

IRISH NEWS.

FROM OUR IRISH EXCHANGES.

EXIT "HALLYKILLEG."

Mr. Johnston, ex-M. P. for Belfast, and now Inspector of Fisheries, has had his career as an Orange denagogue brought to a sudden and rather inglorious termination. In reply to a question put by Mr. A. M. Sullivan, in the House of Commons, towards the close of last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer informs the public that the Inspector has been "cautioned" in respect of the speech recently delivered by him at a public meeting at Belfast, and containing, as the public are aware, some remarks most offensive to Catholics on the subject of a Catholic University. He has, in fact, been told not to offend again in a similar manner, under pain of losing his place; and the valiant hero, who has so often expressed his determination to die in defence of his principles, has pocketed the advice to keep the place. The most humiliating thing is, perhaps, the choice of Mr. James Lowther as the person to administer it.—Nation.

THE BELFAST RIOT.

Belfast, Monday night, March 17, 1879.

The national festival has been darkened by a bloody event. Whether life has been actually sacrificed remains doubtful, but that there has been an obstinate and dangerous street war between the police and the populace, in which shots were exchanged and mangled people sent to hospital, there cannot be any doubt. For some weeks a portion of those who claim to march under Nationalist banners had announced their determination of parading upon St. Patrick's Day. They were discontinued in the strongest way, publicly and privately, by all who have hitherto had a voice in the direction of the Nationalist interest in Belfast, and the following proclamation of the Nationalists proper, levelled against the intended parade was printed in placard form, and conspicuously posted up through the town. It is almost incredible, but it is strictly true, that the placards were torn down by the police as soon as they were discovered, as though the Government was desirous to bring about the collision the proclamation was designed to prevent:

To the Nationalists of Belfast and surrounding districts: "FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN.—A deception is thought to be practised upon you by a small party who know little of your principles, and care less for your motives, and who seem anxious to use your name, that, if possible, you may become the laughing stock of your enemies, by foolishly participating in a demonstration which is publicly announced to be held at Hannahstown on St. Patrick's Day. "Nationalists of Belfast, it now becomes our duty to tender you advice, and make clear to you some of the many reasons why we think you should not participate in a demonstration upon this present occasion:

First. The serious depression of trade that has existed for a length of time in your midst has brought about a state of things seldom known to the people of Belfast, which should clearly demonstrate to every rational mind the absurdity of holding a procession at the present time. "Secondly. The National cause cannot be benefited in any legitimate form by demonstrations of this kind, especially as they have no real National object in view, as their tendencies are to set class against class, and embitter the religious feelings of the people, which has been for many years the curse of the Irish race; and, finally, it is unworthy of you to imitate a small section of your misguided countrymen, who hold their Twelfth of July parades for the purpose of proclaiming their hostility to their native land. The true National policy of Ireland is to conciliate our countrymen of every class and country; to sever the ties which have hitherto bound together the separate sections of our country. "Fellow-countrymen, you should ever remember that Ireland's cause has withstood a merciless crusade for seven centuries by the revengeful foe, and has outlived it all, triumphantly proclaiming its unity and indestructibility to-day as when the great St. Lawrence O'Toole laid it on its altar."

"By Order of THE COMMITTEE. "God Save Ireland."

The priests, also, in their several districts, tried their powers of persuasion. If there was no higher motive at work, it was felt that, amidst the poverty and gloom that at present rest upon the working classes of this town, it was no time for idle and offensive display. The organizers of the demonstration, however, were not so easily cajoled, or reasoned, or terrified by their walk, and they issued, on Saturday, a counter-proclamation, announcing that they were "the real Nationalists," and that they would exhibit themselves in their thousands to-day.

The parade being therefore inevitable, a little party of seven extra-regular magistrates were drafted into Belfast; the military were requisitioned; and the magistrates met on Saturday to settle the order of battle, if battle there was to be.

The gathering ground of the processionists was to be Smithfield Square, a densely crowded "alleyway" in the heart of the city. Thence a short and narrow passage—West street—leads into the thoroughfare of Millfield, which is the boundary line of the hostile quarter, one side of the street being reckoned "green," and the opposite side "true blue." Behind this latter side are the wholly Protestant regions of workingmen's streets, which terminate in Mill street, by Brown street and Peter's hill. Millfield itself is thus a debatable ground. The original plan of procession contemplated a march by way of Millfield, through the district of Carrickhill, and so by Donegal street, through the leading thoroughfares of Belfast, and thence to Hannahstown—the usual camping ground of such demonstrations. According to this programme the processionists would not have trespassed upon strictly Protestant ground, though they would have skirted it closely, and, so to say, bearded it at two of the outlets. Up to last year this appears to have been the recognized route of processionists to Hannahstown, though it was not seldom a lively battle-field upon these occasions. Last year, however, the authorities set their faces against permitting Smithfield demonstrations to approach so near the Orange districts as Millfield, and compelled them to proceed by an alternative route through Berry street and Hercules place into Cattle place, which, though it would have been their most direct way to Hannahstown, would practically have balked the processionists of their parade through the main thoroughfares of the town. This rule, upon Saturday, the magistrates determined at all hazards to enforce. The processionists claimed that no such alternative had been placed in the way of Orange processionists, the last of which had marched through the middle of the town in spite of Mayor and magistrates, without being molested. The demonstration committee appear to have determined upon an equally uncompromising assertion of their rights. From eight o'clock this morning they began assembling with bands and banners in Smithfield square, from the districts of Carrickhill, the Falls-road, Ballymacaratt, and other strongholds of the "green." They were working people of the humblest class, a large proportion of them boys, and a still larger portion of them women. No man of the smallest note in the Catholic or Nationalist interest in

Belfast identified himself with the demonstration. The leaders wore green sashes, the bands green uniforms, everybody wore shamrocks, and there were a number of green banners decorated with portraits of O'Connell, Emmet and Grattan, with mottoes such as "God Save Ireland."

At nine o'clock several thousand men had fallen in under the banners; the head of the procession faced West street. Across the neck of this street was drawn up a double line of police, 40 strong, to bar the passage into Millfield against the processionists. The foremost line carried their batons, holding them over their heads, with bayonets fixed. To the rear twelve mounted constables were held in reserve. The party was under the command of Mr. H. A. Blake, R. M., of Tuam. The constabulary, who were mostly drawn from the stations in the King's County, were in charge of Sub-Inspectors Fulton, Gardiner, Harrell and Gallagher. At ten minutes past nine the drums beat, and the foremost body of the processionists marched steadily up against the cordon of police. Mr. Blake informed them that they must not pass. He was answered that they could and would. Mr. Blake then read the Riot Act. His voice was drowned by the noise of the drums and the angry shouts of the crowd. Without a moment's hesitation the processionists plunged through the front line of constabulary, beating down their batons, and charged boldly up to the bayonets. The bayonets were presently a shower of paving stones rattled in among the police; and then they came faster and faster, while some of the leading processionists grappled with them hand to hand. A charge of bayonets was ineffectual. The mob dispersed only to re-assemble with fresh volleys of stones. They mounted forward dashed to the front, and with their bayonets fixed to the ends of their rifles, they were stoned beyond endurance. One of them, sub-constable Winlow Jackson, was struck simultaneously on both temples and tumbled from his saddle. A couple of pistol shots were also discharged into the crowd. For a time it seemed as if the victory was to be with the processionists. The resident magistrates ordered the police to load; and as headmen, they fired three volleys. If so it is impossible that the police can have fired with deadly aim into the closely packed crowd, the foremost of whom were not six paces distant. Had they done so, it is slaughter would have been terrible. As it is, it is reported that one man was killed, but the report up to the present (midnight) has not been verified.

The rifle fire, followed by another charge of bayonets, at last broke the spirit of the processionists. They gathered together their scattered ranks, and, raising their hands once more, abandoned the ground to the police, and with drums beating set off for Hannahstown by the abbreviated route marked out for them. The day was one of frightful inclemency, raw snow showers all the morning thickened into a downright snowstorm, which fell on the mettle of the processionists as severely as the bayonets and bullets of the police. A troop of Scots Greys and a detachment of the 105th Regiment were drawn up at the Model Schools, near the Falls-road, who kept the over-ardent Orangemen of the Brickfields in awe behind their bayonets. This was the only other military force that was seen on the parade, and the hard marches thrown and after passing under the hand Hercules street and the Falls-road, the procession safely cleared the outskirts of the town.

The fierce cold and wet, however, made a six miles march to Hannahstown impossible. A halt was made at Andersonstown, about two miles from Belfast. There was a brief parley. No speaker turned up. There was no resolutions and no meeting. The snow was falling stormily about them. Wet through, the processionists turned their faces and their dragged banners towards Belfast. Happily, their return was made as easily as their outward journey. A few pistol shots were fired in the air as they passed through the town, with their drums still beating, but not the smallest disturbance took place until they arrived, as they had gone, at Smithfield square, and began to disperse.

One body of the processionists belonged to Carrickhill, which, as I have said, is approached through Millfield. The Carrickhill men once more attempted to force a passage home through West street, where they had been repulsed in the morning. They passed through West street unopposed, but at the entry into Millfield they were confronted by a heavy force of armed police, horses and foot, under the command of Mr. Henry Thynne, R.M., Donegal, and Sub-Inspector McDermott. They were another fierce and dogged conflict took place, and embroiled the neighborhood for nearly an hour.

The mob used stones, and the constables used bayonets, without measuring too nicely. The Rev. Mr. Green, the Catholic Administrator of St. Mary's parish, who had exerted himself with might and main to calm the rioters, states that he saw one man wearing a green sash set upon in a merciless way by some constables and cruelly beaten with their batons. Upon the spot he addressed Head Constable Toombs, whom he saw conspicuous in the attack, and warned him that he would report him, as he instantly did to his officers. It is stated that the crowd were infuriated by the attack of the police upon their comrade, and Head Constable Toombs was set upon and received a beating, from the effect of which he lies in the hospital. The man of Carrickhill who eventually beat his back, and the Scots Greys came eventually into Millfield, and swept it clear. What with the sleet still falling and the bands dispersed, the neighborhood had, at three o'clock simmered down into perfect peace.

To-night there is not a sound, not a group in the disturbed districts, save the police patrols, to remind one how near they had been to the scene of a bloody and disgraceful tragedy. One man, Edward Gordon, was arrested in the morning, and has already been committed for trial.

The following policemen were treated at the hospital—Sub-constable Gahan, scalp wound; Patrick McParthen, severe contusion of the body; Timothy Kilsenan, gunshot wound in the arm, not dangerous; John Harper, scalp wound; John Crossley, severe wound in the leg. About thirty civilians were also treated at the hospital for injuries, and a number of arrests have been made in connection with the riot.

Belfast, Tuesday Night, March 18. The town has relaxed into perfect quiet. The snow and rain, which have continued without intermission, have been perhaps the best peace officers; and with the exception of the presence of the strong force of military and police in town, there is not a sign of the disorder of yesterday.

It now transpires that there was not, at any time, the danger of a collision between the processionists and the Orange element. It is even known that the Orange leaders applauded and sympathized with the determination of the processionists not to be bound by the direction of the police. No doubt, their sympathy was decided, if it was ever wavering, by the knowledge that the processionists were not alone at war with the police, but also with the Catholic Bishop and clergy, and with nearly every decent man of their creed and politics in the town. With due allowance for this feeling, which is not at all unusual in the Orange bigots of the North, there is a general feeling abroad that the authorities would have done more wisely if they had given the drumming party full swing to have their folly out. The thing would have almost certainly passed off contemptibly and in peace. The chief part of the town, where, over and over again, the Orangemen have been allowed to flaunt their banners without let or hindrance, was

enough to rankle in their breasts, and gave them the sympathy of many who had no other feeling in common with them. The responsibility for this policy rests with Saturday's meeting of the magistrates. Their determination was not even publicly expressed; and their resolutions heretofore have been sufficiently vacillating to give the people little confidence that they would do what they said. The danger has, however, passed without any serious consequences. There is still some belief in police quarters as the accident of good weather might easily have produced. A man was either killed or dangerously wounded by the fire of the constabulary. No such event has been heard of at the hospital nor am I inclined to think it ever will be.

In the Custody Court to-day, before Mr. J. C. O'Donnell, R.M., and Mr. Charles Lloyd, R.M., three young men named James Murphy, Francis McDonnell, and John Donnelly, were brought up on a charge of participating in the attack upon the police at West street. The prisoners, who are workmen in the humblest class, were defended by Mr. M'Elizabeth and Mr. Patrick Shields. After the examination of several witnesses, all three were committed to take their trial at the assizes, which began to-day.

CARDINAL NEWMAN AND THE IRISH PEOPLE.

The Dublin Nation recently published an able review of Dr. Newman's life, from which we extract the following:—When the Irish Catholic bishops determined to oppose the Queen's Colleges—institutions that were directed as much against Irish nationality as against the faith of the people—they resolved to found a Catholic University. And in order that its arrangements should be on a level with the requirements of the age, and the experience with the requirements of the past, they resolved to take charge of its foundation, and to become its first head. He consented, and established the university, governing it during the first years of its existence, and giving it the form, and even the regulations, which it has preserved to the present day. This is not the place to enter into the details of the subject. We will only say that all that has happened during the last twenty years demonstrated that if the university has not been a success, this has not been owing to any lack of forethought, skill, or prudence on the part of its great founder. We will remind our readers that Dr. Newman was to establish the Chair of Irish Archaeology, to which he appointed Eugene O'Curry. From the first moment of his connection with the undertaking till he left Ireland—may, long after his departure from this world, be continued to manifest the liveliest interest in all the studies connected with the Irish language and history, and to foster them in every way in his power. It is his liberality that we owe the publication of the successive series of O'Curry's lectures, a most valuable contribution to the study of the history and antiquities of Ireland. Newman showed his warm sympathy for the people, in short essays and more serious dissertations, he manifested his appreciation of our people in language of burning eloquence and flowing over with poetic feeling. Ireland will not forget that John Henry Newman, breaking with all the prejudices of his early Protestant education and Tory associations, did her ample justice. And now she feels that the honor due to him reflects to some extent honor upon herself. But had he not the largest share in helping to re-kill her old traditions, broken for centuries, and to make a vigorous stand for her educational nationality and independence? And when hereafter men will point to Cardinal Newman with pride and reverence, she can remind them that he was the chief founder and first Rector of her Catholic University.

Dr. Newman read the article and wrote the following letter to the Editor of the Nation:—

THE ORATORY, Birmingham, March 9, 1879. To the Editor of the Nation Newspaper. DEAR SIR:—I have just received the Nation, and have to thank you for the very kind notice of me you have inserted in its columns. It is a great pleasure and satisfaction to me to have in any degree, and to the kind feeling and wish of the Irish people, whom I have sincerely wished to serve. Your faithful servant, JOHN H. NEWMAN.

A NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

NO MORE USE FOR FIRE ENGINES. On the third floor of the Park Bank building, on Broadway, a model of a water tank is on exhibition, which, when built in some central portion of the city, will be capable of holding two million gallons of water. Its dimensions will be 120 feet in its prior diameter, and about 200 feet high. The tower will be built on the top of which the most important invention for the extinguishing of fire, that has yet been brought before the public of New York. It is evident from the damage done recently by fires, which have completely destroyed some of the best and most substantially built structures in the city, that our present means of extinguishing fires are entirely inadequate. This "water tower" proposes to supply this great deficiency, and we understand it meets with the approval of the Board of Underwriters, and many officers of insurance companies, who have given the subject their attention. Its originator, a hydraulic engineer of this city, has given the subject many years of study. Mr. Wm. J. McAlpine, builder of the Chicago Water Works, says that the scheme in "is the best that can be devised. It is proposed that the tower be built in Union Square, and to occupy a space not more than 100 feet square. It is proposed to use salt water instead of Croton, thereby saving Croton water for other uses. Large pipes will be run through Fourteenth street to the East and North Rivers. Two stationary engines and pumps—200 horse-power—would be sufficient to keep the reservoir constantly full. The reservoir is to be connected with a system of pipes running all over the city, and terminating in hydrants, to which hose will be supplied. They are to be so placed that no fire can occur at a distance of more than 400 feet from a hydrant. Twenty-eight of these can be brought to bear on any fire that may occur, from the Battery to Fifty-ninth street, with hose from 100 to 500 feet in length, each hydrant having four openings, thus giving 112 streams. These may be increased by using a larger quantity of hose, if necessary, as there will be an ample supply of water.

The motive force of the jet of water from the ends of the hose will be the tremendous impetus given to the water by its vertical fall of over three hundred feet in the reservoir tower. In order to get a proper idea of this matter it is only necessary to say that at the Battery the jets can throw water as high as 155 feet; at Broadway and Fifth avenue, 180 feet; and at Thirty-fourth street and Third avenue (the highest point), 110 feet. By this plan it will be readily seen how easily a fire can be extinguished. The Fire Department can rest assured that the hose will be used, and the engines and horses can be dispensed with; and it is claimed that the proprietors of this water-power are allowed to build it, they propose that the expense connected with it will be much less than the amount at present expended on fire engines, and the other machinery of the Department.

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