

CORRESPONDENCE.

LITERATURE IN TORONTO.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—I read with a good deal of interest the article in your last issue entitled "Literature in Toronto." The author seems to me to have voiced the longing of everyone with literary aspirations. The benefits that would accrue from such a "fraternization" as is suggested would be very great and would very soon be felt. As one of the many interested in such things who do not reside in Toronto, I should like to propose that, if such a society is ever formed, it should be open to all Canadians, and be made a provincial, if not a national, affair. It would help to bind together all the *littérateurs* of Canada, and would probably in this way give a more national tone to our literature. The scheme is perfectly feasible. Its success will depend entirely upon the literary people themselves. It would be better to make such a society quite independent of any other existing society. Since the younger members would in the nature of things benefit most by it, there would fall to their lot the principal share of the work of starting and sustaining it. There appears to be no serious difficulty in the way of thus establishing an institution of great and permanent value. But whatever may be done in the way of a national society, all the readers of THE WEEK and all others interested in literature will heartily wish success to a Toronto society.

I cannot, however, agree with the writer of the article in his remarks on the "salon." There is no reason why evening dress should in any way hinder the freest and best intellectual intercourse. On the other hand, care in the toilet would seem a natural preliminary and concomitant of elegance in thought and expression. It is true that the association in idea of evening dress with the occasions on which it is usually worn may seem to make it incongruous with anything approaching profundity, but this is a mere accident of association. I think salons should be encouraged always, and not only "in the absence of any other mode of intercourse." What in their case stands most in the way is the great difficulty of successful management and the tax it must be upon the hostess.

The whole question of the ways and means of making suitable opportunities for literary intercourse cannot be too earnestly considered. Something is needed; and, to quote from the article I have referred to, "we hope this will be by no means the last word on the subject."

W. SANFORD EVANS.

"FAIRPLAY RADICAL" AND PATRICK EGAN.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—Under the above heading, "Brannagh," a R. C. gentleman occupying a position in a public office at Ottawa, has contributed a letter in your issue of September 16, in which he upholds Egan, who as Treasurer of the League supplemented from the League funds the weekly pence subscribed by the Invincibles—the men who committed the Phenix Park murders. "Brannagh" also challenges some evidence previously quoted by me, and finishes with an object lesson showing how Home Rulers would deal with minorities if they got the Home Rule which the 984 Irish nonconformist ministers so graphically describe and loathe in their pathetic appeal.

First Charge.

That about two years ago I made in the *Toronto Mail* a serious charge against the Rev. Charles O'Reilly, D.D., a Catholic priest at Detroit. "Brannagh" states that the reverend gentleman wrote a letter to a very obscure and struggling journal which not one Protestant in 1,000 sees, stating that he "would give me \$500 if I could point out one sentence or line or word in the evidence quoted sustaining the charge." Falstaff refused to peril his soul gratis, but Dr. O'Reilly has perilled \$500 gratis, for no one asked him to do so. Of course I never even heard of his letter, and I doubt if "Brannagh" has quoted it correctly. He innocently complains that I did not—after quoting sworn evidence—apologize to Dr. O'Reilly, who has practically shirked the question.

Reply.

Dr. O'Reilly was then the Treasurer of the American branch of the League and was also the treasurer of the Clan-na-Gael, respecting which the three presiding judges of the Parnell Commission—see *Times'* reports part 12, page 143—unanimously declared "that the body in the U.S. by whatever name it be best designed, Clan-na-Gael or Irish Republican Brotherhood, were one and the same body."

Your readers will remember that one or more of the leaders of the Clan-na-Gael (Dr. O'Reilly knew nothing at all about the matter) caused the late Dr. Cronin to be murdered, because he, being an active member of that nefarious organization, objected to the money subscribed for outrage and murder being stolen and applied for the private purposes of one or more of the leaders. This is a curious specimen of patriotic Irish logic. Dr. Cronin, a highly-educated gentleman, advocated the worst sort of crime; but complained that it was a greater crime for patriots to steal from their confederates the funds subscribed for outrage and murder, than it was to take the lives of innocent people. The arch-Thugs had embezzled

the sinews of war, and thus, dreadful to think of—innocent people, would go uninjured. Whereupon the organization split into two—one side seeking to punish Cronin's murderers—loudly proclaiming that the patriot who so vehemently contended that the funds subscribed for outrage and murder should have been so applied, had died a martyr. What a confusion of ideas! It supports the saying of the American humorist that—

In the Isle of Saints  
All things are possible except common-sense.

Dr. O'Reilly came to Toronto to raise funds for patriotic purposes. The greatest of American authors makes one of her characters say, "the whole world trots upon excuses." The Great Imaginary Grievance Cause trots upon excuses, mis-statements, and voluntary and involuntary contributions. A gentleman travelling in Turkey was once taken by a guide to witness an exhibition of the Dancing Dervishes; and when he asked "how do these fellows live?" the pithy reply was, "on the credulity of fools."

Dr. O'Reilly when orating here made the customary patriotic mis-statements, and in order to show how far he was reliable, I wrote to the *Mail* quoting from the evidence given before the Parnell Commission. I now quote further. See page 225, part 12, of the *Times'* report. Sir Charles Russell, Parnell's counsel on the cross-examination of Le Caron, maladrotingly unearthed the following evidence: "On one occasion Alexander Sullivan (the leader of the Clan-na-Gael, who was included in the verdict of the Coroner's jury in the Cronin case, and who was twice tried for the murder of an American schoolmaster in 1867 or 1868) gave me a letter of introduction to the Rev. Dr. C. O'Reilly which procured me five bogus votes and proxies." "I can show you the note Alexander Sullivan gave me to Dr. O'Reilly." Page 167. In a private circular of Nov. 10, 1885, from the executive body (Gladstone had just gone over to Parnell) directing subscriptions for the Parliamentary fund to be sent to Dr. O'Reilly, after referring to the necessity of silence they say: "Brothers engaged in special work (in the United Kingdom) are frequently in positions where their lives may be imperilled (my italics) by the dropping of a word to ears that are kept open." This to men of common-sense is conclusive evidence that such "brothers" were engaged in criminal enterprises.

If Dr. O'Reilly—a dignitary in the Catholic Church—had got a good defence agent the bogus votes, he should have attended and given evidence before the Parnell Commission which sat for months afterwards. It would not have cost him a cent; and instead of sending his letter to an obscure journal, which he must have known I should never see, he should have written to the *Toronto Mail*, in which my letter appeared. It was intentionally done by him. He knows the old proverb, "the more you stir, the more it stinks."

I contend that I was acting fairly by quoting from sworn and unrefuted evidence circulated wherever the English language is spoken, which evidence, if Dr. O'Reilly had been innocent, he could without cost to himself have denied in court; but which he, for reasons best known to himself, declined to do.

I respectfully suggest that the \$500 offered for "evidence sustaining the charge" be given for the best essay showing (1) how much Ireland has lost materially and morally by the agitations of the last 70 years, and (2) how much richer and freer from crime it would have been had the money and energy thus wasted during that time been utilized in developing the resources and well-being of the country. Mr. Giffen, of the Board of Trade, in his "Growth of Capital," shows that in 1885 Ireland with a greater population than Scotland had less than half its wealth. The total wealth of the two countries being: Ireland, £446,000,000; Scotland, £972,000,000. Yet originally Ireland was the richer country of the two. This shows a part of the loss arising from political agitations. Ireland agitated but Scotland worked.

Second Charge.

That I had erroneously stated in THE WEEK of 20th of May that Patrick Egan had got an indefinite leave of absence from his post at Chili, and that it had been semi-officially announced that without publicity being given to the matter he would ultimately cease to draw pay; in other words, that he had been recalled. "Brannagh" does not venture to justify Egan's conduct in relation to the Invincibles, further than to say that he has been "maligned."

The statements about Egan's recall I got from the *N. Y. Nation*, edited by Mr. Godkin, a strong Irish Home Ruler, who also controls the *N. Y. Evening Post*. The American dailies also stated the same fact, as did our Canadian journals, and also those of London, England. I therefore erred in good company. The *N. Y. Nation* has several times since referred to the mystery—why he has failed to return after the semi-official announcement of his recall.

"Brannagh's" letter is a good illustration of the Spanish proverb, "Save me from my friends." If through his stirring-sleeping-dog's letter the quotations from the evidence of the Invincible which appeared in the *Toronto Mail* of Jan. 2, and in THE WEEK of May 20, get circulated in the States, it may work harm to Egan and also to the party which appointed him. There must be some independent Americans who scorn the idea of that great country being represented by a refugee charged with serious crime. Suppose that our Canadian Government was so fallen as to appoint for its representative abroad a naturalized Frenchman, charged on oath in open court by a

confederate with being implicated in the horrors of the Paris commune in 1871, and respecting which he had fled from France, what would happen? Any Government so acting would be driven from office in forty-eight hours. Thinking men who are proud of what the British race have done in the States are mortified to find that what could not have happened in any other civilized country has been done with impunity in America.

Patriotic Irish logic is shown by "Brannagh" contending that a chaffing notice in the *Boston Pilot* of my letter in THE WEEK, vindicates Egan from the serious charge on oath by a confederate that he, as Treasurer of the League, supplied large sums to the Thug Invincibles. If a man is charged on oath in a court of justice in Toronto with a very serious crime, is it a sufficient defence that a Boston journal publishes a chaffing article upon the subject? Any sensible man could swear to "Brannagh's" nationality.

He then winds up in a manner showing how, under Home-Rule, the majority would deal with the minority. I having been guilty of quoting unpalatable evidence from official documents, he coolly asks editors of respectable journals to refuse letters of mine. And this in Ontario, where only sixteen per cent. are Catholics. In Ireland, with seventy-five per cent. Catholics, with the police and judiciary under Home-Rule, nominated and controlled by the Nationalists, what would happen to editors who dared to refuse such demands? Outside of Ulster they would incur great danger. Practically all persons obnoxious to the ruling powers would be outlawed. During the recent Irish elections, wherever the two sections of Nationalists donnybrook—thus illustrating Gladstone's union of hearts, the Imperial police had to save those who stood between the devil and the deep sea, each side in its turn standing in that unenviable position.

Toronto, Sept. 19.

FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

THE SHELLEY MEMORIAL SUBSCRIPTION.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—Publicity has been given to details of the celebration, at Horsham, Sussex, England, of the Centenary of Percy Bysshe Shelley, August 4, upon which day addresses were made, and a memorial tablet, bearing the poet's name, etc., was placed in the parish church.

The Shelley Committee, headed by Lord Tennyson, includes upon its list the names of Geo. Meredith, W. Morris, Prof. Max-Müller, Prof. Dowden, Prof. Jebb, Leslie Stephen, Stopford A. Brooke, Edmund Gosse, William Sharp, Theo. Watts, W. Besant, T. Hardy, Sir F. Leighton, Henry Irving, and other well-known representatives of letters and the arts in Great Britain. It has been decided that the most fitting memorial to the poet will be a "Shelley Library and Museum," to be established at Horsham, near the place of his nativity.

The Library will include, in addition to general literature, all such works as may be specially connected with Shelley. In the Museum a home will be found for personal relics of the poet.

To provide the needed funds, a call is made for subscriptions, and the readers and lovers of Shelley throughout the English-speaking world are invited to contribute. Any sums which may be sent to us, by cheque or postal-order, will be duly remitted to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Jas. Stanley Little, of Horsham. Receipts will be promptly given to subscribers, and a public acknowledgment will be made from time to time in the literary and daily journals.

Contributions may be forwarded to either of the undersigned American members of the Committee.

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ART NOTES.

TORONTO INDUSTRIAL FINE ARTS EXHIBIT.

A VERY creditable collection of statuary and oil and water-colour paintings greeted the eyes of visitors at the Toronto exhibition which closed last week. The managers of the exhibition, those who had charge of the art department, the sculptors and artists exhibiting, and the owners of the excellent pictures loaned for the occasion, well deserved the praise generally bestowed upon the admirable collection of artistic work offered for inspection. By far the larger portion of the work presented has been already noticed in these columns, but there were many beautiful pictures which were new. On entering the gallery the first object to meet the eye was the imposing and cleverly-executed equestrian statue of the queen, by Mr. Gilbert W. Frith. A handsome and appropriate pedestal supports the spirited and shapely horse and its regal rider. We are glad to know that Mr. Frith has been awarded a prize, and Mr. Hamilton MacCarthy as well, for the excellence of their artistic exhibits. Mr. MacCarthy's clever work merits high praise; his exhibits surrounded the central figure of the queen. The first oil-paintings to attract the attention were the workmanlike figure, No. 6, and its companion, No. 18, loaned by Mr. Myers. The artist, Mr. T. C. Thwaite, produces a realistic effect in them not often seen. No. 12, by Mr. J. C. Stubbs, is from the same collec-