

THE BRASS BAND AND THE UNITED IRISHMEN.

In our last issue we gave a summary of the first part of Mr. J. C. Swift MacNeill's admirable historical sketch, in the "Irish People" of the United Irishmen's movement, and of the "Brass Band," as the crew of Ireland's most deadly opponents was called.

It may not be generally known that the United Irish Society was not originally a revolutionary institution; it was driven by the machinations of the Government and its myrmidons to assume an attitude which its founders had not contemplated.

The United Irish Society was in its initiation a strictly legal and constitutional organization. It was established as an instrument for procuring the reform of the Irish rottenborough Parliament, and for accompanying that reform, which was to be complete and radical, with the extension of the franchise to all Irishmen of every religious persuasion.

He divides the methods employed by the "Brass Band" to destroy the United Irishmen and their movement, under four headings, as follows:—

(1). By an insolent flouting of all proposals for Parliamentary reform, accompanied with outrages on the people, they drove men through despair of constitutional agitation into unconstitutional courses. (2). The hired agents of the Government in the Press were permitted, in the pretended interests of the United Irish movement, to publish articles inciting to assassination in order to connect the leaders of the movement with being accessories to crime and outrage.

Having quoted some most striking passages from Gladstone's famous speech in the introduction of the Home Rule Bill in the House of Commons, on the 13th February, 1893, on the origin of the United Irish Society and upon the question of Ireland's desire for separation, Mr. MacNeill tells of some of the methods in vogue. He says:—

Here is the manner in which the question of Parliamentary reform was met in the Irish House of Commons by the Irish Government. Their Solicitor-General, the infamous John Toler, who as Lord Norbury gained an unenviable notoriety by his heartless brutality on the Bench, was thus permitted to insult the United Irish leaders when they urged a Parliamentary reform on February 20,

1792:—"We are not," said Toler, "at this day to be taught by political quacks who tell us that radical reformations are necessary in Parliament. Sir, to use the language of an honorable member behind me on a recent occasion, 'Such fellows are too despicable for notice, and therefore I will not drag them from their obscurity.' I cannot help joining in the laugh at such ridiculous attempts to alarm your feelings as if you would be swaggared out of your senses or bobadilled out of your reason. You have the confidence of the people, and they are conscious of the blessings they enjoy."

At a later stage of the debate a remark made by Colonel Hutchinson, gave the future Lord Norbury an opportunity of characterising the United Irishmen as "that blasted society."

"Something," said Colonel Hutchinson, "has been said of wild and innovating systems of reformations and of factions existing in this country."

"Here the Solicitor-General rose (I am quoting from the Irish Parliamentary Debates) to explain that he did not in any way allude to the hon. member, but to that blasted society called United Irishmen. He was sorry he had sat down without calling these fellows to the Bar, but he now pledged himself to the House he would do it."

Speeches of which this is a specimen from the corrupt and servile drudges who were recognised as the mouthpieces of the Government had the effect which was so greatly desired by the Castle of driving men into despair of the success of constitutional agitation, and of inducing them to embark in revolutionary projects which could be crushed in a bloodshed which would eventually establish still more firmly the system of class privilege and tyranny.

Another member of the legal Brass Band who was busily engaged in drawing the United Irishmen into illegal paths was Lord Clare, the Irish Chancellor. He echoed in the House of Lords the gross insults of Toler in the House of Commons.

When Wolfe Tone, who had begun his career, in the words of Giffard's Castle newspaper, as a "constitution monger," sailed from America to France for the purpose of pressing on the Government of that country an invasion of Ireland, he used the speeches of Lord Clare in opposition to popular rights as "his credentials."

This brings us to the "violent means" made use of to destroy the cause, the society, and the leaders and followers in the Irish camp. As the essay is continued in future numbers of the "Irish People," we also will stop short here and leave the most sensational parts of this story.

BIGOTRY IN MANCHESTER.

Under the title "The Mayor of Eccles and the Protestant Thousand," the following manly letter from Mr. F. Smith appeared in the "Manchester City News" of last Saturday: When the great Murphy was dazzling the eyes and bewildering the brains of the citizens of Manchester, sending out his election address dated "Belle Vue Gaol," and using the sweet and holy language which conduces to a breach of the peace, I remember seeing him mount a turrett in the vicinity of Brunswick street, C. on-M. He threw open his coat to display a broad orange belt ornamented with a brace of revolvers, ostentatiously used a handkerchief with an orange border, and in a brogue as broad as the belt began his oration somewhat as follows:—"Electors and non-electors of Manchester, I stand before you a Protestant," and after a few more unmeaning sentences he called for "three cheers for William Prince of Orange and three groans for the Pope." He then proceeded to attack the most sacred beliefs of the Catholic portion of the crowd, and

to inflame the Celtic blood of the Irishmen present, so that before he was half-way through his speech there were "ructions." He "trailed his coat"; it was quickly trodden upon; and no doubt this was what both he and his backers desired, although they professed to be horrified at the result. I witnessed the second shindy, which took place in Chorlton-road, and although in those, my unregenerate days, I got no end of fun out of the spectacle, I have never yet been able to see where the Christianity came in.

Let me say, at the outset, that I am a Protestant, and shall never be a Catholic, but the exhibitions of Protestant bigotry and intolerance which have recently been reported in your columns make me ashamed to acknowledge any sympathy with such a creed. Take the spectacle for gods and men shown at a School Board meeting a short time ago. A copy of one of the most beautiful pictures in the world was presented to the Board, and it ran a narrow chance of being refused, and the only laudible argument was used by one of the

objectors who pointed out that a triple tiara stood in one corner of the picture! I have sat in front of the original, and, to my shame be it spoken, I was so engrossed with the exquisite beauty of the central figures that I clean overlooked that unlucky tiara, and now the "Protestant Thousand," whoever they may be, seem to be animated by the "Murphy" spirit, and to wish to trail their coats in the hope that some rash person will tread on the tails thereof. The richest part of your report of their proceedings is that in which they express the hope that the Electric Tramways Department will not "become the dumping ground for the latest importations from the Emerald Isle." Poor Pat may work in our sewers, carry twelve bricks at once up a three-storey ladder all day long, sweep our streets, and pour out his blood like water on the soil of South Africa, but he must be kept off our tramcars lest he should, I suppose by contact with us, take us over to the Church of Rome.

I suppose our Tramways Department will be called upon by this intensely Christian body to appoint an examiner, who must be skilled in dialect so as to be able to distinguish the brogue of Cork, Limerick,

or Tipperary, from that of Belfast, for surely these gentlemen would never bar out the bolt-wielding, nut-propelling, rivet-slinging Protestant angels of the Belfast shippers. He will also test the candidates as to their ability or willingness to sing "Boyno Water," or "Croppies lie down." He will further require a certificate of baptism before passing them as qualified to carry a fare box, or handle a switch lever or brake. I am not an Irishman, but English of the English, a Sassenach to the marrow of my bones, but I confess that when I think how many Irishmen are now giving their best blood in the service of the Empire, I am filled with shame and disgust at the work of the Protestant Thousand who want to coerce our City Council into refusing some poor fellow a post as tram driver or guard for the sole reason, as Artemus Ward said, "He doesn't sleep in the same meeting house on Sundays" as these exponents of high class Christianity affect. I hope our Councilors will not be so "paper backed" as to be influenced by such miserable considerations. I am a Protestant in more senses than one, and I protest vehemently against such narrow-minded bigotry and intolerance.—Liverpool Catholic Times.

MEN AND THINGS.

Rev. Dr. Barclay, pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, in a recent address, took upon himself to attack the Premier in a most violent manner. The Rev. gentleman's remarks gave rise to quite a political discussion. We find the "Herald" condemning Dr. Barclay's statements and the "Star" expressing approval of them. We have nothing to say concerning the Rev. Doctor's politics, nor yet his "patriotism"; but we know that were a Catholic priest to have spoken in a similar strain, we would never hear the end of "priest-craft," ecclesiastical domination, "priest-ridden-people," "clerical interference," and such like insane cries of the anti-Catholic bigots.

The Abbe George Letourneau, who as Cure of Saint Sulpice, succeeds to the late regretted Abbe Meritan, was formally installed in his new cure a few days ago. The ceremony was the occasion of bringing together the principal members of the Paris clergy and an immense congregation besides. Flowers, plants, and rich drapery enabled the grand old church to look its best. Mgr. Caron, until recently Vicar-General of Paris, gave a brilliant summary of the records of Saint Sulpice.

The "Catholic Citizen" has given a translation of the decision of the Propaganda addressed to Cardinal Gibbons, by the Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred College, in the matter of the teaching of Latin and Greek by the "Brothers of Christian Schools." We give the words of the decision, divested of all comment and reasons. Referring to the Fathers of the Sacred Congregation, the text says:

"Therefore, to the first pronounced question, viz.: Whether, in view of the new solicitations presented, it might be proper to grant to the Brothers of Christian schools the dispensation from the rule which forbids them to teach Latin and Greek. They answered:—Negatively and ultra.

"To the second pronounced question, viz.: Whether it be advisable to defer the enforcement of this decision. They answered:—Negatively and ultra, and to the purpose. The purpose is to issue a peremptory order to the superior general to instruct him that the teaching of Latin and Greek in his American institutes is tolerated till the end of the current scholastic year only."

While bowed in prayer for a dead friend in St. Mary's Church, Brooklyn, Sunday, Mrs. Mary Kearns was stricken with heart disease and died beside the altar. Across the way from her home for more than thirty years had lived Mrs. Mulholland, a life-long friend of Mrs. Kearns. Mrs. Mulholland died Friday afternoon. Mrs. Kearns was almost constantly at her bier, and grieved as for a sister.

We must congratulate our esteemed co-religionist and fellow-countryman, Mr. P. M. Wickham, one of the leading figures in the insurance

circles of Montreal, upon his reelection as Mayor of St. Lambert.

His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, and His Grace Archbishop Begin, of Quebec, were in Ottawa last week, to attend the meeting of the arbitrators in the matter of the Nicolet Cathedral. It will be remembered that a considerable portion of that building fell down recently, and that the result was a legal action against the builders. It was finally agreed to leave the question to arbitration; and the committee selected for that purpose expects to render a decision by the first of March.

This year the Lenten sermons in Notre Dame Church will be preached by Rev. Father Hage, prior of the Dominican Convent at Amiens, France. This brilliant pulpit orator has created a great name for himself in France.

Mr. J. C. Walsh, for some time on the editorial staff of the "Herald," has severed his connection with that paper to take the editorship of the St. John, N.B., "Telegraph." Mr. Walsh is one of the rising young Irish Catholics of Canada. He is endowed with every qualification of editorship. A good and clear writer, a serious student of public affairs, an experienced journalist, and, above all, a man of moderation and sincerity, we have no doubt as to his future success and that of the organ he purposes conducting.

A man named George Normand, of Prince Edward street, Quebec, was supposed to have died the other day. The family refused to allow burial to take place, because the body was still warm a day after the apparent death. Dr. Sanson tried every test known to medical science, and all failed to indicate life. Still, as long as his body was warm, his relatives insisted on a postponement of the interment.

Among the many changes which have recently taken place in the editorial staff of the Harper's publications of New York—it is now announced that that firm has been placed upon a solid financial basis again—Miss Elizabeth J. Jordan has risen to the chief charge of Harper's Bazar, which, as most people know, is a paper almost entirely, if not wholly, devoted to the interests of women. Miss Jordan is a Catholic.

Senator Clark confesses that he spent \$115,000 to be elected Senator from Montana. The "Catholic Columbian" remarks, that a man who gives that amount of money for an office, the pay of which is only \$5,000 per annum for six years, ought to be disbarred from taking his seat. For he puts that position out of the reach of poor citizens, however competent, and he could hardly not know but that some of that large sum would be used for something besides legitimate expenses.

THE IRISH IN AMERICA.

Seumas Macmanus is now depicting the progress made by the Irish in America. His account of the many recorded and some unrecorded evidences of wit, blended with deep

paths and emotion, should suffice for one day.

Of an old American plutocrat, who hated the Irish like poison, it is told that crossing the Atlantic for the

first time he desired the steward to be sure to awake him in the early morning on which they were due to sight the Irish coast in passing. Though the morning was both wet and wild, and comfortless and cold, the poor old fellow gathered his garments about him and went out up deck and leaned over the bulwarks and took a good look at the Green Isle. And as he shuffled back over the deck again, he said: "Thank God, that I've lived to see one country the Irish don't run!"

And it is not only once, nor only fifty times, that it has been said of us, "The Irishman is the best soldier that goes into a battlefield—anywhere out of Ireland."

In America, anyhow, the Irishman has been a marvelous success as a fighter, as a worker and as a—I was going to say ruler, but shall content myself with—politician.

After looking about me in America, I saw conclusive proof that my countrymen were not, by Providence, intended for merely one or for merely thirty-one vocations. All arts, all trades, and all tricks, from California to Connecticut, have their large and faithful following of Irishmen; yet I modestly admit that he seems to fit best into his niche where he is dominating the crowd, and has yoked to his car the German, the Scandinavian, the Hun, the Italian and the American. You may see a fresh Irishman, as green as they grow them, one day granted a job with the pick, for God's sake; pass that way a twelvemonth later and the odds are that you find him not only managing his former comrades, but bossing the man that employed him. There is a strong and assertive individuality about the Celt, and it is intolerance of restraint more than ambition of advancement that makes him push for the top.

NOTES OF INTEREST

IRISH HORSES.—It is universally admitted on all sides that the finest horses in the world are bred and reared in Ireland, and as a natural consequence the demand for remounts for troops in South Africa is extraordinary. It is, therefore, interesting to recall to mind the abstract issued by the Registrar-General of the number of live stock in Ireland in 1899. There were at that period in the province of Leinster, 176,707 horses, in the province of Munster, 151,000, in the province of Ulster, 181,000; while the number of horses in Connaught last year was 70,000, or a total of about 580,000 horses of all ages. Of these 70,000 in the Western Province, 11,000 were under one year old, 10,000 one year old and under two years, and some 2,500 used for amusement or purposes of recreation. Galway was a long way ahead of any of the Western counties in point of numbers, 30,000 being placed to its credit. Mayo and Roscommon had large numbers, while Leitrim and Sligo were particularly low as to numbers. The proportion of young horses is probably the same in the other provinces. It would repay Irish farmers to study this question, and the breeding prizes of the Royal Dublin Society are a distinct encouragement to make use of the fine stallions now available in all parts of the country. The reputation of Irish horses is as high as ever, and the prices keep up in a very satisfactory way.—New Ireland.

VALUE OF HOT MEALS.—It is now pretty well understood that bad feeding and consequent poverty of blood creates a craving for ardent spirits in those to whom the necessities of life come only in inadequate supply. When the workingman's wife has learned the value of a good hot meal for a tired, hungry man, and knows how to prepare it, there may be less need of temperance associations and liquor-licensing laws. There is reason to hope that the cooking lessons now included in the School Board curriculum may effect an improvement in the dietary of the working classes; for there is little doubt that in many such homes it has not been so much the want of material as the want of skill to turn what was at hand to good account. In the course of time, too, the instructions the young scholars are receiving in the industrial departments ought to make them more efficient servants, as well as housewives, a consummation devoutly to be desired by employers, as hitherto there has been no branch of culture, excepting domestic service, where some kind of apprenticeship has not been required, and where the doubtful pleasure of teaching has been conjoined with the penalty of paying for incapacity and sometimes hopeless stupidity.—Chamber's Journal.

EASTER EGGS.—New York wholesalers report that the trade in candy Easter eggs is booming as it has never boomed before, and the dealers have not been able to tell why. "It is no exaggeration to say that

our sales will be twice as great as they were last year," said one of the largest manufacturers. "We shall sell about 200,000 boxes of Easter eggs this season, and we supply somewhere near a third of those marketed. That would make 600,000 boxes altogether. There are usually a hundred eggs in a box, so you won't be far wrong in saying that the children of this country will buy sixty million Easter eggs in 1900. In 1899 we estimated the total sales at less than 40,000,000."

WAR EXPENDITURE.—The British naval estimates for 1900-1901 reach a total of £27,522,600, an increase of £28,100, providing for an increase of 220 officers and 4,020 men for new ships. It is proposed to build two new battle-ships, six first-class armored cruisers, a second-class cruiser, two twin-screw sloops, two gun-boats, and two torpedo-boats. There will be under construction in 1900 seventeen battle-ships, twenty armored cruisers, a first-class protected cruiser, two second-class protected cruisers, a third-class cruiser, eight sloops, two gun-boats, four torpedo-boats, and twenty-one torpedo-boat destroyers.

ITALIAN BANKS.—It is beyond all imagination of Americans, said an educated Italian now in the city employ, how far one of my countrymen will trust another. His banker is his friend, his confidant, his doctor, his adviser. Every deposit he makes is invariably coupled with descriptions of family trouble or requests for advice. The most successful banker is he who cultivates tact in this direction. This trustfulness on the part of the Italian makes the frequent loss of money occasioned by absconding Italian bankers all the more disgraceful, but much as I have seen of it, I doubt if it will ever be entirely stopped by law. The Italian has too much faith in his fellow-Italian. It is pleasing, but costly.

BOYS TO BE SPANKED.—Fifteen small boys were in the prison pen in the Essex Market police court, New York, a few days ago, charged with snowballing each other in the street, and the mothers of each were present to plead for their release.

"Yes, yes, I know," said Magistrate Pool after he had listened to several of the women. "Every mother and father think their child better than any one else's. I have a boy, and I think the world of him, but boys get unruly, and we have to use the stick on them. Will you all spank your sons if I let them go?"

"Yes, yes," the mothers exclaimed in chorus. "Then I will discharge them with that proviso," said the Magistrate, and the mothers led their sons out of court. The policemen discussed in how many instances the sentence of spanking would be suspended.

DEATH RATE.—The statistical reports of the city Health Department for 1899 have just been concluded, and show the number of deaths to have been 6,179, being a decrease of 65, as compared with the previous year, and a rate of 22.04 per 1,000 of the population. During the past three years eleven persons who have died at the age of over 100 years were, with one exception, all females.



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