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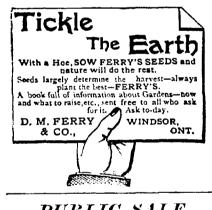
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CORK

AS SHE LOOKS TO A TOURIST TO-DAY

Some Recollections Revived—St. Fionn Bar-The Beils of Shandon-Cromwells Abominations.

She has been called the Capital of the South, this proud and poverty-stricken Cork. Says the historian : "Corroch, or Corcagh, the Irish name of Cork, is like all Irish names of places, strikingly descriptive. It signifies a swamp, to which the situation of the city, on two marshy islands, fully entitles it." Nay, but has not Spenser, prince of poets, sung of

The sprending Lee, that like an island fair.' Encloseth Cork, with his dividing flood''?

And has she not bred great men?-James Barry-one of his first great paintings was the conversion of a King of Cashel by St. Patrick, and it won him the patronage of Edmund Burke; Daniel Maclise; the witty Maginn; racy and rare "Father Prout"; Crofton Croker; and, not least of these, Sheridan Knowles. Cork was long the home of a pagan temple. St. Fionn Bar, the anchorite from Gougane-Barra, founded a monastery on the site of it, in the beginning of the seventh century; his seminary was attended by seven hundred scholars, "who flocked in from all parts." Two centuries later the Danes overran the kingdom. The Corkites frequently went forth and battled bravely. In 1493 the city sheltered the impostor King, Perkin Warbeck, for which act she was deprived of her charter and had her mayor duly drawn and quartered. In 1609 King James I. restored the charter. Cork turned to the Stuarts-but in walked Cromwell with his crazy crew, and sowed desolation in his path. This Cromwell caused the church bells to be melted down and cast into ordnance. There is a theme for your poets; it is one of the most poetical passages in the life of this ruffian, and, not inappropriately, with characteristic obstinacy it begins at the wrong end. Turn church bells into ordnance! It is written that "on being remonstrated with against committing such a profanity, Cromwell replied that as a priest had been the inventor of gunnowder, he thought the best use of bells would be to cast them into cannon."

worthy of the grimmest of jokers. To are a few handsome buildings in the suburbs, and pretty enough villas scattered all over the slopes of the neighboring hills,—the hills that enclose the valley of low water, albeit Cork is twelve miles from the Atlantic. It is not a comely church, this St. Ann's of Shandon. It was begun in 1722. Its homely bell tower was constructed of hewn stone piltered from the Franciscan abley, where King James II, was wont to hear Mass. But there were not stones enough available, and so the ruins of Lord Barry's costle supplied the remainder; thus three sides of the steeple are built or limestone, and the fourth of red stone. Truly an unlovely chapel, and as plain within as it is uninviting without.

I wandered through the churchyard which surrounds St. Ann's; looked in at the prim pulpit, and the little organ set half way down the side walt. A tew memorial slabs scarcely serve to break the severe plainness of the interior. An oldfashioned clock stands in the rear of the gallery-but it was stock still when I hill eyes on it; perhaps it ticks on the seventh day only, "which is the Sab-bath," and jests from its labors on the other six. With a heavy heart I climbed nto the steeple and looked in upon the sells, the echoes of whose chimes have resounded to the very ends of the earth. They were very still, those fine old bels—they were very still, those fine old bells—their shoulders covered thick with dust and colowebs. From the top of the tower 4 looked down on the fairest view in Cork-the winding Lee, the green and wooded hits that gather lovingly about and many a league of fertile land stretching away toward

THE CLOUDY HORIZON.

A dash of rain drove me round the gallery onto the sheltered side of the tower; and then I heard the bells swinging just below me, and the famous chimes rolled out their plaintive and monotonous refrain. Surely I should have been happy at that moment, inasmuch as the longing of a life time was at last gratified. And so I was, no doubt; but I'd have been far happier could I have forgetten how all these years I've been dreaming of the Lee as of a broad and placid river fringed with rushes. Shandon was, in my dream, a village of Acadam loveliness; and in its midst towered the grey old walls of the village church, its ivy-curtained windows reflected in the silver bosom of the stream that flowed noiselessly below it. And in daydreams the chorus of those bells swam down the tranquil air in faint and fading harmonies, divinely sweet. O Father Prout, Father Prout! To you I am indebted for a dream and an awakening, the one joyous and the other sad. It was you who furnished the theme on which the lively imagination of youth hung fondly, while fancy painted its enticing picture. It was you who sang :

"On this I ponder, where'er I wander, And thus grow fonder, sweet Cork, of thee; With thy bells of Shandon, that sound so grand The pleasant waters of the River Lec."

As I stood in the belfry, below me I many of them have asked themselves at saw a miserable congregation of dwel- a latter day, "Was it worth while?" The

lings, good and bad. Across the way there was a butter-market of extraordinary dimensions. Surely thy music, O Shandon bells | pictures fairer scenes than these; and the memory of thy melody has rung in the ears of many a wanderer beyond seas, when, fortunately, the unsavory odors—the only incense that rises before thee in this latter dayhave perished on the gale. The River Lee winds between verdant banks, among diminutive islands and beside lordly castles, for ten deliightful miles below the Queen City of the South; and then it flows into the broad and hand-some Cove of Cork, with Queenstown scated at the junction. Every traveller

LOUD IN HIS PRAISES

of the river and the Cover and surely there is nothing in the Green Isle much finer. Blackrock Castle, with its turrets and towers, whence William Penn, converted to Quakerism, set sail for America; villas bearing romantic names-Tivoli, Sanssouci, and the like—delight the eye as the little steamer paddles the quiet stream. On every hand the scenery is enchanting: groves overshadow the shore; fleets of tiny eraft sail to and fro, or drift idly in the gentle zephyr that blows too softly to be of much practical service to navigation; the scattering villages, the rich meadow-lands, the rey, rain-filled sky,—all impart a pastoral charm that fully compensates for the disappointments one is pretty sure to encounter on a close inspection of Cork. At Passage, a watering-place on the Cove, many a poet has turned his couplets. But it remained for Father Prout to set all the elements to music:

"Mud cabins swarm in This place so charmin', With sailors' garments Hung out to dry; And each abode is Snug and commodious, With pigs melodious In their straw-built sty."

All this the tourist who, at New York, books for Liverpool direct is sure to miss. The ocean steamers lie off the Irish shore, and are visited by small tenders, the sight of which is enough to make a man lose confidence in the greatest navigation company in the world. The cabinless cockleshells that run out from Queenstown laden with qualmish passengers are the first and last drop of bitterness in the cup of joy which so many thousands go abroad in search of. It is a pleasant Youghal, on the Blackwater, where a steamer is in readiness to take you up the largest river in Ireland. Sir Walter Raleigh was chief magistrate of Youghal in 1588-89. Under the yew-trees at "Myrtie Grove"—his former residence it was his wont to sit with pipe in mouth, for he loved the "nicotian weed;" and there he

The control of the co my eye, the "spreading Lee" is not lovely when it comes within the shadow with the shadow with the shadow lovely when it comes within the shadow with the esculent tubers, popularly of Cork; nor is the city over-fair. There known as the Irish potato. It was his the Lee. The quays are famous: the Ah, those were rare days, when the boys arrival and departure of 5,000 ships an- sat down together to pipe their tobacnually serve to make them so; vessels conals! The wind was blowing furiof 600 tons burthen can float there at ously; there was a roar as of stormy

hissed spitefully. I cantiously crept to the edge of the wall; and, while the earth seemed to swim under me, and the walls of the old eastle to sway to and fro, I reached down, down, and yet farther down, clinging like a cat to the crumbling edge of the wall, and—well, never mind! I have lived to tell the tale thus far. There is a twin-stone on the ground-floor, which is more conveniently saluted; and this one is a frequent substitute for the original. For more than four centuries this castle has been the sole feature of importance in a very pretty though rather lonely landscape. The square tower, with its machicolated battlement—all that is left of the castle-has been visited by pilgrims from every clime; but I fear

woman who holds the keys of the castle, and who talks as gilthy as if alrea had been and who talks as gilthy as if alrea had been and the convenient in bogs of a street of the convenient in bogs of the convenient in the convenient i and a profitable excursion, by train, to party had their candicate ready, and a better

ikke troupers?

No such thing,' I stuttered through the freshly made gap in my front teeth. 'I wanted to say they would lie like brave soldiers on the field of freedom and truth.'

'You blessed idlot, to think they'd take what you said to mean what you say. However, I'll try and explain matters and make it all right. I'm off now, as I have to organize a bidy of volunteers and the rascals are hanging back for an extra-shifting with a dinner thrown in. So long,' and he disappeared.

I then began to collect my scattered thoughts and soon came to the conclusion that energy might be overdone, and that the supporters of the party I had till now upheld were rather too hasty in jumping -to conclusions and on me. 'Can I,' I asked myself, 'be right in advocating the cause of those whose passions are so easily aroused, and whose indifference to the freedom of speech is so marked? Every bruise and bump, every ache and pain throughout in my whole body joined in one tunnimous chorus of No! 'Then,' said I, 'never more let it be party of mine.'

As a matter of fact, I did not publicly renounce my allegiance till I was sufficiently

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