

# THE MEN OF '98

BY ANNA T. SADLER.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE TRUE WITNESS.)

**T**HIS CENTENARY YEAR of the insurrection of 1798, which Lord John Russell declares was wickedly provoked, rashly undertaken and cruelly avenged, recalls a state of things which has happily passed away forever. Never can such a reign of misrule disgrace our modern civilization as existed in Ireland in those years preceding the union, which were unquestionably the darkest of her history. The rash undertaking of those noble spirits, who have rendered even their failure glorious, must be justified by the well-nigh intolerable evils which existed all around them, and drove them into premature and ill-advised revolt.

### A Dream of Liberty.

It was a time of chaos. The French Revolution had shaken the continent of Europe with its thunders. War and rumors of war were in the air, general uneasiness prevailed; Ireland, convulsed with internal miseries, preyed upon by greedy vampires, saw afar off a dream of liberty—hollow as the prophet's gourd—and fixed her straining eyes upon France.

That liberty she beheld there was far removed indeed from the sacred cause of Catholic, holy Ireland, and the leaders of the insurrection erred in believing that one and the other might be identified.

Nevertheless, a glorious drama was begun and a splendid galaxy of actors leaped upon the stage. For genuine heroism, forgetfulness of self and impassioned love of country, these men have been seldom equalled, never surpassed.

### Theobald Wolfe Tone

was unquestionably the master spirit of the insurrection. The son of a wealthy coachmaker of Dublin, he entered Trinity, passing thence to the Bar, which proved an uncongenial pursuit. He married, before he was of age, Miss Mathilda Witherington, "beautiful as an angel," who lived to mourn his tragic death, and to seek "a grave anywhere rather than Ireland." She died "at the home shaded by locust trees," near Washington, where her son wrote his father's life.

Tone presently became noted as a political writer, his "Argument of a Northern Whig," on behalf of the Catholics of Ireland, gaining general notice. As agent for the Catholic Convention, he did yeoman service to the cause of Catholic emancipation and encouraged its leaders to bring their grievances before the King. He was the chief organizer of

### The Society of United Irishmen

in Belfast, forming a similar association in Dublin, with the Hon. Simon Butler and Napper Tandy of Volunteer fame. Tone held his celebrated meeting with T. A. Emmet and Russell in the garden at Rathfarnham, in which future plans were discussed, and again upon Cave Hill in Antrim, where, with half a dozen leaders of the new association, he swore never to remit his efforts until Ireland should be free.

After a brief stay in America, where he went through the French representative at Philadelphia a detailed account of Ireland's grievances to France, he embarked for that country.

### Tone in France.

There, after a variety of meetings, negotiations with soldiers and legislators, he had an interview with "Citizen Carnot," whom he describes as "very elegant, in *petit* costume of white satin with crimson robe, Vandye like in draperies," but cold and cautious; nevertheless, this interview had results favorable to his hopes, in which he presently succeeded in interesting one of the foremost republican generals, Hoche.

### French Expedition to Ireland.

Tone accompanied the fruitless expedition of 1797 which started with so fair promise. Forty-three sail, carrying 15,000 men, sailed for Bantry Bay. Tone was on board of the *Indomitable*. Wind and wave warred against the hapless fleet, vessel became separated from vessel, the flag ship with Hoche and the Admiral on board were driven back to the Coast of France. The remnant of the squadron rode six days in Bantry Bay, the signal being then given to put out to sea.

### Tone with the Dutch.

The Dutch Admiral de Winter with sixteen vessels of the line and a respectable contingent of Dutch troops under Daendels were detained six weeks in the Texel by contrary winds, in sight of the English squadron, commanded by Admiral Duncan. Tone was on the flag-ship *Vryheid*, and watched with despair this new contest with the elements. The Dutch Admiral, growing impatient, hazarded an engagement, which resulted in total defeat.

### Bonaparte.

Tone suffered another blow in the death of Hoche, and fixed his hopes on Bonaparte, with whom he had several interviews and who was at this time collecting his "Army of England." But the future Emperor shattered his "Castles in Spain" at one blow by embarking with his whole army for Egypt.

### Another French Expedition.

Humbert, a brave but rash French general, embarked in August, 1798, with a force of about 1,000 men, two field pieces and an insufficient supply of arms to attempt the conquest of Great Britain. Tone followed with a small force under General Hardy and Admiral Bompard, which set sail a month later. He had

promised to accompany even a corporal's guard of Frenchmen to Ireland, and did so now with a perfect understanding of the futility of the enterprise.

Bompard sailed for the northern coast of Ireland, was driven by opposing winds into Lough Swilly, and almost instantly signalled by Sir John Warren, with six ships of the line and three frigates. Bompard ordered his smaller vessels to put out to sea. Tone was urged to accompany them, as his life would be forfeited should he be captured. He replied:

"Shall it be said that I fled when Frenchmen were fighting the battles of my country?"

He remained with the ill-fated Admiral's ship, which was too large to

ful hearts of the Catholic people of Ireland to whom the manner of their beloved Tone's death has been a lasting sorrow.

### Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

"And still it is the peasant's hope upon the Curragh here, They live who'll see ten thousand men with goo! Lord Edward here. So let them dream till brighter days, when not by Edward's shade, But by some leader, true as he, their lines shall be arrayed."

Thus does Thomas Davis embody the traditional idea which lingered in the people's hearts concerning their idolized young leader. He was a younger son of the twentieth Earl of Kildare. His mother, for whom he had such an ideal devotion, was the daughter of the second Duke of Richmond. Lord Edward married Pamela, the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Phillip L'Egalité, who had been brought up in the republican atmosphere of Bellechasse. The marriage was a singularly happy one, and there are beautiful pictures of domestic peace, in the cottage at Kildare, painted by the pen of the future political martyr in his letters to his mother.

### Lord Edward's Republican Tendencies.

Lord Edward, after a brief parliamentary career, which he found irksome, reentered the army and went with his regiment to America, where the poetry of the woods took hold upon his imagination and the dream of equality seemed realized. He was equally satisfied with the idea of fraternity as he found it in France. Men saluted each other as brothers in the coffee-houses, and the horrors of the Revolution which he witnessed had, singularly enough, no power to lessen the attraction.

### Infidel France and Catholic Ireland.

It is idle to regret, after the lapse of a century, that the infidel France of that day should have possessed the power to captivate the imagination of Ireland's best and bravest, or to conjecture that the winds and waves which drove back from the land of martyrs the propagandists of unbelief, were directed by that Providence

"Which shapes our ends, Rough hew them as we may."

There is little doubt that the connection with France alienated from the



THEOBALD WOLFE TONE.

escape through the shallow water. He displayed an almost superhuman valor, commanding a battery of guns. When the vessel was a dismantled wreck and every gun was silenced, the flag was struck and the survivors taken prisoners. The French officers were courteously treated and invited to breakfast by the Earl of Cavan.

### Tone's Arrest.

Tone passed unrecognized, until the entrance of a former fellow student, now an Orange magistrate of the neighborhood, Sir George Hill. He was on the scene, being accompanied by constables.

"Mr. Tone," he said, "I am happy to see you!"

Tone answered: "Ah, Sir George! How are Lady Hill and the children?" He resented the indignity of being put in irons, throwing off his military tunic, "the insignia of a free state" which he would not have dishonored by the touch of fetters." Holding up his manacled hands, he cried out: "In the cause I have served, I would rather wear these than be decorated with the Star and Garter of England."

### Tone's Trial.

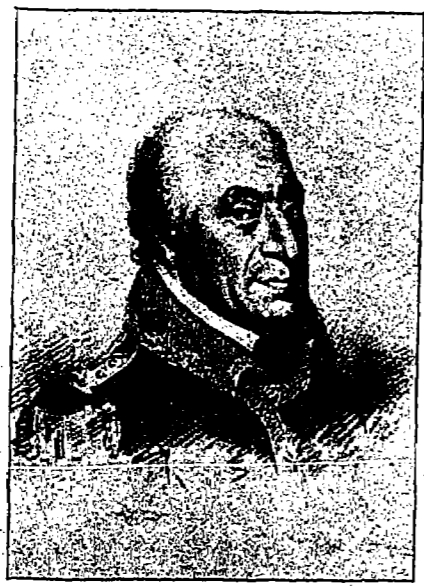
Tone was conveyed to Dublin and tried by court martial. He admitted having done his utmost against the power of England, and sought to raise three millions of his fellow subjects to the rank of citizens. He gloried in being a French officer and would be, he said, ashamed to deny anything he had done. His utterances were fearless, consistent and dignified. He asked but for one favor—to die a soldier's death. This was, of course, denied.

### Death of Tone.

It is inexpressibly sad to chronicle the inglorious ending to so glorious a career. It robs it of much of its dignity and worth. The courage so often and so freely displayed lacked after all those higher qualities which command men's deepest admiration. He could not face the last awful ordeal of death upon the gallows, and so, alas! like any meaner soul "he rushed into the dark house of death unbidden." Efforts have been made to attach the crime to his gaolers. The evidence seems sadly conclusive.

### The Lesson of Tone's Death.

The lesson which must be drawn from the career of this nobly gifted Irishman, that no qualities can supply for the need of Christian principles, and that in the



JAMES NAPPER TANDY.

deistical opinions which poor Tone seems to have held must be sought the causes for that fearful act which has forever cast a shadow over "the green grave in Bodenstown churchyard." How incomparably more glorious would have been the shadow of a gibbet! How unspeakably more consoling to the grate-

advocacy of civil and religious liberty would have been sufficient to bring him under suspicion. He was arrested at the house of Mr. Murphy, in Thomas street, the infancy of his betrayal resting darkly upon a fellow countryman. He made a desperate struggle to escape, but was overpowered by numbers and conveyed to Newgate.

### Death of Lord Edward.

He keenly felt the ignominious death which awaited him and the total exclusion of his relatives. These causes, with the fever of his wounds, which rendered him delirious, brought on a fatal termination to his sufferings. Only when his failing eyes could no longer see the beloved faces were some of his relatives brought to him. He asked that "the Passion of Christ" be read to him, and passed away in Christian sentiments, making excuses even for his gaolers.

So died that brilliant and accomplished young leader, upon whom had been built so many hopes, and justly. For taking his qualities of mind and heart in general, it is not too much to say:

"In front of Ireland's chivalry, was that Fitzgerald's place?"

### Robert Emmet.

Who can read, unmoved, the brief, sad, glorious story of that "child of the heart of Ireland," the brave, the roman-



LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD.

tic, the high-souled Robert Emmet. He asked "the charity of the world's silence," that no epitaph should be written until his country should be free. But every green leaf in the lanes and valleys he loved, every whistling tree-top on the mountains, every sigh of the sea on the mist enshrouded shores of his Western Island, uttered his name and echoed it in the hearts of the people, in their ballads, in their tears. His name and fame

"As long in the land that he loved shall dwell, As a pure heart lingers there."

### Moore's Opinion of Emmet.

Thomas Moore, who was a fellow-student with him at Trinity, speaks thus warmly of his friend:—

"Were I to number, indeed, the men amongst all I have ever known, who appeared to me to combine in the greatest degree pure moral worth with intellectual power, I should, amongst the highest of the few, place Robert Emmet. Wholly free from the follies and frailties of youth, the purest of science, in which he eminently distinguished himself, seemed at this time the only object that at all divided his thoughts with that enthusiasm for freedom, which in him was a hereditary as well as a national feeling."

**Emmet's Attachment to Sarah Curran.**  
Later, of course, comes his ideal, love for Sarah Curran. The story of that love affair, idyllic in its beauty, becomes tragic in the fate of the sad lovers. Robin Aron's lies cold in death, and the object of his ill-fated attachment does not long survive her "young hero."

From the first Emmet was in eager sympathy with the insurrectionary leaders and their efforts in behalf of freedom. He was cognizant of all the plans by which the people of Ireland were being gradually organized and prepared for a final struggle. His attempt of 1803, for which he declared upon his trial credit was to be given to others, who had arranged all preliminaries before his return from France, has been characterized by a biographer, as "the best effort of the Society of United Irishmen and the death blow to its objects."

### The Attempt of July 23rd.

It seems to us now a rash act, an almost foolhardy attempt. But Emmet and his associates were, to use the words of Russell, "plunged into the vortex from which they had only to swim ashore," by Governmental intrigues provoking a premature outbreak, by the duplicity of Bonaparte, who had promised aid, and apparently by the indecision



WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

### His Message to the Irish People.

"I ask to be permitted to send a few words of greeting on the occasion of the annual banquet of the Irishmen of London. The cause of Ireland is in your own hands. With Ireland divided, her cause is hopeless; but with Ireland one in mind and one in spirit her cause is irresistible."

of some who were to have lent their assistance and the misunderstanding of others. The attack was well planned; it was to be threefold in its nature, upon the Castle, the Pigeon House Barracks, and the Park Battery. Large contingents of men were to come in from various parts and it was not unnaturally expected that if the Castle were taken, the nation would rise en masse.

### Murder of Lord Kilwarden.

The murder of the humane and generally popular Lord Kilwarden, in mistake for another, which marked the very opening of that memorable night, filled Robert Emmet with consternation. That the cause he loved should have been so early stained by so grievous a crime, was a bitter grief to him than his own subsequent arrest and trial. It was characteristic of Emmet that in his preparations for the event he should generously have thought of the struggle for Catholic emancipation, then in progress. "One grand point," said he, "is that no leading Catholic is committed with us and their cause will not be compromised." Needless to chronicle the confusion, the excitement, the failure of this or that, the delay in the arrival of reinforcements, the treachery, the intrigues, the final panic.

### Emmet's Trial.

Emmet was arrested at the house of Mrs. Palmer in Harold's Cross, and put upon his trial on the 19th September, 1803, "betraying," says a hostile writer, "no sign of fear or perturbation, but evincing the same calm and dignified aspect which ever distinguished that extraordinary young man."

His utterances were worthy of his great soul. "I did not wish," he said, "to deliver up my country to a foreign power, least of all to France; nor did I entertain the remotest idea of establishing French power in Ireland; . . . Every hazard attending an independent effort was deemed preferable to the more fatal risk of introducing a French army into this country. . . . Let not any man attain my memory by believing that I could have hoped to give freedom to my country by betraying the sacred cause—liberty."

He declared that the imputation of having desired other aid from France than such as would procure the independence of Ireland, would be worse to him than the terrors of the scaffold. "Let no man dare," he cried, "to attain my name with dishonor. I do not fear to approach the Omnipotent Judge to answer for the conduct of my short life."

It is recorded that Lord Norbury, the most cold blooded of men, pronounced the sentence with an emotion never seen in him before.

### Emmet's Death.

Emmet keenly felt the indignity of the search which was made of his person, lest he should have about him the means of self-destruction, which latter crime he reprobated in the strongest terms as wicked and unchristian. He was attended in his last hour by two clergymen of the Church of England, and declared that his hope of salvation lay in the merits of the Saviour, who died an ignominious death upon the Cross. The execution took place opposite St. Catherine's Church in Bridgfoot Street, attended with all the horrors of such an event in those days. A wail of lamentation both loud and deep was heard throughout the land and the passionate sorrow of the people at their hero's untimely end did more to fix the love of country in their hearts than the unavailing efforts of his short, blameless life.

### The Teelings.

The Teelings were of an old Catholic stock on both sides, Mrs. Teeling being descended from the Taafes, Lord of Carlingford, one of whom had followed the fortunes of the Young Pretender. An ancestress, Lady Cathleen, had defended a castle against Cromwell. It was a family boast that "the first to raise a sword against Ireland's cause was also the last" and he dated back to 1287, having come with Lord de Clare on the invasion of the country. Mrs. Teeling was remarkable in the highest circles of the Irish metropolis for beauty and good breeding. In her own immediate neighborhood she was the very providence of the poor. Her husband, Luke Teeling, was a man of strong character and great political influence, entertaining at his home, the leaders of the military and legislative world of that day.

THE TEELING BROTHERS were young, ardent, impetuous, the best riders and the best swordsmen of the day, much sought after in society, much admired by all with whom they came in contact. The Marquis of Hertford, at their father's table, declared that he would see to their promotion if these fine young men would take service in the army. Mr. Teeling, the elder, somewhat dryly remarked that he thought his sons had other views.

So, indeed, they had, having early put everything to the stake, in associating themselves with the patriotic party. It is recorded of Charles Teeling, the younger, that Colonel Campbell, a relative of the Duke of Argyle, once offered him the colonelcy of a new regiment, then being formed.

"I am more than suspected," said Teeling, "of holding views which would ill become an officer of the Crown. Moreover, I am under heavy bonds to stand my trial."

"You mean that you are a rebel," said the Scotchman, "so much the more reason for taking service in the army. We have all been rebels in our time in Scotland. Accept my offer, and, if Argyle has any influence, not a hair of your head will be touched."

Needless to say that the offer was refused. BARTHOLOMEW TEELING, who had travelled over Ireland on foot, examining her coasts and defences, took service in France and returned with Humbert's brilliant but futile expedition, acting as that officer's aide-de-camp, and saving his life in the engagement at Castlebar.

He landed at Kilsala with the French, shared in their temporary triumphs in that town, at Ballina and Castlebar. Of that notable encounter a word must be said here. Thanks to a map handed him by Father Conroy, Humbert succeeded in approaching the English headquarters unperceived.

### Castlebar.

The English commander posted his superior force, with its 18 guns, advan-

gedly on the side of a hill. Humbert sent a detachment of Irish volunteers to the attack. Their impetuous charge drove back the English outposts, but they were decimated. Sarrazin's grenadiers, who had been detailed to support them, now swept in with a terrific onslaught but were turned backwards by the guns and wheeled to the assistance of Fontaine's battalions.

### An Experiment Tried

by putting a herd of cattle before the French assailants to ward off the deadly fire of the guns turned to their discomfiture, the animals, panic-stricken, creating disorder in their lines. Sarrazin, sounding the *pas de charge*, and aided by Ardouin's cavalry, made one more furious assault upon the position of the foe, with the result that the British were driven downwards into Castlebar.

### Races of Castlebar.

The English, who had fought with their usual valor and determination, made a desperate rally at the bridge, but Humbert tearing down upon them with his cavalry they fled panic-stricken over hedge and ditch, holly pursued by the French. Since that time this glorious demoralization of brave and disciplined soldiers has been called the Races of Castlebar.

### Death of Teeling.

Bartholomew Teeling was remarkable, not only for feats of signal valor throughout this short-lived struggle, but for the humanity which led him to procure the release or the safety of the prisoners taken by the French. It availed him nothing. When the ancient successes of the hour had ended in disaster at Ballinacree, the French being hemmed in by 50,000 British, Teeling was arrested, and despite Humbert's strenuous exertions, condemned to death.

### Teeling's Death.

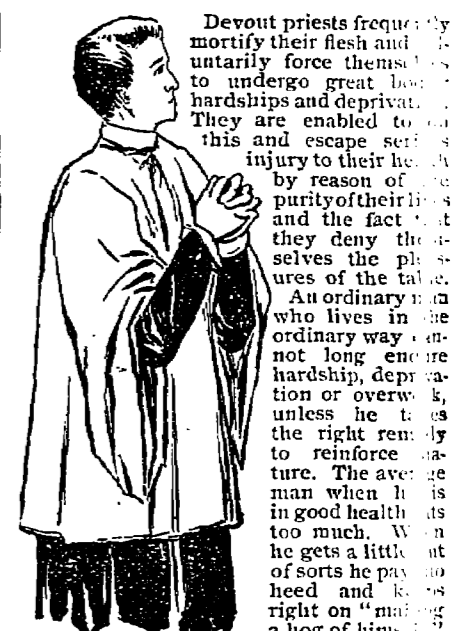
The gallant young soldier was executed on Arbut Hill, on the 24th of September, 1798, dying with courage which befit his ancient name and noble principles. Daring his association with the French army with many men who had professed their infidelity, Teeling was ever true to his convictions and died with the profession of the Catholic faith upon his lips.

### Such, too, were the Sentiments of William Henry Byrnes.

famously known as "Billy Byrnes" of Ballyellis, amongst the people of Wicklow, over whom his ancestors had ruled as lords, and by whom he was unaccountably beloved. Of fine parts, prepossessing appearance, breeding and education, Byrnes was only 25, and had been married but a year at the time of his arrest. He had had a romantic career in the Wicklow hills, maintaining a species of guerrilla warfare, and assisting in the escape of many suspects.

He was offered life if he would declare his regret for having joined the Society of United Irishmen, and so that he had been led into it by Lord Edward Fitzgerald. He indignantly refused, saying that in dying he had but one regret, that of not leaving his country free, and that he had been led to join the association by no man, least of all by that one of hallowed memory, whom they wished to traduce.

Continued on 2nd page.



Devout priests frequently mortify their flesh and voluntarily force themselves to undergo great hardships and deprivations. They are enabled to do this and escape serious injury to their health by reason of the purity of their lives and the fact that they themselves practice the virtues of the table. An ordinary man who lives in the ordinary way of the world, in the midst of the hardships, deprivation or overwork, unless he takes the right remedy to reinforce his nature. The average man when his is in good health is too much. When he gets a little out of sorts he pays no heed to his health and is right on "missing a hog of himself." In some instances he gets thin and emaciated. In others he gets grossly indolent and weighted down with fatty matter. In the first instance he is afflicted with dyspepsia and nervous prostration. In the second for kidney trouble or heart failure. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery enables the average man to undergo a great deal of hardship, deprivation and overwork, in spite of the fact that it cleanses the food to be properly assimilated, it builds firm, healthy flesh, but does not make corpulent people more fat. It cures dyspepsia, nervous troubles, kidney disease and 98 per cent. of all cases of consumption. It prevents weakness in any organ of the body.

"In August, 1881, I was taken down with a burning and severe pain in my stomach and under my shoulders, and dizziness in my head." writes Dr. H. H. Herring, Esq., of Bangor, Volusia Co., Fla. "My home physician said my symptoms were like consumption. Nothing that I ate would digest, and I had great distress in my stomach. I wrote Dr. Pierce for advice, and received four bottles of his Golden Medical Discovery and three of 'Pierce's Peppets.' I am now able to do my work as well as many things that I could not touch before I took these medicines."

An inactive liver and constipated bowels are promptly cured by Dr. Pierce's Peppets. They never gripe.

The oldest and most reliable, MERRILL'S Carpet Store 1661 Notre Dame Street.

## BARGAINS.

SHAWLS for the Baby Carriage, slightly soiled, almost Blanket size: 75c. \$1.00, \$1.25. Room 1, 210 ST. JAMES street, opposite Nordheimer's.

Special discounts to Religious Institutions, at Merrill's Carpet Store, 1661 Notre Dame Street.

CANADA, Province of Quebec, District of Mont-real. Real Superior Court, No. 1616—Jules G. Gauthier, Plaintiff, vs. the City and Municipality of Montreal, with the Hon. Attorney General of the same place, Plaintiff, vs. the said John Augustine Mann, Defendant. A motion is presented as to property has been instituted in this cause. CHARLES A. BUILOS, Attorney for Plaintiff. Montreal, 12th March, 1898. 39-5