## IN THE BYE-WAYS OF RURAL IRELAND.

A REVIEW BY " CRUX"-CONTINUED.

magazine, which treats of the games and athletic sports in the Old Land. This brings us to his account of the "Fairies," or rather his views and experiences concerning local superstitions. As an introduction to this very interesting—if fanciful subject—we are treated to a couple of pages of anecdotes intended, presumably, to illustrate the wit of the Irish peasant. They are all sayings that have passed through countless editions, and that have about as much to do with the matter in hand as would a series of negro-minstrels" questions and answers. We are also told how the family affections, so potent in the Irish peasant, are stimulated by common domestic quarrels, in which the husband "breaks his wife's head and then buys a plaster for it."

All this may be very amusing for the English readers of the "Ninetenth Century," but it neither serves to heighten the value of the article, nor to bring great credit to the Irish race, in general, and Mr. MacDonagh in particular. In order to reach the subject of "Fairies" and such like imaginary beings, it was not at all necessary to tell us all these old stories. But I will not find so much fault with the writer for his irrelevant preface, since he really tells some very interesting things concerning the "good people" that were supposed to haunt the hills and the valleys of the land.

However, I must point out an er-

ing the good people that supposed to haunt the hills and the valleys of the land.

However, I must point out an error into which he has fallen, even as he crosses the threshold of his subject. He says:—

"One of the old customs which have disappeared in Ireland is the lighting of the bonfires on St. John's Eve, the 23rd of June, to placate the fairies—to induce them to exercise a beneficent influence on all the affairs of life, but especially on the coming harvest."

This may serve very nicely as an This may serve very nicely as an introduction to the question of fairies, but there was no need of it; the more so that it is not exact. The fires on St. John's Eve may be associated to a certain extent, and especially in some districts, with the fairies; but such was not the origin of those fires, nor has the custom of lighting them completely disappeared. They were the Bael-fires of the Druids; and since the acceptance, of Christianity by the Irish, they became a religious custom, in which special honor was paid to one of the great patron saints of the land. Possibly the writer bases his expression upon the authority of Edward Walsh's ballad, "O'Donovan's Daughter."

"One midsummer's eve, when the Bel-fires were lighted,
And the bag-piper's tone call'd the 'maidens delighted;
I join'd a gay group by the Arag-lin's water,
And danced till the dawn with O'Donovan's Daughter."

As may be seen by the closing of the ballad there is a direct allusion to the superstition concerning the fairies. Mr. Walsh's poem thus closes:

"Ere the Bel-fires were dimm'd, or

the dancers departed,
I taught her a song of some maid broken-hearted;
And that group, and that dance, and that love-song I taught her.
Haunt my slumbers at night with O'Donovan's Daughter.

disorder,
Saint Gobnate has sway over Musgry's wide border;
She'll scare from my couch, when
with prayer I've besought her,
That bright, airy sprite like O'Donovan's Daughter!"

It is clear to the thoughtful reader that this is a mere poetic creation, something faciful in the extreme; but that there is a deeper meaning under so much imagery, is quite obvious. However, the picture which the writer draws of the lighting of Belfires along the Shannon is so genuine that we will reproduce it. He says:

"When I was a youth every lane and alley in Limerick on that evening had its bondre—a huge pile of blazing peat—with music, and singing, and dancing, and I have often

A number of prominent mercantile and manufacturing firms in the larger cites of Northern Ohio are trying a unique and very interesting experiment, says Waldon Fawcett in the "Saturday Evening Post." A few years ago one of their number went to some trouble to prepare an estimate of the cost, in the case of his own plant, of carelessness, ignorance and lack of interest on the part of employers. The result of his investigations well-nigh appalled him, and it also came as a revelation to other large employers of labor to whom the tabulated statements were shown. This was the beginning of the crusade for better factory conditions which is now being prosecuted vigorously by more than two dozen firms in Ohio. \* \* \* The work has no suggestion of philanthropy as \* simple besides probebilion. The

Last week I dealt briefly with that section of Mr. Michael MacDonagh's article in the "Nineteenth Century" magazine, which treats of the games and athletic sports in the Old Land. This brings us to his account of the "Fairies," or rather his views and experiences concerning local superstitions. As an introduction to this very interesting—if fanciful subject—we are treated to a couple of pages of anecdotes intended, presumably, to flustrate the vit of the Irish peasant. They are all sayings that have assed through countless editions, and that have about as much to do with the matter in hand as would a series of negro-minstrels' questions and answers. We are also told how the family affections, so potent in the Irish peasant, are stimulated by common domestic quarrels, in which the husband "breaks his wife's head and then buys a plaster for it."

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Equally interesting is the account given of the famed Leprechaun. It runs thus:—
"The Leprechaun, that little imp

runs thus:—

"The Leprechaun, that little imp in green and red who makes the tiny shoes of the fairies, with his marvellous power to bestow wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, is known to the younger generation, in books. For them he is no longer an entity, an actuality; he is an impossible but delightful creature, to be met with only in fairy stories. The boys and girls now never hunt for him, as we, in my young days, often did on the Clare hills of a summer evening, but I must confess quaking at heart lest we should really meet him, notwithstanding all our desire to amass riches suddenly through his agency; nor perhaps do their parents see, as ours did, that the hearth of the home is swept up at night and a bowl of clean water left on the table for the fairies in case they should call while the impacts are asken. But I have

clean water left on the table for the fairies in case they should call while the immates are asleep. But I have known numbers of peasants who had seen the Leprechaun, in his green coat, red vest, and puce breeches, sitting under a bush stitching and patching the fairies' shoes. Some of the old peasants told me they succeeded actually in capturing the Leprechaun, but the wily imp was more than a match for them; he escaped from their grasp and sped away with a mocking laugh, teaching them the excellent lesson, if they only knew it, that the best and surest way to earn money is by honest est way to earn money is by honest effort." I will not occupy space with

reference to the writer's remarks con-cerning faith-cures, spells, charms, and such like peculiar superstitions; I will reserve for next week a study of the most important part of the article—the characteristics of the Irish people and the effects of them upon the political and national situ-ation in Ireland. Meanwhile, I will take advantage of this occasion to give the readers of the "True Wit-ness" an idea of where they may find the most suggestive poems and legends dealing with fairy beings. Hayes' "Ballads of Ireland" is a vol-ume (or rather two volumes) that the dancers departed,
I taught her a song of some maid broken-hearted;
And that group, and that dance, and that love-song I taught her.
Haunt my slumbers at night with,
O'Donovan's Daughter.

"God grant 'tis no fay from Cnoc-Firinn that woose me,
God grant 'tis not Cliodhna the queen that pursues me,
That my soul lost and love has no witchery wrought her,
While I dream of dark groves and O'Donovan's Daughter!

"If, spell-bound,' I pine with an airy disorder,
Saint Gobmate has sway over Mus-Croker's "The Lord of Dunkerron"; Lever's "Angel's Whisper"; "The Banshee," by "Mary of the Nation"; "The Bouchelleen Bawn," by Keegan; "The Doom of the Mirror," by B. Simmons; "The Fairies of Knockshegowna," by R. D. Williams; "Alice and Una," by G. F. McCarthy; "The Voyage of Eman Oge," by McGee; "The Fairy Child," by Dr. Anser; or "The Olden Time," by "Tiny."

AN INDUSTRIAL EXPERIMENT.

for service. In a factory employing upward of a thousand men it is manifestly impossible to provide a dining room for the men, but this difficulty is overcome by giving to a set of six or more men a folding table which can be stored away in compact form when not in use. Each group appoints as monitor some man who is not engaged in the operation of a machine. This monitor is allowed to take the dinner orders of the other men in his group. Half an hour before the time for quitting work for the noon interval he goes with a huge basket to the kitchen and fills the order.

In many of the plants a pint of the best coffee obtainable is served for a cent, although on this item the firms lose money. A representative bill of fare is as follows: Sandwiches, all kinds, two cents; Hamburg steak, one slice of bread, two cents; pork sausage, one slice of bread, two cents; pie, all kinds, three cents a cut; tablespoonful mashed potatoes, one cent; cooked meats, one slice of bread, six cents; puddings, three cents:

A much appreciated feature of each of these improved industrial establishments is the library. Each plant is gradually acquiring a library of its own and to many of them prominent authors have sent, in response to invitations, autograph copies of their works. In addition each factory is made a branch of the public library of the city in which it is located:

The organizations formed among the employees have also, in many in-

The organizations formed amor the employees have also, in many instances, accomplished wonderful results. For instance, it is customary in many factories for the orchestra or brass band formed by the employees to give a concert once each week at the factory, and it is frequently assisted oy choral society and soloists, also employees. To these entertainments the families and relatives of the employees are invited. Some of the mutual benefit organizations, although organized only a year or two ago, not only have several thousand dollars in their treasuries, but have each carried in the employees have also, in many several thousand dollars in their treasuries, but have each carried in the neighborhood of half a dozen persons on their benefit list continuously since organization.

### SOME TESTS OF ENDURANCE

Many are the feats of endurance of which we have trustworthy records, and some of these are so surprising persons are inclined to doubt the genuineness of the performances, but nuineness of the performances, but so strict have been the precautions to prevent fraud or imposition of any kind, as a general rule, that we are forced to believe, although in some cases I must admit (writes Mr. Percy Longhurst) in "Sandow's Magazine") it goes very hard against the grain. What, for instance, can one say to the piano-playing performance of J. P. Theis, in July, 1893, who sat down at his instrument and played without intermission for twenty-seven hours. This is the reof J. P. Theis, in July, 1935, who sat down at his instrument and played without intermission for twenty-seven hours. This is the record, and one is glad of it, and fervently hopes that no ambitious pianist will make the attempt to go one better. Whether Mr. Theis played actual tunes, or merely ran his fingers over the keys for all or any part of the time, history recordeth not. It is sufficient that he played, and more than sufficient, I should think, for the unfortunate person or persons who had the task of keeping an eye on the performance. How those persons must hate the sound of a piano now! Heaven defend us from such a punishment as the supervision of such a feat, and guard our nerves and brains from such torture.

sion of such a feat, and guard our nerves and brains from such torture.

Although this extraordinary feat was performed in America, there is not the least reason to doubt its genuineness, any more than that of Tom Burrow's marvellous clubswinging performance at the National Sporting Club a few years ago. Burrows is a most versatile athlete, being in quite the front rank at boxing, wrestling and gymnastics. His never-to-be-forgotten feat took place in May, 1897, when he swung a pair of 2 lb. clubs for thirty hours without cessation. Of the genuineness of this performance there cannot be the slightest doubt, as it took place in the presence of several well-known gentlemen, who relieved each other at intervals until it was finished. During each hour not less than sixty evolutions were made, but Burrows finished up little worse for his prolonged bout. I am afraid there are but few people who realize what it means to continue movements of any kind for such a period as thirty hours, and who are able to comprehend the extraordinary powers of endurance required. Marvellous as the feat is, it was surpassed a few months later by Jack Griffiths, an Australian, who swung a pair of clubs, weighing 3 lb. 3 ozs., for thirty-six hours without a rest. Although this is accepted, it is not ceritain the same precautions of watching were taken as in the former instance. News has lately been received by telegram from Adelaide that during the last week in May a Professor West swung a pair of 2½ lb, clubs for thirty-eight consecutive hours. both employee and employer would be benefited. The complete success of the experiment has amply attested the soundness of this theory. Officials of some of the largest plants where the new order of things has been introduced say that the interest taken in the work and the manner in which it is done show an improvement that the companies have found that, instead of losing the time and money expended upon these lumprovements, there has been an actual saving in money, the increased comfort and happiness of the employees having stimulated them to better effort as no rules or discipline could possible have done.

One of the adjuncts of the new

Most of us are acquainted with the mighty weight-lifting feats of Sandow, Cyr, Sampson, Kennedy, Elliott, and others, but in most cases the performances at any one time were confined to two or three gigantic efforts; but George Clifford, who holds the record of weight-lifting for endurance, a few years ago put up to arm's length above his head a 56 lb. dumb-bell 120 times in 6 min. 22 sec. Launceston Eliiott, the amateur weight-lifting champion, has been known to put up two 60 lb. dumb-bells, one in each hand, from the ground to arm's length above the head thirty consecutive times,

Let any of my readers try how many times they can put up a 56 lb. weight, and they will have some idea of the great endurance that was necessary. Apropos of weight-lifting, a curious match was made some time ago in Vienna between two weilknown continental strong men. It was to see which could hold out for the longest period of time a redhering, held by the tail between the forefinger and thumb, with the arm at right angles to the body. With the actual time during which the winner was able to hold out the fish I am not acquainted; but I recollect it was a period which any unthinking person would deem remarkably short. Such a test is a terrible strain on the muscles, as one can easily prove by merely holding out one's arm in a similar position; it will not be many minutes before one is compelled to cry "Enough."

will not be many minutes before one is compelled to cry "Enough."

Speaking of this power of keeping the arms in a certain position for a lengthened period reminds me of a celebrated Greek boxer, named Melancomas, who lived in the time of the Emiperor Titus. Scores of victories did this man win without striking a single blow, his practice being to extend his arms rigidly in front of him, never offering to strike, but making it impossible for his opponents to get near him and forcing them, worn out with their fruitless efforts, to give him the victory. For many years he had trained himself to remain in this fatiguing position, until it was possible for him to continue thus for two consecutive days. veracious historian Dion Chrysostom, have it on the authority of that This may seem incredible, but we Some of us are acquainted with the famous ride of the Italian officer, Captain Salvi, who, in 1878, rode from Bergamo, in Lombardy, to Naples, nearly 580 miles, in ten days; but this and all similar performances are quite thrown into the shade by the feats of a courier of the King of France, during the sixteenth century, the Abbe Nicquet. The Abbe was renowned as the swiftest traveller of his time, and not without good reason either, for on one occasion he rode from Paris to Rome in six days and four hours. The distance between the two capitals is about 1,050 miles, so the speedy Abbe must have travelled at the rate of a trifle over seven miles in every hour, making no allowance for halts or stoppages of any kind for rest and refreshment. This is not bad time considering the state of the roads then and the nature of the country he had to pass through.

THE LITTLE IRISHMAN NOW.

This story from the "New York Times," which is no doubt of the home manufacture type, has been reproduced by several Irish Catholic exchanges in our neighbors' territory. It has, however, its lessons, and not the least is that it is dignified in its style. It is as follows;—

the least is that it is dignified in its style. It is as follows:

The man in the party from Piitsburg had a good stock of stories, and seemed to enjoy telling them. In his home city some time ago a light company was putting in conduits and had opened in the main streets a number of trenches. One line of trenches lay in front of a tobacco shop, one of the first night that the workmen finished digging a typical son of Erin went into the tobacco shop, pulled out a stubby clay pipe, moved over to a handsome lighting stand, and lit up. He stook looking about the shop, pulling away, and then shambled out. He had brought more or less mud into the place, and his tracks were left on the same Irishman and repeated his actions of the night before. One of the clerks went up to the man and pointed out to him that the shop kept a kind of tobacco a little more expensive than he would be likely to buy, and suggested that the proprietor could get along very well without all the mud stoke of the might before could get along very well without all the mud streets. Many solutions have been proposed, among solutions have been proposed, among solutions have been proposed, among them the establishment of a fund by the State, derived from fines, for the establishment of a fund by the State, derived from fines, for the establishment of a fund by the State, derived from fines, for the establishment of a fund by the State, derived from fines, for the earnings of the prisoner to this purpose. The difficulties of a public fund are great, and the plan was promptly rejected. As most prisoners are insolvent, the idea of securing much resolvent, the idea of securing much resolvent the prisoner are insolvent, the idea of securing much resolvent the prisoner are insolvent, the idea of securing much resolvent the local security of the victim, another the appropriat

gested that the proprietor could get along very well without all the mud on the inside of his place. The Irishman nodded, didn't say a word, and went out. On the third night he made his appearance promptly on time. The clerk was

word, and went out. On the third night he made his appearance promptly on time. The clerk was pretty angry, and said:
"I told you not to come in here again and drag the mud with you, didn't I? Now you get out and stay

out."

The workman made no reply, looked about, and in a very leisurely manner took his departure. However, the severe talking to had no effect, and he was seen in front of the cigar lighter again on time and for the fourth visit. This time the clerk was "mad" clear through and used some pretty strong language. The Irishman looked at him for a minute and then said:

pretty strong language. The Irishman looked at him for a minute and then said:

"Dye know who I am?"

The clerk didn't answer at once, and the thought flashed through his mind that perhaps he had made a mistake, and that possibly the man might be contractor or something of the kind, to whom it might be advisable to be more polite. So he said, with a show of softened tone:
"No, I don't know who you are. Who are you?"

The Irishman took his little pipe out of his mouth and with a twinkle in his eye said:
"Why, I am the little Irishman who comes in every night to light my pipe."

With this he walked out, leaving

with this he walked out, leaving the clerk somewhat divided in his ideas, but the best he could do was to count one for the Irishman.

CAN YOU TELL WHY

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRISON CONGRESS.

The International Prison Congress, held at Brussels last month, accord-ing to a special correspondent of the New York "Post," was a most suc-cessful gathering of the representa-tives of many nations. There were about 350 delegates in attendance. The International Prison Congress

about 350 delegates in attendance.

The International Prison Congress was organized in 1872, in London, under the inspiration of the late Dr. E. C. Wines, and with the support of the Government of the United States, which has the honor of being the first country to take the lead in securing international experience and developing international sentiment concerning the whole question of the prevention of crime and the treatment of criminals. To give a permanent character to the organization, the International Prison Commission was formed, consisting of a delegate from each country formally adhering and subscribing to the Congress. The Commission has thus an official character. It meets annually or biennially, prepares programmes, lays out lines of work and inquiry, and publishes a bulletin, in which important penological questions are discussed, and the changes made in different countries are communicated. The International Congresses are now held once in five years, the earlier ones were some six or seven years apart. Five in all have been held previous to the session just closed, and the places of meeting have been London, Stockholm, Rome, St. Petersburg, and Paris.

In his excellent opening address,

In his excellent opening address Mr. Van del Heuvel, Minister of Jus

In his excellent opening address, Mr. Van del Heuvel, Minister of Justice, said there are two formidable dangers—an indifferent immobility in routine on the one side, and a feverish mobility in reform on the other. The Congress seemed to steer pretty well between these extremes. Its judgments were on the whole rather conservative. It had the courage to face difficult questions and the wisdom not to pronounce too rapidly concerning them.

In the first section, relating to penal law, the Congress had the advantage of the skill of Monsieur Felix-Voisin, a judge of the Court of Cassation of France, as presiding officer. It was largely due to his guidance that the work of the section was promptly disposed of. A subject which produced the most lively debate was one which had been referred to this Congress by the preceding one, namely, What are the most practical means to secure to the victim of a crime the indemnity due from the perpetrator? This question was the subject of some excellent reports, among which I may mention the thorough historical treatment of Judge Simeon Baldwin of the Supreme Court of Errors of Connecticut, who was also present as a delegate from the United States. Many cut, who was also present as a delegate from the United States. Many solutions have been proposed, among them the establishment of a fund by the State, derived from fines, for the relief of the victim, another the appropriate of the carrier of the carrier of the carrier.

resources. He urged that the workman with a family to support would seldom be able to fulfil such a pledge; he urged, too, that a judge of good sense would take into account anyway the disposition and the ability of the prisoner to make amends for his wrong deed in according probation or conditional liberation. By a close vote, the section being almost equally divided on this proposition, it was finally rejected, and the Congress contented itself with reaffirming the resolution of the Congress of Paris; that is, to enlarge the rights and remove the burdens, which interfere in some countries, notably in France, with the indemnification of the victim through a civil action. In cases where the criminal is solvent, the remedy would naturally lie in this direction.

Concerning the extradition of citizens, the Congress supported the position of the Institute of International Law at its session in Oxford to the effect that in countries where criminal legislation rests upon the same basis, and where there is mutual confidence in their judicial institutions, the extradition of citizens would be a means of assuring the good administration of penal justice.

A vigorous discussion of the indeterminant sentence was another feature of the first section. It brought out the experience of certain States of the United States, and a comparison of the European laws relating to conditional liberation. There were a dozen monographs on this question, and the reporter had a difficult task to formulate their conclusions. It was unfortunate that some of the strongest advocates of the indeterminate sentence, like Professor Van Hamel of Amsterdam, were not present to enforce in debate the position they took in their reports. Professor Thirry of Liege made a fine argument for the principle. But the objection to the indeterminate sentence in European is precisely the objection which is made in the United States, and which provents the law from being adopted without some maximum limit of confinement for a prisoner which is committed under it

a preference for the law of conditional liberation combined with progressive sentences for recidivists. 'But the moral and intellectual weight of the preparatory reports favored the ndeterminate sentence. Bliackmail, it was voted, should be classified in criminal codes as a time, and punished by fine and imprisonment.

In the second section, the subject of the reformatory system in the United States, and its adoption by Europe, occasioned another lively discussion, Europe, largely wedded to adopt it for adult criminals. But the interest felt in the subject was shown by the way in which the reports presented by the United States representative were taken and called for. But the absence of any statistics by which the value of the reformatory system in the United States can be proven, as against other systems, is a defect in the cyes of European states which have judicial statistics centralized and formulated, and in France, where the system of identification renders the detection of a second arrest for crime almost certain.

Questions as to the medical service in prisons, and as to the influence on health of the cellular system, took

Questions as to the medical service in prisons, and as to the influence on health of the cellular system, took up much time, which was profitably spent by the prison administrators, who make up the second section. The fourth section, treating questions relating to invenile criminals, was strongly in favor of manual training in juvenile reform establishments, and also voted that the system of placing out children might be combined advantageously with that of placing them in educational institutions.

Good fortune sometimes comes to us in a very shabby-looking carriage.

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