

Not having been favoured with the customary Press passes, we are unable to take any notice of the performance of the Royal Italian Opera Company, which opened its engagement here last night. We regret having to disappoint many of our friends who had specially ordered papers containing the notice, and these included some of the most important of the London Society journals.

DEATH OF JOHN BINDON ALTON, ESQ.

We announce this evening with deep regret the death of John Bindon Alton, Esq., Secretary of the Limerick Fishery Board, who died last night, at his residence at Corbally. Having been for well nigh half a century the principal official of a board that manages the largest fishery district in Ireland, Mr Alton's name was a household word, and from one end to the other of the Shannon the news of his death—though at the ripe age of 80 years—will be heard with unfeigned sorrow. The sad tidings created a painful surprise in the city, where Mr Alton had been, we believe, on yesterday, and though his health was by no means strong for some considerable time back, none anticipated that his long and honourable career was so near its close. Last evening he was engaged with Mr E H P Hosford, Assistant Secretary to the Board, arranging papers for a meeting of the Conservators summoned for Thursday next, and shortly after Mr Hosford had left him—about a quarter to ten—he took very ill, and soon passed painlessly away. To speak of Mr Alton's career at any length would be superfluous. Through life his one characteristic was a conscientious, fearless, and humane discharge of duty—none knew this better than the fishermen themselves, to whom he ever proved a staunch friend. By the Board of Conservators he was held in the highest esteem. His opinions on fishery matters were received with the greatest respect, and valued to the fullest extent, as well they might be, for they were the result of deep and unceasing study of the fishery laws, of which Mr Alton was a thorough master. It would, indeed, be difficult to find in Ireland one who could beat him on a point under the Fishery Law, and he proved many a time, and oft, a formidable opponent at fishery inquiries, and other events in which he officially took part. His worth was recognised by the inspectors and by all connected with the fisheries, and his loss can only be adequately realised as time goes on. Mr Alton was of a very retiring manner, and outside his own duties never took part in public affairs. Latterly, owing to his failing health, he could not take an active part in the administration of the affairs of the Board, but as indicated above, his interest in them literally continued unabated to the last. We tender to his respected family our sincerest sympathy in their great bereavement. The funeral, we learn, will be strictly private.

THE NORFOLK REGIMENT.

The Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette has the following:—The Colonelcy of this regiment, which was rendered vacant by the death of Sir Arthur Borton, has been conferred upon General Elmhirst, and we congratulate both the Corps and the Colonel upon the appointment. General Elmhirst is an old 9th man, and a very distinguished one too. The dates of his commissions

would suggest that special encouragement should be given to the National school teachers to attend these classes, so that they in time might be able to give instructions in these subjects in the National schools.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.

I would suggest that all National School teachers should be allowed to attend all the classes at these schools free, as the success of the movement depends very much upon elementary science and drawing being taught in the National Schools. The great majority of the Irish National School teachers are unacquainted with these subjects, and it is essential that they should be given an opportunity of mastering them.

Cost.

The cost of the Art Classes to the Corporation I estimate at	£ 50 a year.
The cost of Science Teaching	200 "
Workshops	60 "
Women's Classes	60 "

To this we must add for maintenance, say £100, and for salary of Secretary, who should not be one of the teaching staff, say £50, or in all £530.

It would be desirable to have—

- (1) A good lecture hall with preparation room,
- (2) three drawing rooms,
- (3) two science class rooms,
- (4) a laboratory or laboratories,
- (5) two workshops,
- (6) a store-room,
- (7) caretaker's rooms,
- (8) bond-room and office,
- (9) women's class room.

SITE.

Having examined the various sites and buildings in the city, I unhesitatingly recommend the Athenæum as the most suitable. I believe that an arrangement could be come to for this purpose, and that it would be advantageous to the city, to the Corporation, and to the Athenæum Committee. It would save the city the cost of building or acquiring school premises, and it would provide funds for carrying on this excellent institution in a thoroughly efficient manner, instead of the starved condition in which it is at present. These premises would afford nearly all the accommodation required, and I believe that the adjacent house could be purchased for a trifling sum as more accommodation became necessary. It should be understood, however, that in the case of such amalgamation there should be nothing in the nature of a dual or tri-partite government, and I would suggest re-christening the institution and calling it the "Limerick Technical School." If this is not done the traditions of the school will remain and the working classes will not attend. To fit the Athenæum for this purpose we should require a capital outlay of say £700 in providing the necessary plant, and I have no doubt that towards this the Science and Art Department would contribute the sum of £200. The Department would also, if good title is shown, contribute a sufficient building grant to convert the adjoining premises into class-rooms, and to build a communication between the two buildings.

Mr Cusack inquired how the scheme was to be financed?

Mr Graves said he explained to the Corporation the other day that under the Technical Instruction Acts the Corporation had power to levy one penny in the pound, which on the rating of the city would produce £260. There was also a minute in the directory of the Science and Art Department which stated that an imperial grant equal to the amount given by the local authority would be made. They would also have subscriptions and school fees, and, taking all together, he thought their income would not fall far short of £600 a year.

Mr Cusack remarked that they had already

D L ; Mr Spillane, McMahon From the appeared the £211 6s 5d deducted. last Sunday Mr Spill said the c His Lor Mr Spil out of tow great mar was publi they migh tious, but have noti Mr Llc them are Mr Qui cular. I because I His Lor sirable if lection w It was scribers w Mr Spi tailed the were thir six of w shillings, week Mr Qui hospital Mr Spi children Mr Cre Mr Spi His Lo Children it was ve benefact Mr Spi the Child South H Mr Cre hospital His Lo Mr S obliged t His Lo it was t possible. Mr S start wit us we i never t tionary the £1. the govt On th Haran v applicar vernors, shall be to such suggest Mr S entiv of any of good Chequ passed, SALE Mr Wn property the Sa directe

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