

## St. Patrick's Society Annual Banquet.

### LARGE GATHERING OF REPRESENTATIVE IRISHMEN.

The banquet given on St. Patrick's night by the St. Patrick's Society in the Windsor Hotel was largely attended by the members of the Society, representatives of kindred societies, and numerous other guests, the President, Dr. F. E. Devlin, presiding. Amongst those at the head table with him were Sir William Kingston, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Judge Curran, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Father Kavanagh, Senator Cloran, Dr. Guerin, Mr. G. E. Drummond, Alderman Bumbrey, Mr. R. Wilson-Smith and a number of others.

The vice-chairmen were Messrs. F. Curran, W. P. Kearney, F. P. MacNamee and T. T. Tansey.

After full justice had been done to the menu, the chairman proposed the health of the King.

Following the loyal toasts came the toast of the evening, "Ireland."

Proposed by the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, it was responded to by Mr. G. E. Drummond, Father McDermott and Judge Curran.

In rising to propose the toast, Hon. Mr. Lemieux remarked that the history of Ireland was a history of woes and oppression, but that the same had not blotted out the patriotism and the love of country which was exhibited by every Irishman. To-day by their services to the Empire—to Great Britain—Ireland claims their gratitude; Ireland demands Home Rule, not misrule.

Continuing, he justified this on the ground that it was not an innovation, but rather a restoration of what Ireland had once possessed. Ireland wants a parliament on College Green. A number of statements of Mr. Gladstone, whom he called the greatest statesman of modern times, were quoted. The Union of 1800 was a mockery. The only golden period in the history of Ireland, the only time when Ireland made progress, was during the period of Grattan's parliament, between the years 1714 and 1796.

Personally speaking as a British subject his great aim was to see the colonies prosper. To see Canada forge ahead and yet still retain her present relations to Great Britain. How was this possible, he asked, when every year there were thousands of Irishmen coming to Canada, coming to the republic to the South, their hearts filled with rancor against the old land.

In Canada, in spite of the additional arguments which might be adduced from the presence of two races, as well as two religions, home rule had proved a success. The Solicitor-General traced the course of the growth of Canadian constitutional privileges. In 1839, Lord Durham had impressed upon the British Premier that Canada must have home rule. In 1867, a great Canadian and a great statesman, Sir John A. Macdonald, gave Canada Confederation.

"Gentlemen," said Mr. Lemieux, "I see a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald is erected upon Parliament Hill, that of Sir George Carter is also there, but, gentlemen, I feel to see the statue of D'Arcy McGee there beside them, and D'Arcy was one of the authors of Confederation."

In continuing, Mr. Lemieux, referring to the Canadian Constitution, stated that it was "as perfect as human fabric could be for a British Colony."

He did not believe in Imperial Federation for Canada. He thought that distance would prove an insuperable barrier. He believed in an Imperial Parliament for Wales, Ireland, England and Scotland, but a local parliament to manage education in these countries, to enact their civil laws. Should Great Britain give Home Rule to Ireland, it would be a great saving to her; it would benefit her in many ways. She would save a considerable amount of money. It cost her at the present day \$5,000,000 a year to police Ireland. This would be wiped right out if the country were granted the measure of liberty desired.

The honor of the country as a Christian nation demanded that Ireland should have Home Rule, and in the speaker's opinion, throughout the Empire, the majority was in favor of it.

"But," added Mr. Lemieux, "in the words of John Bright, 'the harvest is in sight, I see it coming.' Irishmen are united to-day, and Roman Catholic and Protestant alike join in the demand. Just as Roman Catholic Emancipation came about through the efforts of Daniel O'Connell, granted I am happy to say by a Conservative Prime Minister, Lord Wellington, so the larger measure of liberty will soon be vouchsafed them, but it must come through the united efforts of all. Home Rule is in sight. Home Rule will come."

The toast to Ireland was then drunk amidst cheers, and after reading congratulatory telegrams from Halifax and New York Irish societies, the chairman called upon Mr. G. E. Drummond to respond.

Amidst cheers, Mr. Drummond arose and stated that he considered it an honor to be accounted a native born Irishman, a native of a country whose history and song challenged the envy of the world. He would, however, as a native born Irishman, and also as a Canadian, call their attention to some facts which demonstrated what many people were doing for Ireland.

He would first state that the source of a people's wealth and happiness rested upon what it made. He traced the collapse of the woollen trade in Ireland, which the British Government had vainly tried to replace by encouraging the linen industry. Free trade in England had struck a blow at Irish agriculture. In 1901 the population of Ireland was only one-half of that of 1846. This had come about as a result of the decay in agriculture and manufacturing.

To-day, however, there were two organizations doing much to aid Ireland. They were the Congested Districts Board, and the Agricultural Society.

Through these two societies had been brought about a revival of a number of industries. The fisheries were practically encouraged, the fishermen were furnished with better boats, were taught by object lessons how to use them, had received fast transportation for their freight to the London and other English markets, the cottage industries had been revived, the nuns in Mayo had been assisted in establishing their mat-making industries, the Donegal rug-making industry had been fostered. They had done much for the west coast of Ireland.

Under Horace Plunkett's tuition the Agricultural Society was teaching the Irish self-reliance. The technical schools of Ireland possessed the admiration of all Europe.

After referring to the Irish linen trade, and the ship building industry Mr. Drummond stated that the teaming masses of England near at hand furnished a link which must ever bind the two countries together commercially. He trusted that Ireland's political future might be ever linked with that of Great Britain. The act of union had at least with all its evil, done one good thing. It had held Ireland for the British Crown.

After referring to the Dublin Fusiliers at the battle of Glencoe, in South Africa, the speaker said:

"We must think that our union with the Empire cannot end until time ends. Whatever our injustices, Great Britain presents the noblest example of national life, our Empire guarantees freedom to every living soul beneath its flag and grants sanctuary to the oppressed in other lands."

Mr. Drummond was heartily ap-

plauded when he resumed his seat. Mr. Justice Curran, whose name was also coupled with that of Mr. Drummond in replying to the toast of Ireland, made a short speech.

"In this land," he said, "Irishmen are united in heart and hand, and in the love of the land they all love so well. Ireland can least of all afford to dream of dissensions."

The speaker referred to a number of famous Irishmen who had been distinguished advocates of the cause of Ireland, and pointed to the fact that many of her greatest leaders had been Protestants, Emmett, Grattan, Curran, Flood, Parnell and Redmond were all Irish Protestants.

The speaker, in a characteristic address, continued, saying that only the Israelites could claim to be more ancient than the Irish. He referred to the fact that they were occupying positions of distinction in every country of the globe. For all that the Irish people had done for the Empire they only asked in return that they be trusted.

He hoped that the same justice would ultimately be extended to Ireland as Canada, and then he said, there would be a union which was not upon paper, but in the hearts and minds of the people; a union which, concluded Mr. Justice Curran, "we pray God may come and may last for ever."

The Rev. Father McDermott, of New York, also spoke to the toast of Ireland.

He referred to the fact that Ireland had given governors and statesmen to the colonies, and asked if that little isle could do this, why they could not govern their own land.

He briefly reviewed the achievements of Irishmen in the field of literature. Goldsmith, Sheridan, Edmund Burke and many others. There was a strong suspicion on foot that William Shakespeare was a Celt and if so he must have been an Irishman.

He referred to the fact that the United States had been a refuge for the Irish, but he stated that they had nobly repaid the republic for the sanctuary offered them.

He admitted the fact that an Irishman liked a fight, but stated that you could only understand this and appreciate this when you understood liberty in all its ramifications. He paid a tribute to the work which was being done by Horace Plunkett and others. He had lately visited the west coast and had seen the prosperity of areas which some time ago were desolate. The Irish race were a race of dreamers. If those present had been materialists they would not have been present that night.

A song by Dr. Scanlan was loudly applauded, after which the toast to "Canada" was proposed by Mr. R. Wilson-Smith.

The latter in fitting terms referred to the numerous services received by Canada at the hands of her Irish citizens. Canada was a land of bountiful harvest. The speaker quoted figures to show the progress made in Canada since 1868. It was Canada's liberty which was responsible for her progress. All present desired the same liberty extended to Ireland. He was a poor Irishman who forgot his own country.

Hon. Dr. Guerin and Hon. John Costigan also responded briefly to the toast, as did Mr. F. D. Monk, M.P. The latter voiced Mr. R. L. Borden's regret at being unable to be present.

In a short speech, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy referred to the progress of Canada, which he attributed largely to the excellent government under which Canadians lived.

After a song from Mr. Latimer, Mr. Morrison proposed the Parliament of Canada, which was replied to by Senator Cloran and Mr. Devlin, M.P.

Mr. Jackson rendered a song. The toast of the Guests was proposed by Mr. Tansey and responded to by Ald. Bumbrey, acting for Mayor Laporte, representatives of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, St. George's, St. Andrew's and St. David's societies.

### Y. I. L. & B. Society Entertainment.

The trial scene from "Robert Emmet," given by the Young Irishmen's

L. & B. Society in Windsor Hall on St. Patrick's night brought enthusiastic applause. The sentiments of the young patriot were eloquently expressed by Mr. M. J. Power, while Messrs. Cunningham, Murphy and O'Connor made a trio of stately judges. Miss Gertrude O'Brien rendered a couple of Irish ballads in a manner surprising in so young a singer. Her audience appreciated the uncommon treat of hearing an Irish ballad sung with Irish feeling, and twice recalled her.

The most elaborate feature of the evening was Mons. Victor Ocellier's presentation of the scenes from "Carmen" and "Toreador."

### St. Ann's Y. M. S. Score Big Success.

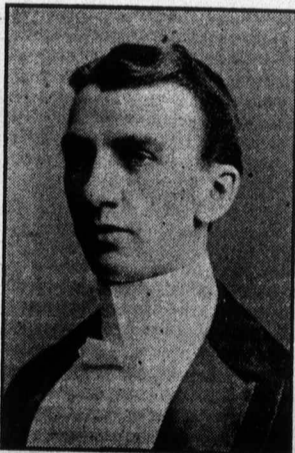
The Monument National was crowded at both afternoon and evening performances given by the St. Ann's Young Men's Society on St. Patrick's day. All thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Edwin Varney's presentation of "Galway Law," and he had every reason to be proud of the performers for they acquitted themselves most admirably. The musical programme was splendidly carried out. Mr. Quinn rendered two charming Irish ballads. There was a great deal of work entailed in the leading part, but Mr. Liston was equal to it. The unanimous verdict was that the concert was up to all former ones, if they were not surpassed.

### St. Mary's Y. M. S. Gave Excellent Concert.

St. Patrick's night was duly celebrated by St. Mary's Young Men's Society, in St. Mary's Church Hall, when a varied programme of gymnastic exercises, songs and choruses was provided.

The president of the society, Mr. J. A. Heffernan, was in the chair, and during the evening made an address in which he reviewed the work of the society for the past year and complimented the members on the active interest they had taken in the organization.

Rev. Father Macdonald also addressed the young people. Owing to the large number who had to be turned away from the doors, for want of accommodation, the entertainment was repeated on Monday night.



MR. LAWRENCE O'BRIEN.

Mr. Lawrence C. O'Brien, familiarly known as genial Larry, has added new laurels to his long list of successes. His portrayal of the character of Lawrence Lanagan in "True Irish Hearts" has won the approval of the public and press. He is to be congratulated on his historic achievements, as he is one of the brightest sons of St. Patrick's parish.

It is of the stuff of dreams that reality is made. All thoughts, and dreams and desires come true if a man persist in them long enough for them to come to the birth. So if we desire great geniuses for our land we must not only cease consulting common sense, we must overcome the desire to claw differences. —Harper's Weekly.

If you have given one soul slight comfort your joy must be tenfold. The sweetest lives are those that make some sacrifices for their fellow-men.

## A DWINDLING NATION.

Mr William Redmond, M.P., on the Curse of Emigration.

In an article in the Irish Independent, Mr. William Redmond, M.P., who is a brother of the chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and whose visit to Pittsburg a few years ago is well remembered, writes in part:

When is the fearful stream of emigration to be stayed, and unless it is stayed, and that soon, what is to become of the nation? And what becomes of the emigrants?

I may speak on this matter with perhaps, some little authority, for I have been on five separate occasions in the United States, and in almost every part from San Francisco to New York, and I have naturally with deep interest looked into the position of our people in the great republic. That millions of our race have done well in every walk of life across the sea it is a pride and a glory for us to know. At the same time, it may be questioned whether the most successful Irishman in America would not have had a happier life at home in Ireland had a fair opportunity been afforded him. It is true many of our race have done nobly and well abroad. With hardly any advantages in the way of education or capital they have surmounted all obstacles, and by sheer force of character have carved their way to fortune and success.

But let the truth be said, many, many, and very many of those who left the old land with high hopes have lived to rue the day they ever crossed the sea. In the crowded cities of America, where people from all over the world congregate, the struggle for life is hard, and the slums of many a place hold Irish men and women who would barter a portion of their lives to be at home once more. Even those who do get good employment have to work in so wearing a way that health soon gives out. I have seen in the big hotels of America our emigrant girls at work, and have spoken to many of them of their lives. They earn good money, but how hard and at what a sacrifice of health and happiness they alone know. It is the same way with the men. They may, if they are lucky, get well paid for their work; but the life in the big centres of labor is not healthy, and as for the money, though it may seem considerable, when the cost of living is counted it will be found that a man may be better off on half the amount at home. The fact that the leaders of the Irish race in America are doing their best to discourage emigration from Ireland is eloquent of what they think best for our people. In Australia it is the same. Labor is not easy to get; and I have never met an Irishman from Australia who failed to advise Irishmen to remain at home, if possible, such as they would be welcome if circumstances drove them abroad.

I say here, as one who has been fortunate in having opportunities of seeing the chance of our people in almost every part of the world, that if the young people of Ireland can earn a fair living at home that it would be madness for them to drift abroad, where hardships and troubles which they little dream of may await them, and where they will be, after all, strangers in a strange land, no matter how many friends they may make. The organization for staying emigration is doing a splendid work, of this no man can be more assured than one who has visited the fields of emigration, as I have done. The English contention, that Ireland is over-populated, we all know to be part of a deliberate design to drive

or induce the Catholic Irish from the country, so as to anglicise the old soil, and that way conquer the land more effectually than persecution ever could do.

That this will happen if the tide of emigration is not stayed is as certain as anything can be in this world. Hence is it not the first duty of all Irishmen to do something, no matter how little, to keep the people at home? It is the most important thing we have before us, and it is a work in which patriotic men of all parties and creeds may join on a common platform. Is it true, really, that work cannot be found to keep our youth at home? I have met young men in this country who have said to me, "Oh, it is very good to talk of not emigrating, but we must live, and where is the work to be had at home?" It ought to be possible to provide work, surely. Great and splendid efforts are being made to revive Irish industries, and all honor to such efforts and to the men and women who are making them.

Are such efforts being seconded by the people at large as they should? If every man who hates emigration were to contribute a little it ought to be possible, and even easy to provide with a good chance of success employment in the towns and villages of Ireland for the young men and women. The settlement of the land question on fair terms should do much to stay emigration, but still there would remain the great necessity for employment in the towns, for the lack of work in the towns is to anyone who travels the country a most depressing fact. In those places where industries are revived all over the land it is a pleasure to see the people working and happy. The directors of the rival steamship companies may reduce the passage money to five shillings, and it will offer no inducements to those who have steady employment at home.

In striking contrast with the scenes usual at emigration stations was one I witnessed a short time ago. In the town of Ennis I visited a little knitting factory organized locally. Twenty-five or thirty young girls were at work deftly and skillfully turning out excellent woollen goods and earning wages to help to keep the home. The same type of girls largely that a day or two afterwards I had seen flying from the country leaving their parents heart-broken behind. In many parts of the country similar employments are afforded, but are they supported as they should? If everyone tried to procure the necessaries of life manufactured by Irish hands the various industries of the country would thrive, and the most effectual blow would be struck against the emigrant ship. It is said that the banks contain in Ireland much idle money. If everyone who had the anti-emigration cause at heart did but a little there is no reason why employment should not be provided which would yield a fair interest on the outlay. Of recent years various patriotic organizations have done much to revive the industries of the land, and of course there is nothing new in what I have written in this paper, but coming fresh from the west, where the tide of emigration is still flowing, I have had it borne in upon me that with all our reviving hopes the nation is still bleeding and bleeding to death, and the railway stations of Ireland still daily present when the emigrants depart scenes which are beyond doubt the most miserable sights in the world to-day.

### I WOULDN'T FRET.

Dear little lad, with flashing eyes,  
And soft cheeks where the swift red  
flies,  
Some one has grieved you, dear; I  
know  
Just how it hurts; words can hurt  
so!  
But listen, laddie—don't you hear  
The old clock ticking loud and clear?

It says, "Dear heart, let us forget—  
I wouldn't fret, I wouldn't fret!"  
Why, little girls, what's gone wrong?  
My song-bird's drooping, hushed her  
song.  
The world has used you ill, you say?  
Ah, sweetheart, that is just its way.  
It doesn't mean to be unkind,  
So, little lassie, never mind,  
The old clock ticks, "Forget, forget,  
I wouldn't fret, I wouldn't fret!"