

CHRISTMASTIDE.

moment our thoughts turn to the Christian Festival, which to-morrow celebrated throughout the civilised Christmas Day, with the Divine of Peace on Earth and Goodwill, comes to us once more, and it before, be acclaimed with devout and heartfelt thanksgiving. Spite it is said—and only too truly said in the depression, the traditional spirit of Christmas is as much in the ascendant as ever it was. Political differences, and cleavages, public or private, give way to happy thoughts and generous feelings. Here at this time members of the family re-assemble round the board, perhaps but once in a year, as otherwise during the twelve months of their lives and daily occupations are kept long apart. Again, for everyone a brief period of well-earned rest from exacting cares, responsibilities, and the demands of this work-a-day world, and mutual sympathies and happy thoughts are uppermost. The season's greetings from friends and kindred. Pessimism gives way to lofty thoughts, and so our Christmas is all the more precious and true to the custom handed down to us from generation to generation. Those who are blessed with this world's goods, in a large or limited degree, will naturally spend the festive season. But if it is so, they cannot, and we feel they will not, be unmindful of the pressing needs of the poor. Not for years past have the needs been so acute as they are now, and here in Limerick, as elsewhere, the charitable public are generously subscribing to funds that will bring a measure of comfort to the large numbers

MILD WEATHER.

The remarkably mild weather which has prevailed for some time past is evidenced by the fact that primroses have been found in full bloom in Limerick, and other flowers as well as strawberries have been picked in other parts of the country. Another illustration comes from County Tipperary. Mrs M. L. Cullen, of Rose Hill, Newport, says that she has in her open garden the following plants:—Arabis (mauve), rock rose (cistus), tube roses (white), monthly roses (pink), red roses (George Dickson), schizanthus, polyanthus, auricules, violets, scarlet japonica, jessamine (yellow), various coloured chrysanthemums, tritoma (red hot poker), wallflowers (all colours), and blue delphinium. "I think," she adds, "this is not usual at this time of year—Christmas week—but it shows how very mild the present weather is."

DEATH OF MR CHARLES SHEEHAN.

We regret to announce the death of Mr Charles Sheehan, which occurred this morning at the residence of his sister, Thomas-town, Kilmallock. The deceased, who was in the prime of life, was youngest son of the late Mr Michael Sheehan, hay merchant, Lower Mallow Street, and nephew of Mr Joseph Sheehan, the well-known operatic singer and artiste. Mr Sheehan had been ailing some time, and his death will be learned with sorrow by a wide circle of friends in the city. The remains will be removed to St. Michael's Church to-morrow (Christmas Day) and the funeral will leave for Mount St. Lawrence on Monday at 11 o'clock.

LIMERICK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.

Prize Coupon Scheme.

The Limerick Development Association draw in connection with the prize coupon scheme will take place in St. Michael's Temperance Hall on Tuesday, December 27th, at 7.30 p.m., the Mayor presiding. First prize £50, second £20, third £10, and

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