

had held throughout the length and breadth of China that citizens of this country should have equal commercial rights with the citizens of other countries. This country had certain spheres of interest in China, and it was impossible to maintain that no other country was to have them also. As regarded the Treaty of Tientsin, Sir William Harcourt was mistaken in supposing that it was abrogated as to the province of Shantung or any other part of China. It had not been invaded by Germany in Shantung, or by Russia in Manchuria. Wei-Hai-Wei was taken for military and diplomatic purposes which were known, and as it was taken without reference to the taking of Kiao-Chau by Germany, he failed to see what objection there could be to conciliating Germany by the assurances that were given. With regard to the ships at Port Arthur the changes, he said, took place in the ordinary course of Admiralty management. He admitted that a great many of his friends thought we ought at all hazards to have prevented Russia from going to Port Arthur, and he believed it would have been possible for us to do so. He believed that if we had sent our fleet up there Russia would not have made it a *casus belli*, but he would never take part in a game of bluff which might result in a European war unless he was prepared to face that consequence. Finally expressing his view of the general situation he said the public were told that the last six or seven months had been an unbroken series of triumphs for Russian diplomacy and of humiliations for English diplomacy, but he was convinced that the position of Russia in the Far East seven or eight months ago was incomparably better than it was now. The control of Europe in the Far East might never come about, but we had taken every precaution that, if it did, our commerce and freedom should not find themselves at a disadvantage. Russia had advantages of which she could not be deprived, but she had deprived herself of many of the advantages that she might have enjoyed, and at this moment all these countries, whose common interest was freedom of commerce in China, found themselves in an incomparably stronger position as regarded the future than they were seven months ago. He cared not what judgment might be passed upon this telegram or that despatch, but after all those months of active diplomacy we found ourselves commercially and strategically in a far stronger position than we were before, and

had appeared only that morning as a professed bit of humorous fiction in a sporting paper, under the title of "Sample Day at Bally—something or other. Presently we shall have legislators quoting incidents from the "Hunting of the Shark" as evidence of political movements.

The Royal Irish Regiment was engaged for some hours last night at the North Strand and Lansdowne in performing a series of mid-night drills. The corps returned to barracks shortly after ten o'clock.

LIMERICK COUNTY CRICKET CLUB.—The first club day of the season will be held on Monday next, when, by kind permission of the Colonel and Officers, the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment will attend. A cricket match will be played, and tea given by the club.

ENTERTAINMENT AT KILRUSH.—A musical and dramatic entertainment, promoted by Mr and Mrs R W C Reeves, of Besboro, is to be held in the Courthouse, Kilrush, on Tuesday evening next, the proceeds to be in aid of the poor of the town. Several ladies and gentlemen will support the programme.

GAME PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Game Protection Association was held on Thursday, in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, Lord Massy in the chair. A hope was expressed that the present dog tax would be increased, as stray dogs were responsible for a great deal of the poaching.

THE SHANNON HOTEL, CASTLECONNELL.—The following are now staying at above Hotel:—Mr R B West, Mr and Mrs W H Cripps and family, Mr C B Lockwood, Mr G C Williams, Mr G W Greenhill, Mr W C Jones. The departures include Mr L Cripps, Mr R Cripps, Captain Booth, 3rd Buffs; Mrs Jones, Mr W P Jones, Mr and Mrs Brewer.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—Our Kilmallock correspondent reports the death at the remarkable age of 103 years, of a farmer named William O'Brien, of Kilbreedy Minor, near Kilmallock. Deceased all through his life enjoyed excellent health, and almost up to the last retained possession of his intellectual faculties. His funeral took place yesterday for the family burial ground at Newtown Shandrum, Charleville.

FISHING AT CASTLECONNELL.—On Doonass fishery Mr G C Williams killed on the 26th, two salmon, 19½, 25½lbs; 27th, one salmon 23lbs. On the same water Captain A B Crabbs killed on the 28th, two salmon, 21½, 32lbs. On Prospect Mr C B Lockwood killed on the 26th, one salmon 21lbs. On Hermitage the fishermen killed on the 26th, one salmon 22lbs. On Woodlands Mr G C Williams killed on the 23rd, one salmon 23lbs; 26th, one salmon 15lbs. On the Castle fishery Mr G W Greenhill killed on the 27th one salmon 22½lbs; 28th, one salmon 26½lbs.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL—May 1st (Third Sunday after Easter), St Philip and St James's Day—Holy Communion 8.0 a m; morning prayer 11.30; Venite, Stainer in C; Chants, Hayes in F, and Hopkins in C; Service, Garrett in D; Hymn, No 363; Communion Service, Garrett in D;

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