

COUNTY WEXFORD  
TOURNAMENT.

MR. O'BRIEN

On Sunday last the final tie in the hurling competition was played in the now historic Crosstown, and a greater number of spectators assembled than on any other day since the commencement of the Tournament. Every club in the southern portion of the county was represented amongst the spectators, while there was a small contingent from the metropolis even. Nor was the enormous attendance to be wondered at; since, for the past month, the match between Oulart and Blackwater was the standing topic in Gaelic circles, and a great deal of speculation was indulged in as to which club would prove the victor. The game was a most interesting one, and must be considered the best which has been seen in the county since the revival of our national pastime. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the players for the manly and Gaelic spirit in which the match was conducted; while the outsiders, also, merit a word of approbation for the very good order which they preserved throughout the entire game. During the first half the ground was in pretty fair condition, but just at change of sides a sharp shower fell, and for about fifteen minutes there was a cold drizzling rain, succeeded by another smart shower. The field is nearly destitute of grass, and consequently it was almost impossible for the players to keep their feet in the second half the ground was in such a slippery condition.

THE MATCH.

Blackwater for the first half played down the hill. When the ball was thrown in the play remained about the centre for a moment or so, the ball being driven here and there as the players scattered, and then went slightly into Blackwater ground, while from the side lines and from the players themselves shouts of "Go on Oulart, rush it up" were heard. Not for long did the play stop near the centre, for when the Blackwater men scattered their powerful strokes began to tell, and very soon the ball was at the lower end of the field and over the goal line. The Blackwater men sent the leather over the end line a second time, and then Oulart, by a magnificent rush and very skilful passing, brought it to the upper end of the field and made a try. This was quick work—in less than five minutes the play had been at each end of the field; but the Blackwater men were already the favourites, for it was at once seen that their strokes were far more powerful than those of the Oulart men. Down the hill went the ball again, and this time more successfully than before, for the Blackwater forwards got it well in hand (or on their hurleys) and made a point. They followed up the advantage they had obtained, and about five minutes after placed a goal to their credit. Oulart now put on a spurt and forced the ball up the hill and well into their opponents' grounds, where for a couple of minutes short and sharp was the order of play, each side doing its utmost—the Oularts to get the ball sufficiently forward to try and score, and the Blackwaters to prevent them. One of the Blackwater backs, however, got an open stroke, and making the most of his opportunity, sent the ball to the centre of the field, where one of his comrades ably imitated the good example set him, and put the leather again into Oulart territory, which it did not leave until two points had been scored. There was now another spell of play near the centre, the ball going over the side lines several times. Again the ball paid a visit to Oulart territory, but though Blackwater worked hard there was no additional score, and the Hill men, putting forth every effort, relieved the pressure on their posts and coming gallantly up the field made a desperate attempt to score. Right in front of the posts went the ball, only to be driven thirty yards down the field. Back again it went just as quickly, and Oulart making a splendid dash thought to send it in, but fruitlessly, for the leather went over the end line just outside the point post. Half time was now up, and there was very little delay until the ball was again set rolling, while the play was closely watched to see if Oulart would be able to level matters now that they had the hill in their favour. Blackwater kept the ball up the hill, though Oulart fought stoutly against them, and then the leather went down along the side line, and for a good while there was some highly exciting play about the centre. Up the field went the ball again. Blackwater pressing the Hill men very hard, and before they let the ball come down again they had scored a goal and a point. Again the centre of the field was the scene of operations, but not for very long, for Blackwater forced the play up the hill, and for the remainder of the time did not let it leave Oulart territory, and in spite of the defence of the Hill men, who though it was evident that they were playing a lost game, never slacked their play, made three goals and a point. When the whistle was sounded Oulart left the field, but Blackwater remained on it for some time, as there was a rumour that the time was not up, and they were determined not to run any risk of having to play the game over again. The referee, however, soon settled that point, and the Blackwater men proceeded to the standhouse to receive their well-won medals.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE MEDALS.

The presentation of the medals then took place at the Standhouse, the duty of making the presentation having been entrusted to Mr. P. P. Sutton, the able and popular representative of Sport, who on many previous occasions has given, through the columns of the Pink 'Un, word pictures of Gaelic contests in Wexford. The Blackwaters having been summoned to attend in order to receive the honours, surrounded the members of the County Committee, and Mr. Sutton, addressing them in a few earnest words, said he confessed it would have accorded more with his own feelings to present these beautiful medals to the brave men of his native parish, Oulart, but laying that consideration aside, he should admit that, from the events of to-day, he felt greater pleasure in awarding the prizes to the brave Shilmaliers, because undoubtedly they were the best hurling team in the county, and had won them fairly and honourably (cheers). The names of the members of the team were then called out, and the treasurer, Mr. John J. Kehoe, having handed over the medals, they were presented in due form, amidst cheers from the assembly. The medals, which are of very handsome design, are decorated with shamrocks, and bore the inscription, "Wexford Hurling Tournament, 1888."

We have been informed in Carrick-on-M.P., passed on to the circuitous route arrived early on Saturday morning risen at the time, and give a verbatim report assured this "fugitive Prosecutor designated stone opposite the verifies his statement token, the kerk-stone said—Men and women town of Wexford, I address you on this ground which has been butchery of the real three hundred years ago Our modern fraud with Balfour"), who tyranny amounts only (groans and cries of when he puts his hands and surrounds a country secure. (A Voice-laughter.) But a thing or two Yes, my friends, cheer. The women us (tremendous cheer arrived with eggs never forsake you" now remain to add am going along Lord de Freyne's Manchester on Monday Balfour is looking Lough, but I shall just now. I wish shall be round again much pleasure in Just as the boys girls from over the see where Paddy You're too late, and cheers).

THE "ROSS

TOB.  
The "Ross D may possibly re fact he has been to retain his lib occasions when out in Wexford much interest i he gives of his the officers of th as it may appear of charact appearance to and skill upon of his subject attracted to interviewers as freely as conducted his case in the c that the "D been profound occurrences this he can tobacco, then ing up outc the prisoner by falling o His facial c striking, bu when he de chuck-up of much of t already ar secret that trouble in cover how coveted ar the grove. chinks in duced, an type, had had been shade of v notaries told by t in outlin darker s Commis shall be experier cells.

SIR—ceding sented