## NEW YORK'S IRISH FIRE LADDIES

Mr. Jacob A. Riis, a well know Air. Jacob A. Rus, a well known author, has an atticle in the current Century on "Heroes Who Fight Fire." This is one of the best papers The Century ever published. Its most striking feature is that all of Mr. Riis' heroes in the New York fire brigade are Irishmen; but that is because Irishmen in a remarkable degree possess the strong physical characteristics and the cool courage so necessary in the work of firemen. Mr. Riis says

His life is too full of real peril for him to expose it reaklessly—that is to say, needlessly. From the time when he leaves his quarters in answer to an alarm until he roturns, he takes a risk that may at any moment set him face to face with death in its most cruol form. He needs nothing so prized so highly, nothing puts him so surely in the line of promotion; for sat he advances in rank and responsibility, the lives of others, as well as his own, come to depend on his judgment. The act of conspicuous daring which the world applaude is oftenest to the fireman a matter of simple duty that had to be done in that way because there was no other. Nor is it always, or even usually, the hardest duty, as he sees it. It came easy to him because he is an athlete trained to do such things, and because once for all it is easier to risk one's life in the open, in the sight of one's fallows, than to face death alone, caught like a rat in a trap. That is the real paril which he knows too well; but of that the public hears only when he has fought his last fight and lost.

How literally our cvery-day security—of which we think, if we think of it at all, as a mere matter of course—is built upon the supreme scarifice of these devoted men, we realize at long intervals, when a disaster occurs such as the one in which Chief Bresnan and Foreman Rooney lost their lives three years ago. They were crushed to death under the great water-tank in a Twenty-fourth street factory that was on fire. Its supports had been burned away. An examination that was on fire. Its supports had been burned away. An examination that was on fire. Its supports had been burned away. An examination that was on fire. Its supports had been burned away. An examination that was on fire. Its supports had been burned away. An examination that was on fire. Its supports had been burned to more supports has not been heeded yet; but that is, unhappily, an old story.

Seventeen years ago the collapse of a Broadway building during a fire convinced the community that stone fill lars were unsafe as supports. The

ed, that he "area on the head of die in vain. Stone columns are not now used in supports for buildings in New York.

So one might go on quoting the perils of the firemen as so many steps forward for the better protection of the rest of us. It was the burning of the St. George Flats, and more recently of the Manhatan Bank, in which a dozen men were disabled, that samped the average fire-proof construction as faulty and large' delusive. One might even go further, and say that the fireman's risk increases in the ratio of our progress or convenience. The water-tanks came with the very high buildings, which in themselves offer problems to the fire-fighters that have not yet been solved. The very air-shafts that were halled as the first advance in tenemen' house building work and risk, as well as to the risk of every one dwelling under their roofs by acting as so many huge chimneys that carned the fire to the open window opening upon them in every considering means of making them safer and better, it received the most practical help and advice from the firemen, especially from Chief Presnan, whose death coourred only a few days siter he had testified as a witness. The recommendations upon which he insisted are now part of the general tenement house law.

Element are athletes as a matter of course. They have to be, or they

pounds, requires unusual strength. No particular skill is needed. A man need only have stoady nervo, and the strength to raise the long pole by its narrow end, and jam the iron hook through a window which he cannot see but knows is there. Once through, the teeth in the hook and the mais weight upon the ladder hold it safe, and there is no real danger unless holess his head. Against that possibility the severe drill in the school of instruction is the barrier. Any one to whom climbing at dizzy heights, or doing the hundred and one things of peril to ordinary men which firmen are constantly called upon to do, causes the least discomfort, is rejected as unfit. About fire per cent. of all appointees are eliminated by the ladder test, and never get beyond their probation service. A certain smaller percentage takes itself out through loss of "nerve," generally. The first experience of a room full of smothering smoke, with the fire roaring overhead, is generally sufficient to convince the trimid that the service is not for him. No cowards are dismissed from the department, for the reason that none get into it.

The notion that there is a life.

No cowards are dismissed from the department, for the reason that none get into it.

The notion that there is a life-gaving corps apart from the general body of firemen rests upon a mistake. They are one. Every froman now adays must pass muster at life-saving drill, muss- timb to the top of any building on his scaling ladder, slids down with a resoued comrade, or jump without hestation from the third story into the life-net spread below. By such training the men are fitted for their work, and the occasion comes soon thatputs them to the test. It came to Daniel J. Meagher, foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 3, when, in the midnight hour, a woman hung from the fifth-story win dow of a burning building, and the longest ladder at hand fell abort ten or a dozen feet of reaching her. The boldest man in the crew had vainly attempted to reach her, and in the effort had sprained his foot. There were no scaling-ladders then. Meagher ordered the rest to plant the ladder on the stoop and hold it out from the building so that he might resch the very topmost stop. Balanced thus where the slightlest tremor might have caused ladder and all to orash to the ground, he bade the woman drop, and receiving her in his arms, carried her down safe.

PIREMEN COUNT IN THEIR SLEEP.

receiving her in his arms, carried her down sale.

PHRMEN COUNT IN THEIR SLEEP.

How firemen manage to hear in their sleep the right signal, while they sleep right through any number that concerns the next company, not them, is one of the mysteries that will probably always remain unsolved. "I don't know," said Department Chief Bonner, when I asked him once, "I guess it is the same way with everybody. You hear what you have to hear. There is a gong right over my bed at home, and I hear every stroke of it, but I don't hear the baby. My wife hears the baby if it as much as siirs in the crib, but not the gong." Very likely he is right. The fact that the fireman can hear and count correctly the strokes of the gong in his sleep has meant life to many hundreds and no end of property saved; for it is in the early moments of a fire that it can be dealt with summarily. I recall one instance in which the failure to interpret a signal properly, or the accident of taking a wrong road to the fire, cost a life, and, singularly enough, that of the wife of one of the firemen who answerd the alarm. It was all so pitiful, so tragic, that it has left an indelible impression on my mind. It was the fire at which Patrick F. Lucas earned the medal for that year by snatching five persons cut of the very jaws of death in a Dominic street tenement. The alarm-signal rang in the hook-and-ladder company's quarters in North Moore street, but was either misunderstood or they made a wrong start. Instead of turning east to West Broadway, the truck turned west, and went galloping toward Greenwich street. It was only a few seconds, the time that was lost, but it was enough. Fireman Murphy's heart went up in his throat when, from his seat on the truck turned west, and went galloping toward Greenwich street. It was he few toward the fire, he saw burning. Up on the fifth floor he found his wife penned in. She died in his arms as he carried her to the fire, seepe The fire, for once, had won in the race for a life.

In the chief's quarters of the Fou

offer problems to the fire-fighters that have not yet been solved. The very air-shafts that were halled as the first advance in tenement house building sadded enormously to the fireman's work and risk, as well as to the risk of very one dwelling under their roofs by acting as so many huge chimneys that carried the fire to the open windows opening upon them in every story. More than half of all the fire work occur in tenement houses. When the Tenement-House Commission of 1894 sat in this city considering means of making them safer and better, it received the most practical help and advice from the firemen, especially from Chief Dreamn, whose death occurred only a few days after he had testified as a window for the insisted are now part of the general tenement-house law.

Firemen are athletes as a matter of course. They have to be, or the fire was quickly put out. There were course. They have to be, or the fire was quickly put out. There were consulted they could not hold their places for a week, even if they could get into them at all. The mere handling of the scaling ladders, which, light though they seem, weigh from sixteen to forty

"Ho is not dead," he said. "I em going to get that man out." And he oropt down the lane of fire, unmindful of the hidden dangers, seeing only the man w.o was perlshing. The flames scorched him; they blooked his way; buthe came through alive, andbrought out his man, so badly hurt, however, that he died in the hospital that day. The Board of Fire Commissioners gave Ahearn the medal for bravery, and made him Ohief. Within a year he all but lost his life in a gallant attempt to save the life of a child that was supposed to be penned in a burning Rivington Stree. tenement. Ohief Ahearn's quarters were near by, and he was first on the ground. A deperate man confronted him in the ballway. "My child! "he cried, and wrung his hands. "Save him! He is in there." He pointed to the back room. It was black with snoke. In the front room the fire was raging. Crawling on hands and feet, the Chief made his way into the room the man brd pointed out. He groped under the bed, and in it, but found no child there. Satisfied that it had escaped, he entred to return. The smoke had grown so thick that breathing was no longer possible, even at the floor. The chief drew his coat over his head, and made a desh for the hall door. He reached at only to find that the spring-lock had snapped shut. The door knob burned his had. The fire burst through from the front room, and seared his face. With a last effort, he kicked the lower panel out of the door, and put his head through. And then he knew no more.

His men found him lying so when they came looking for him. The coat was burned off his back, and of his hat only the wire rim remained. He lay ten months in the hospital, and came out deaf and wrecked physically. At the age of forty-five the board retired him to the quiet of the country district, with this formal resolution, that idd the board more redd this the hoard more redd this to he quiet of the country district, with this formal resolution, that idd the board more redd this the hoard more of the country district, with this formal resolu

## St. Peter's Charity Concert.

The League of the Cross of St. Peter's Parish held a most successful concert on Wodeneday evening. Jan 25, in Douglas's Hall, the proceeds of which were in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The principal feature of the evening was an address by the Rev. Eugene Sheeby of Limerick. The Rev. Eugene Sheeby of Limerick and the state of the concert was under the auspices of a Temperance acciety and the proceeds intended for the relief of the poor, he thought that a few remarks on the temperance question would not be amise, as he eaid a great amount of poverty was caused by the curse of intemperance, and he was glad that, in this instance the reverse was the case, as the temperance people were helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist the poor. During the course of his short and instructive address the speaker, in his eloquent and humorous style, related reveral instances from the life of Father Matthew, and he had the large audience in a good natured spirit all the way through, as was evident from the oft repeated applause and laughter which his remarks evoked. He also refuted the idea that prevails among a large portion of the people on this side of the Atlantic, that frishmen are in a great measure given to intemperate habits. This he said was due in a great measure to the stage Irishman who is generally represented as one with a oudgel in one hand and a whiskey glass in the other. It remained with Irishmen and their descendants, he further said, to put a stop to this by discountenancing all such acts on the part of anyone.

One incident in connection with the concert that is worthy of mention is, that on Tuesday evening Father Sheeby found that he would be obliged to go to Hamilton on Wednesday morning, so Father Ryan kindly constituted in the two above mentioned were the Rev. Fathers McSaweny of Barrie, Wm. McCann, L. Misseo his heavening. An one of leaf pro

Sheehy, Quartette, The Misses Troman; and Messrs. O'Connor and Giloogly; Recitation, Miss Annie Regan; Recitation, Miss An Murphy; Song, Mr. Alf. Tickell; Song (comic). Mr. D. A. Phillips. The committee desire octend their thanks to the talent and all those who in any way contributed to the success of the concest, especially to Father Sheehy, and to D. A. Phillips. (pzofessional) who gave his services gratis.

F. J. O'CONNILL, Bedy.

A Fine Heirloom.

A Fine Helrloem.

Mr. James Anderson, of Guelph, familiarly known as the Laird of Fus linch, has in his possession a unique and valuable heirfoom, which he prizes very highly. It is a bronze medal which was presented to his father, the late John Anderson, by His Holiness Pope Lee XII.

The reason of the presentation was this: Many years ago, when Mr. John Anderson was factor to the Duke of Decoying, the crops in Scotland wore a failure; nevertheless several hundred farm laborers crossed over from Ireland, as usual, to obtain work harvesting in Scotland. As there was no work for them to do they were in a desperate plight. Mr. Anderson area for them, eupplying them with food and shelter for some weeks, and finally chartered a schooner to take them back to Ireland.

The facts of the case were represented to Pope Lee XII, and he spreciated the kindness to his Catholic children so highly that he sent the medal and a letter to Mr. Anderson. The medal has a beautiful medallion of Pope Leo in his pointfical robes. The translation of the Latin mescription on the medal is: "Presented to John Anderson, E-q., by His Holiness Leo XII, for kindness to his Catholic brethren. Dated Rome, 19th July, 1827"

## ENGLAND AND '98.

An Interesting Suggestion from Mr. W. T. Stead.

The Review of Reviews devotes a full page to the consideration of Mr. William O'Brien's article in The Contemporary Review. It describes Mr. O'Brien's anticipation of the ferror with which the '08 celebration will be held by Irishmen as home and abroad, so that all the world may hear that deep-drawn oath, and who, Mr. Stead asks, "shall say them say? Not as suredly the descendants of the men whose conduct, after a hundred years, evokes naturally and irresistibly that swinging anathema." Mr. Stead quotes Mr. O'Brien's anticipations:—
"Even in the present distracted state of Irish parties, next year's centenary will mark as memorable a date in the history of the Firsh race as this year's jubilee did in the history of the Anglo-Saxon. The celebrations of the Gentenary of the great insurrection will give easy-going Englishmen one of those awakenings as to the real state of Irish feeling which have usually be administered, once in every generation at least, in the shape of some armed rising, Clerkonwell explaion, or Mitchelstown massacre." He continues: "The easy going Englishman—it takes a good deal to rouse him, and hitherto he has been extremely impervious to the pelting of rhetoric, historical or otherwise. Nevertheless, Mr. O'Brien's version of the events of 1798 is well calculated to give the most pachydermatous Briton a very uneasy quarter of an hour. The story of 1798 has long ago been forgotten on this side of the Irish Sea. But to the Irish the story is terribly, horribly real."

Mr. Stead's suggested remedy is worth reproducing: "These extracts will give the reader a very fair idea as to the kind of passionate oratory that will reverberate over hill and dale in Ireland all this year. It is not well calculated to promote good feeling between the aces, but who can grudge the Irish the right to say Damn over deeds so truly damnable as those which Mr. O'Brien describes? Would it not be a suitable occasion for representatives of the English people to take part in these celebrations, to express their regret and

Britain and the United States.

London, Feb. 5.—During the course of an address at Bradford, before the Chamber of Commerce or that blasse United States Country applicated the Marquis of Incential Programmer of the State Country applicated the Marquis of Incential Country & Continue of the State of the State

How to Curre Headache. Some people suffer untold misery dry after day with Headache. There is rest neither day nor night until the nerves are all unstrung. The cause is generally a disordered stomach, and a cure can be effected by using 'Parmelee's Vogetable Pills, containing Mandrake and Dandellon. Mr. Finlay Wark, Lysander, P. Q., writes: "I find Parmelee's Pills a first-crass article for Billous Headache."

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY QUESTION

The Archbishop of Dublin sends the lowing letter to the press :

The Archbishop following letter to the press:

Archbishop 8 House,
Dublin, Jan. 19, 1898.

Dear Sire,—In the important article on the Irish University Question in the current number of The Edinburgh Review, there is an incidental reference to the Irish Bishops which seems to me to call for a statem—in on the

once to the Irish Bishops which seems to me to call for a statem-nt on the subject from some one fully cognizant of the real attitude of the Bishops upon the point in question.

But in the forefront of any such statement there should, I think, be nlaced an unqualified recognition of the friendly and generous tone of the article in The Edmburgh, of its out spoken candour, especially in its closing words, that "persistence in a denial of the Roman Oatholic demand is not a course which can be justified any further, either upon the grounds of equity or upon those of political expediency," and of the reviewer's frankness in recognizing as "absolutely fundamental" the "condition of equality, upon which," as he expresses it, "Archibishop Walsh so legit mately insists."

There is no need for me to enter upon any criticism of the particular solution of the University problem which the reviewer favors. He lays down without qualification that "equality" is an "absolutely fundamental" condition of an equitable solution of the problem. This essential foundation being secured, all questions of detail as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of any particular plan suggested for the solution of the problem. This essential foundation being secured, all questions of detail as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of any particular plan suggested for the solution of the problem may almost be left to answer themselves.

The point in reference to which I am now writing is of a different bearing. It arises in connection with an inference drawn by the reviewer from a passage in the Declaration issued by the Bishops from their general meeting last June. Here, again, I feel it a duty to recognize the eminimity satisfactory tone of the reviewer's reference to that Declaration issued by the Bishops expressed their "belief that the interests of higher education will be better served by the creation of a University than by the creatio

serves:

"It is evident from this mode of puting the matter that there is still an open mind in the highest Roman Catholic quarters on the important question of College or University."

Catholic quarters on the important question of College or University."

And he then goes on to say:

"The point is one of some consequence, because the claim put forward by the Bishops on former occasions has been commonly regarded as a claim for a University, in the fullest sense of the word, or nothing."

His practical deduction from all this is the following:

"It is obvious that the readiness of the hierarchy to accept a College as distinct from a University considerably reduces the difficulty in the way of providing a satisfactory solution of the difficulty."

Now, as the writer of the article refers—in words for which I beg to thank him—to my recently-published volume on the Irish University Question, I may be allowed to point out that in that volume there is abundant evidence that, for over a quarter of a century, a most distinct expression of the willingness of the Bishops to see the question settled on the lines of the stablishment of a College, has been before the country.

Bo far back as 1871, the willingness

the question settled on the lines of the ostablishment of a Jollege, has been before the country.

Bo far back as 1871, the willingness of the Bishops, for their part, to accept such a settlement of the question, was openly expressed by them in a collective Pastoral Letter issued from a general meeting of theirs in Dublin—a mesting at which, I may add, Cardinal Cullen, whom no one will hesitate to accept as an outspoken and uncompromising exponent of the Catholic claim in the matter of University Education, presided.

The statement then made by the Bishops has often, and with equal publicity, been since repeated. Speaking only of the comparatively recent years since my appointment to the Sec of Dublin in 1885, that statement has been repeated in joint public declarations of the Bishops, in 1889, in 1893. and again in 1896. From the last mentioned declaration I quote the following passage:

following passage:

mentioned declaration I quote the following passage:

"How., equality is to be reached, it is not for us to define.

"We have stated on many occasions that we are not irrevocably committed to any one principle of settlement; and whether that settlement is carried out through a distinct Catholic University or through a College, we shall be prepared to consider any proposal with an open mind, and with a sincere desire to remove, rather than aggravate, difficulties."

It was, in fact, from the carnestness of desire to avoid throwing any needless obstacle in the way of statesmen who might be really auxious to deal with the question, that we abstance from putting forward in any very formal way our undoubted preference for the establishment of a University, as distinct from the establishment of

a College, as a means of reaching equality. So far as the protection of the interests of Catholicity was concerned, it was a matter, not of principle, but of detail. And the protection of the interests of Catholicity was the one thing with which we, as Bishops, had to do. We hardly even indicated the fact that a Catholic University was the only thing that the Irish Bishops had ever formally asked for, and that our attitude towards other methods of settlement was that of a readiness to accept them as satisfactory—meaning, of course, definitely and conclusively satisfactory—provided only that they embodied the one indispensable condition of equality.

Thue, if the expression, last June, of our belief that all the interests in volved would be better consulted for by the establishment of a University than by the establishment of a University than by the establishment of a University problem

The case the rather the other way For, in so far as this particular aspect of it is concerned, the one special point of our declaration last June was that it distinctly stated our preference—just as Mr. Balfour, speaking in Parlament a few months before, had stated has preference—for a settlement of the University question through the establishment, not merely of a College, but of a distinct University.

I remain, dear sir, your faithfuservant, & William J. Walsin,

P.S.—I observe that Mr. T. W. Russell is referred to in the Edinburgh article as a "convert" as regards his attitude on the University question. The reference is to his speech to his constituents at Finton on the 25th of last October. It may be no harm to point out that Mr. Russell had long previously declared himself in favor

constituents at Fintona on the 25th of last October. It may be no harm to point out that Mr. Ruesell had long previously declared himself in favor of a fair and liberal recognition of the claims of the Catholics of Ireland in the matter of higher education.

He did so twice, and with great distinctness, six years ago—first in a

the matter of higher education.

He did so twice, and with great distinctness, six years ago—first in a speech to his constituents in 1892, at the very place, Fintona, where he has recently spoken, and again in an article which he wrote that year in The Fortnightly Review. The article was written largely in criticism of some statements of mine as to the respective merits of Convent and Model Schools. In the course of it Mr. Russell said: "So far as University education is concerned, the Catholic grievance is too plan to be ignored. So long as the atmosphere is what it is, in the University of Dublin and in Trinity College. . it is impossible to say that Catholic cought to be content. Nor can it be fairly urged that the Royal University—a mere examining board—adequately supplies the place of a teaching University. I say the grievance here is undoubted. It ought to be dealt with in a blevel and fair spirit." All this was written by Mr. T. W. Russell so far back as February, 1892.

K. W. J. W.

A London cable says: The Irish members will be much in evidence during the coming seesion, the Government's local government and Catholic University bills affording them a great battleground. In regard to the latter measure, the Dillonites, Redmondites and Healysies have united for common action, and, with the exception of Mesers Carson, Lecky and T. W. Russell, all the Irish Unionists will oppose it.

## A MINISTER'S STORY.

Rev. F. Eiliott, of Richmond Hill, Relates a Happy Incident.

Held Bediast by Kidney Trouble-He Could Not Tarn Himsell-Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Him-"A Good, Honest, Beliable Medicine."

Richmond Hill, Feb. 7.—Rev. F. Elliott, a popular and prominent clergyman of this place, has written the story of his sufferings and recovery from Kidney disease. The sketch is of deep interest to thousands of Canadians. Rev. Mr. Elliott says he feels it his duty to tell of the medicine that cured him—Dodd's Kidney Fills. Only "good will to men "could induce him to allow his name to be published in this connection. The testimonial is entirely unsolicited.

"I suffered so severely from Lame Back thas I could not turn, nor got out of bed. I began using Dodd's Kidney Fills, and my pains and lameness scon disappeared. I consider Dodd's Kidney Fills a a good, honest, reliable medicine for the diseases they are recommended for."

These are Mr. Elliott's own words.

rins a goog, nones, retacts meacine for the diseases they are recommended for.

These are Mr. Ellicit's own words, and such is the result eery time Dodd's Kidney Filis are used. Any person who suffers from Bright's Disease, Diabetes, or any other Kidney Trouble, after laving the assurance of such a worthy and eminent elergyman as Rev. Mr. Ellicit, deserves no pity. The cure is within easy reach, and if they refuse to stretch out a hand to grasp is, no one can be blamed but themselves.

Dodd's Kidney Filis positively and permanently cure Lumbago, Dropsy, Paralysis, theart Disease, Cout, Scistics, Carvel, Stoon in Bladder, Female Weakness, and all urinary disorders, Nouralgis, Lame Back, and all other Kidney Diseases. They are the only remedy on earth that has ever cured Bright's Disease and Disbetos. They are sold by all drugcities, or will be sent on receipt of price, fity cents a box, six. boxes for \$2.50, by The Dodds Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto.

Silver Sales