

rent types of minds, but nobody, perhaps, got at the great heart of the masses of authors like Charles Dickens has and does. When we remember how much Dickens' novels are still used as human nature's daily literary diet, it is hard to realise that a hundred years have passed away since he was born at Landport, fifty years since almost all his greatest works were completed and published. Yet there are plenty of reminders in the novels themselves that they were written in early Victorian days. The world of Pickwick, of Little Nell, of Fagin, of Tom Sawyer, of Micawber, and the rest of them, know no railways, no telegraphs, no penny post, and need none of the refinements of civilisation which have seemed to be the every day necessities of life, as long as most of us have known it. It is only in the settings of his stories that Charles Dickens has grown old-fashioned. His novels, like the works of Shakespeare, are not for a moment out of date, but for all time, and for the same reason, because human hearts are the same in all ages, and both writers knew well how to play upon the human heart strings. This is an age of vigorous individualism, and Dickens has not escaped. We are told that his books have little or no plot, that they are discursive and incoherent, and so forth. But who has laid down the rule that a novelist must have a well-knit cohesive plot? We do not read Dickens for the sake of his plots, but for the glorious wealth of insight into human life, the rich vein of humour, the neatness of description, the strength of characterisation, and a hundred other sources of charm which they so gallantly disclose. As we read Dickens, indeed, we realise how little important what we term "plot" is to the enjoyment which can be got out of a good book. It is because Dickens paints his characters with such a broad brush that they are so vividly in the mind. It has been said that no novelist since Dickens has impressed his characters so much upon the common speech of the people. The Dickens centenary is worth celebrating, if only for the work which the great novelist did as a reformer, but there are many other reasons why his great name will be honored for all time.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Weather.

It will be a relief to most people that the Arctic weather we have experienced for the past week or so has disappeared—at all events largely so. The thaw was noticeable yesterday, and this morning was bright and mild, compared with the extremely bitter blasts which have swept the country from end to end for some days back, accompanied by heavy snowfalls in many places. The intensity of the frost was abnormal, and not for many years had skaters such a time of it as hundreds of the citizens have continuously enjoyed at Loughmore from Friday up to yesterday. The

Ordnance Department for four years, and is to report himself at Aldershot for duty. Captain Kelly only took up duty as adjutant four months ago.

Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood will be seventy-four years of age on Friday next. Educated at Marlborough, he entered the Navy in 1852, and two years later served with the naval brigade in the Crimea, being severely wounded at the storming of the Redan. After the war he joined the Army. He served with the 17th Lancers during the Indian Mutiny, and was twice mentioned in despatches and given the V.C., he being awarded the Cross for Valour for his gallant conduct when in command of a troop of the 3rd Madras Light Cavalry. Subsequently he served in the Ashanti, Kaffir, Zulu, Transvaal, and Egyptian Campaigns. He raised the Egyptian Army, and from 1883 to 1885 was Sirdar. Sir Evelyn takes great interest in the Territorial Force, and is Chairman of the City of London Territorial Association. He is also a barrister of the Middle Temple, and hon. Colonel of the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps. The gallant Field-Marshal is laid up at Millhurst, Harlow. Last week he caught a chill, which has been followed by a severe attack of influenza.

DEATH OF MR. W. RIORDAN.

We regret to record this evening the death of Mr. William Riordan, which took place at his residence, Wellesley Terrace, North Strand, on Sunday afternoon. The deceased had been ailing for a considerable time, and his death was not unexpected. He was a well-known citizen, and enjoyed a measure of popularity which does not fall to the lot of everybody. For more than fifteen years he occupied the position of draughtsman at Messrs. J. P. Evans and Company, George-street, and in this respect his work was the best criterion of his undoubted ability. He was possessed of an artistic bent which was highly developed, and this was evidenced by the numerous illuminated addresses which he executed from time to time. As a colleague and companion no better could be found, and now that he has passed away, his demise will be regretted by a large circle of friends, who extend their sympathies to his wife in her irreparable loss.

The interment took place this morning in St. Munchin's Cemetery, in presence of a large body of mourners, who were present to offer their final tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The chief mourners were—Mrs. Riordan, wife; Miss Riordan, sister; H. Wilson.

Amongst the general public present or who sent carriages were—The Mayor, Lady Cleeve, F. C. Cleeve, D.L.; Cecil Cleeve, C. O. Jones, D. Hannon, B.C.; T. Forde, B.C.; W. Holliday, J.P. (High Sheriff), E. C. Holliday, G. N. Ruttle, T. Bourke, M. S. Hayes, J. A. Quirke, S. Cunningham, E. H. Collopy, E. J. Kennedy, S. J. Johnstone, S. Christy, R. Hanna, C. Sheehan, M. Ryan, T. S. Lawlor, J. G. O'Brien, J. J. McMahon, P. Curran, A. Enright, etc.

The officiating clergy were—Rev. Canon Robertson, and Rev. G. L. Webster.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL.

On Sunday next, the 11th inst., at 3.30 p.m., there will be a special Service of Thanksgiving for the King's and Queen's safe return from India. The Lord Bishop will preach. The special music will include Handel's "Zadok the Priest," and Martin's Te Deum in A, and will be sung by a large augmented choir, assisted by the band of the York and Lancaster Regiment, by kind permission of Colonel Byass.

which he would have to face was that of a new church. (Applause.) He mentioned that lady's name because her permission to do so.

The speakers to the several resolutions were Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Long, Dr. Shanahan, Nash, Mr. Tidmarsh, Mr. Lalor, Ald. Boyle, solr., Mr. T. Donnellan, and Begley.

CORPORATION AND ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

On Sunday last, on the invitation of Father Murphy, Adm., the Mayor and Corporation paid their annual visit to St. John's and attended High Mass, at which time Dr. O'Dwyer was present. The Mayoress, who were accompanied by Mr. Wm. M. Nolan, J.P., and attended as Sword-Bearer and Sergeants-at-Arms the Cathedral in a semi-open carriage.

At the conclusion of the High Mass the Corporation were received by his lordship in the course of his address, said he welcomed the whole Catholic body of the diocese to receive with great pleasure the assurance that their Holy Father the Pope had responded to a petition which he had presented to him, to restore the ancient Cathedral of Limerick, and to raise the beauties which they were assembled to the Cathedral. His lordship hoped that the Pope would not, or pretend to see, in this exercise of jurisdiction by the Pope another instance of aggression.

The Mayor also spoke and said it was to them, this proof of the high esteem in which his Lordship was so desirous of the Holy Father that it remained his Episcopacy that this ancient Cathedral was restored. They fervently prayed God that he might be able to rule over this diocese, which he guided and adorned.

The members of the Corporation who attended the function were Ald. Joyce, M.P.; Ald. Dillon, Ald. McNiece, Ald. Councillors—J. P. Lynch, D. Griffin, D. Hannon, M. Griffin, T. Forde, Slattery, M. O'Callaghan, D. Cantre, M. Leahy, J.P.

The officers of the Council in attendance were—Messrs. John Dundon, Law Adm., Morrissey, Assistant Treasurer; J. P. Secretary Gas Committee; T. O'Connell, Superintendent; James Comerford, Technical Education Committee; McNamara, Assistant do. The F.P. uniform, under control of Captain S. also in attendance as a guard of honor.

THE MAYORALTY.

Councillor T. Ryan Congratulated.

At a Committee meeting of the Urban and Storemen's Society, held at the Bank Place, on Wednesday evening, it was stated that he had great pleasure in the re-election of Councillor T. Ryan. He could not forget that when in a short time ago the Mayor, at great cost to himself and his business, responded to him for assistance. It was a memory of the great enthusiasm he was obtaining for them some first class and he (speaker) had great pleasure in tendering to him as a small token of the united congratulations of the Society and esteem.

Mr. P. Hynes, Vice President, said