

One of the latest incidents of the war, and a moving and incident it is, is the valedictory of old Marshal Sir John French to his army in the West, which he addressed with such conspicuous eloquence from the very inception of the war down to the present time, a period of sixteen months. The humaneness and a conspicuous feature of Sir John's Order, and one can fully understand his personal feelings that animated him when he penned it. His heartfelt parting words from the troops; his words for "their indomitable spirit and tenacity, which knows no defeat"; his words for the wounded, his touching tribute to the memory of the glorious host of his beloved comrades who have laid down their lives for us—all these are nobly and impressively expressed. And while deep pathos and a regard pervade Sir John's Order, it has, as regards the cheerfulness, a most confident tone, and it fails to bring joy to the troops, and to the civilian population of the Empire and the Allied countries. On parting with the Army before the campaign has been a victorious conclusion, he adds worthy words "I have the conviction that such a glorious future is in store for their splendid and heroic efforts. I shall watch their progress towards this final goal with intense interest, and I shall watch their progress in the most confident hope." "The little Army," as the Emperor called it, which Sir John commanded in the early days of the war, now assumed the proportions of a mighty force, fully equipped, and well trained. We have become a world Power which the Kaiser has given up despising. Spite of all the initial stages of the war, our Army has heroically withstood the severest tests in various theatres of war. And our forces have swelled into

The Bishop then addressed the assemblage. He said his first impression, seeing the book prizes before him, was to wish that he was young again, in order that he might be able to procure a prize at that distribution. The Dean and he remembered their days at Trinity College when they studied and waited anxiously outside the examination hall to know the results, and the disappointment was often keen. The prizes the children were there to receive that evening were an evidence of the work done during the past year. His lordship was glad to see that the High School encouraged physical as well as mental exercises—a healthy mind in a sound body was very important, and for that reason he was very pleased to notice that physical exercise was not overlooked in the School. His own experience was that the student who excelled in the field of play was always forward in the class-room, and won the most prizes, and for that reason he hoped these two things would continue to go hand in hand in the High School. He congratulated the pupils on the success achieved during the year, especially in the Intermediate Examinations, where they have shown exceptional mental proficiency. (Applause.)

THE REPORT.

The Very Rev the Dean read the report which will appear in our next issue. The prizes were then distributed by Mrs Haekett, after which the children sang the song of the Allies, followed by the National Anthem. The staff of "The High School" wish to return their most grateful thanks to the following ladies who so kindly contributed to the success of their distribution:—Mrs Adderley, Mrs Abbott, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Vokes, Mrs and Miss Day, Miss Lee, Miss O'Brice, and all the parents of the pupils of the High School. They also wish to thank the following gentlemen:—Major Gibbon, Captain Odum, and Lieut Julian for judging Drill and Club Swinging Competitions, and Mr Levery for presenting the programme.

DEATH OF MR JOHN DeC. McDONNELL.

We regret to observe the following announcement, which appears in the London correspondence of the "Independent" to-day:—"News reached London yesterday of the tragically sudden death of Second-Lieutenant John De Courcy McDonnell, of the Gordon Highlanders. Mr McDonnell, who was the only son of the late Mr Robert McDonnell, J.P., for many years Town Clerk of Limerick, was a gifted litterateur, and had published various historical works, one of the most noted of which was 'Belgium: Her Kings, Kingdom, and People,' which ran into four editions. Coming to England, after the outbreak of war, from Brussels, where he had resided for many years, he enlisted as a private in the Gordon Highlanders, and four weeks ago received his commission in the same regiment. Having undergone his preliminary training at Aberdeen, he was transferred to Ripon, where he died suddenly from heart failure last week. With full military honours he was buried in the Catholic Cemetery there on Friday last." The news of Mr McDonnell's death will be received with sorrow by very many old friends in Limerick, by whom his respected family, for generations associated with trade and commerce in the city, were held in the highest esteem and regard.

Mr Lloyd George and Supply of Munitions.

Mr Lloyd George in the House of Commons yesterday made a detailed statement of the satisfactory progress of the work of increasing and speeding up the supply of munitions. He incidentally acknowledged the great contribution which had been given by Ireland. Sir Esmond, however, asked that Ireland should have more opportunities for supply of munitions.

**THE DRINK QUESTION
Methodist Abstainers' League Resolution.**

The following is a copy of a resolution passed unanimously, the audience standing, at a temperance meeting held in the Cent Bedford Row, last evening (Rev C. J. G. presiding), under the auspices of the local committee of the Methodist Abstainers' League:—
"Resolved—That we regret having attracted the attention of the Government to the question of the supply of drink, and to ask that they permit the very life of the Nation to be imperilled by this traffic. War service is seriously affected and it is apparent that the measures of restriction which have been imposed in portions of the United Kingdom are but trifling with evil. We earnestly protest against such a sacrifice of national welfare and safety, to the interests of the drink trade, and have learned with regret that notwithstanding the millions of men in national service and an advance of about 50 per cent in the price of drink, the consumption has increased, and that the House of Commons declines to support its precept by legislation. Copies to be forwarded to the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.; the Marquis of Idrone, M.P.; A. Bonar Law, M.P.; D. Lloyd George, M.P.; Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener."

THEATRE ROYAL.

The star turn at the Theatre Royal was the amusing equilibrist "Strength." This remarkable pair gave some very interesting exhibitions of their physical powers and feats, which kept the audience's attention during their occupation of the stage. They are undoubtedly smart and expert exponents of their art, and should be appreciated. The celebrated entertainer, the "Two Boyds," gave a very interesting performance of the piano, and were equally as dancers. Mr Norman Field showed his ability as a harpist. His Irish selections were tasteful and accomplished, and he was the recipient of a well-deserved encore. Carrickford, in the role of an Irish collector, had a distinct success. She was a taking and entertaining singer, her singing of Irish ballads given with feeling and expression. "Lee, described on the programme as a comedian and a comedy girl," kept the house laughing and quite refreshed by play and drollery. A very fine performance on the whole, a criterion of the discrimination and management in catering for the requirements of the patrons.