gabbett, Mr Peter Griffin, J.P.; Mr Butler-Jevens, J.P.; Major Conyers, Captain Forrester, late 3rd Hussars; Mr Deane Shelton, Mr James O'Grady, Delmege, J.P.; Mr N. Browning, Miss Gubbins, Dunkettle; Mr Montiford Gavin, Mr David Conyers, Mr Richard O'Grady, Mr Standish O'Grady, Mr and Miss White Nautenau; Mr Hargreaves, Mr Sweetman, Worcester Regiment; Mr Arthur White, Mr Lloyd, Mr Berresford, &c. Those on wheels include Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Curling and party, Misses O'Grady, Mrs Shelton, Mrs Griffin, and Dr and Mrs Molony.

PARNELLITE APPEAL TO CLARE.

A Federation meeting is announced to be held in Bodyke, the scene of the memorable eviction in 1857, and the Parnellite section has extensively placarded East Clare with calls on the people not to forget 1855, and appeal to Claremen not to allow themselves to be made slaves again after Parnell has made them independent and manly. It runs—"Will you, feeble nationalists of Clare, who never turned your backs to an enemy in the hour of danger, but nobly faced and defied coercion, imprisonment and death for the old cause of Ireland, not when treacherous Whigs are trying the game to divide us, will you join their Federation? Parnell has taught us to organize open to be independent of both agent and landlord; has begged for us when dying of hunger, made the British Government give the Labourers, A. rears, and Land Acts, has educated the British public to the necessity of Home Rule, and not when traitorous attorneys, like Keogh and Saffier in 1855, want to force us to be independent on the Whigs, and be the tail of their party, will you join them and ruin Ireland? Share on the men of Bodyke, who were the first heroes in Clare will be held if they desert Ireland and Parnell, and foul-mouthed paid Attorney Healy, thus desecrating the organization the Irish race was so proud of."

Kildysart Petty Sessions were held yesterday the magistrate present being the Hon. H. I. Vere Perry, R.M. The cases for hearing were of no public interest. By permission of the Duke of Devonshire sale of work in connection with the Irish Distressed Ladies Fund will be held at Devonshire House on 26th and 29th [of April] It will be under the patronage of, and will be opened to her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, President of the Association.