

lugubrious epistle. *quiche* has in it several notices of race to be held in both the counties of Clare and Cork. It delights me to know that

"THE SPORT OF KINGS"

pre-eminent place in the affections of the people. There is no sport so glorious as is horse racing. I remember racing in Ireland it was never made the motor for extensive operations. Of course everyone backed a favourite for a small bet, but it was the sport that predominated. In New Zealand until recently four race courses were as fine as could be found and two were known as "Merry-go-round" on them races were run every day of the year. They were only half-mile courses. The courses were opened for 100 days each year, the means of bringing a great many people to this city annually, and as the followers of the sport are always good spenders the city benefited. But there is the leaven of the fathers still in this country, and a party organised against racing or rather gambling that was part and parcel of the legislature enacted a law which virtually killed racing in the State of Louisiana, the law does not prohibit racing, but it has put its foot down on gambling that was part and parcel of it. There were there daily 20 or more bookmakers each paid \$100 (twenty pounds) a privilege of running a book within the State. So it is easy to judge that with the money paid by the bookmakers a severe lead to the game. Racing emasculated gambling features was attempted, but it failed that it did not pay, so it has been abandoned.

However, when the legislature meets an attempt will be made to have the law lifted as to permit gambling in a mild way that may be.

with pleasure the race meetings at

THE NEWCASTLE COURSE.

men racing in the four quarters of the year. I never enjoyed any so much as I do the Newcastle course. What a sight was presented on the days of racing. Blackguard Hill so densely packed at it gave some semblance for its name, as black as ink. I remember one very interesting. I forget what year it was, but one year Kate Fisher won the Tradesmen's race. The race is before my eyes as I write. I see the little mare clearing the big jump at the Tradesmen's Field; I see her jumping the fence near the entrance gate, the big fence that has so many gallant horses to grief. Tommy of Abington, rode the mare to victory, well did he ride her. But the next day her horse was killed at the big fence near the gate. She was ridden by an Englishman (Grant), who enjoyed a national reputation as a steeplechase rider. A very interesting accident occurred. When Kate Fisher fell and came back, Grant was dazed by the fall. He fell on his feet, and seizing the bridle of a horse also come to grief, he mounted the horse to the weighing yard. A groom accosted him and said to him, "When did you change horses?" It was not until then that Grant discovered the fact that he was not returning upon his horse.

LITERATURE.

For many years I plead guilty to being a bookish man. I think that I learned more from my first schoolmaster, Rev. Mr. Lema, who was a pastmaster in his love of books. I have amassed a very large library, and flatter myself that I own some good books. Every morning I visit the stores

I had never heard, thrice, "A horse," and then with a sigh more like the wind that breath she vanished, and to me her body looked more like a thick cloud than substance. I was so much frightened that my hair stood on end, and my night clothes fell off. I pulled and pinched your father, who never woke during the disorder I was in; but at last was much surprised to see me in this fright, and more so when I related the story and showed him the open window. Neither of us slept any more that night."

[The extract proceeds to explain the history of the "apparition."]

The book from which I copied the foregoing is at the disposal of the city of Limerick. Wishing the *Chronicle* every good luck,

Yours very faithfully,

AUBREY MURRAY.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. JAMES BOURKE.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon from St. Mary's R.C. Church of Mr. James Bourke, whose death took place after a protracted illness, at his residence, Athlunkard-street. The deceased, who had only reached his 30th year, had been in failing health for some time, but during the past few weeks he gradually became weaker, and despite the tender care and devotion of his family the end came, as stated. He was held in the highest esteem by a very wide circle of acquaintances, his frank and courteous manner establishing him a universal favourite, and this was testified by the large number who attended to pay a last tribute of respect to his memory. The utmost sympathy is extended to his young widow and family in their bereavement.

The clergy present were—Rev. Fr. Shanahan, P.P., St. Mary's; Rev. Fr. Rea, C.C., do.; Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, C.C., do.

The chief mourners included—Messrs. Thomas, Michael, Robert, Patrick, and Ted Bourke (brothers), James O'Brien (cousin), Patrick and John Lynch (brothers-in-law), etc.

The general public included the members of the Athlunkard Boat Club (of which deceased was an esteemed member), and a very large number of citizens.

Some very handsome floral tributes were laid on the grave.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES.

According to *Kemp's Mercantile Gazette*, the number of failures recorded in Ireland during the week ending April 23rd was 16—viz., new bankruptcy proceedings published in the *Dublin Gazette*, 4; deeds of arrangement filed at the Bills of Sale Office, 12. The respective numbers in the corresponding week of last year were: Bankruptcies, 2; deeds of arrangement, 7—total, 9; being a net decrease in Bankruptcies of 4, and a net decrease in Deeds of Arrangement in 1910, to date, of 10.

The number of bills of sale published in Ireland during the same week was 3. The number in the corresponding week of last year was 5, showing a decrease of 2, being a net decrease in 1910, to date, of 27.

The number of bonds and judgments published for the week was 58, of which 27 were against Traders and 31 against Farmers and non-Traders. The numbers in the corresponding week of last year were 33 against traders and 40 against farmers and non-traders, showing a decrease of 6 against traders, and a decrease of 5 against

Is not that the procedure?

The Secretary answered in the affirmative, and added that he had the necessary drafted, but he wished to consult the date of nomination.

It was decided to fix the nomination for Wednesday, and the election to take place on Thursday. The Mayor—Will some gentleman adjournment of the Board?

Mr. Holliday said of course they would adjourn, and it was a well-known fact that the city had suffered a great loss by the death of their esteemed friend and colleague Mr. Stokes. Mr. Stokes was a gentleman esteemed and respected by everyone. He was a man who had a high standing among the community in which he lived. He was always courteous and affable, and desirous to help every good cause in the city. He (Mr. Holliday) would like to adjourn that meeting as a token of his memory, and that a vote of condolence be tendered to his widow and family in their bereavement.

Mr. Cleeve—The resolution is carried unanimously.

Mr. Holliday—And in silence.

The Mayor said it was with feelings of emotion that he received the vote of condolence on the death of their esteemed colleague, the late Mr. Stokes. It was a privilege to know Mr. Stokes and to have his confidence since boyhood, and a most valuable personality it would be impossible to come into contact with (hear, hear). He (Mr. Stokes) was voicing the feelings of every member of the Board when he said it was with feelings of emotion they were called upon to tender their condolence with the widow and deceased gentleman.

The Board then adjourned.

References in the Clergy of ST. MICHAEL'S.

Preaching in St. Michael's Church on the morning of the Ven. Archdeacon's funeral, I have a duty to perform which is not charged, not because I feel too little, but because I feel too much. I see before me the front seats in the church, so long occupied, and both empty to-day. A gentle, retiring Christian woman, who to all has been called to her rest, a public man, for many years an inhabitant of Limerick, has been taken from us. Though there had been some faint call to eternity came with startling warning, if indeed anyone needs a warning, to be ready for the call. The honoured and beloved William Stokes will never be forgotten in the city, in his place in the church. He has passed, through his Saviour's merits, to a Greatly will our dear friend be missed. His spirit won for him universal love, but trusted him, no one but valued him. As to his own immediate sacred relations of home are not forgotten. It is not so difficult to speak to those who believe in the value of culture—the important nurture of the frame. He knew that in our common spirit, soul, and body, the neglect of the perfectness of all—that it is a health that each should have, and that there is a Christian duty in