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A TALE OF THE PENAL TIMES.

In the province of Munster, and at the very mouth of the river Blackwater, stands the an-.....cient town of Youghal; immediately in front of ait, beyond the river, on the county Waterford side, rises the bold promontory of Ardinore, exhibiting still, in perfect preservation, its old ve- came on his listening ear, save the occasional fall nerable round tower which many a mariner's eye of a water-drop from the ceiling. Still it was cliff with a fearful roar. There was, too, a has viewed, in storm and in calm. The line of certain the victims were inside, and as the loud coast, here, is high and precipitous, displaying demands for their surrender were either not heard huge rocks, torn by the fury of the ocean from or not headed, their persecutors proceeded to the spy was creeping along on his way to the the mountain side. Here are, also, deep and dreary caves formed by the edge of the wave, traordinary in these drear days of our history. and so spacious that the sail boat often rests under their adamantine roofs, while those on board listen with silent awe to the rumbling echo of the waters, as they tumble through the chasms, of rubble stone was raised, the chinks and creor issue from narrow passages in the distant and vices of which were filled up with the claming All in vain! the spot on which he planted his dark recesses of the mountain.

This place was not without its utility in the penal times. With the so-called Reformation, the fury of fanaticism and destruction swept over all the religious establishments in and near Youghal. The two monasteries, Franciscan and Dominican, were doomed to ruin, and the noble parish church, in the erection of which kings, princes, and even Pones, had taken a part, was now converted into a new and strange worship, to suit the character of that cold and unpoetical creed what a transformation had not the vener- rising out of the field at a short distance, and on able edifice to undergo! The varied beauties of reaching the spot, found it to be aperture in the high gothic ceiling were concealed from view which he could trace the foot-marks of persons auce. After a considerable period of desperate by a wretched curtain of mortar. With that as if coming up out of the cave. Disappoint- struggle, during which he had been for some moscreen between the worshipper and the emblems | ment seized him, and he hastened to inform the of the primitive faith, this church is found at the rest of the party of what he had been seen .-present day - the great eastern window has perished—the stained glass is gone, broken into fragments, because it exhibited the figures of Christian saints—the roof, too, has fallen; and running the eye over the massive curves and sition or fear of danger, lights were procured, moss-grown mullions of this beautiful relic, the and in they moved to examine the retreat. beholder may now survey the broad expanse of

But other objects were there, destined for still greater desecration: crosses adorned the summit of the building and the several portals or figures cut in stone around the gothic arches :these the Inconclast spared not-for art was not respected by the Vandals of the penal times, nor would the creations of a Phidias or an Angelo have been spared in the frenzy of those days.

While His churches were thus seized upon and their ornaments shivered into dust, the Catholic worshipper was hunted to the forests, glens and mountains. Even at the holy well, or fountain, where his forefathers had congregated of old, he was not permitted to adore his God .-Acts of parliament had banned the ancient faith. It was then that these caves along the sea-coast at Ardmore, became retreats of the persecuted Catholics, and in them they met, like the ancient Christians in the catacombs of Rome, to celebrate the holy mysteries of religion. Stealthily, and not without gloomy fears, did they pass one by one into the cavern where they had arranged to meet the priest on Sunday, to offer for them the holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In these drear abodes of the sea-bird, was the water of baptism poured on the head of the new-born infant, and here, too, the marriage vow was made and blessed. But the spy, or priest-catcher, was ever on the watch, and dogged the hunted Catholic even to this last refuge.

The priest-catcher, of whom we would speak, had been a Catholic, but he bartered his soul to Satan, and many of his brethren to the prosecutor, for English gold. In his features might be traced the malice of his mind. A fiend in human shape-lost to every generous feeling, and as insensible to pity and suffering, as the lictor who lashed our Lord at the pillar. It was said that he had a wife and children; and such was the savageness of his nature, that even on them he did not bestow ordinary affection. Religion he had not a though at times when there was an occasional relaxation of the penal, he used, occasionally, to be observed at mass, reading-a prayer-book? no, but some old act of parliament. But the mask was now thrown off completely, he was avowedly, an unbeliever, heartless and cold, on whose hardened brow might be distinctly traced the worse and herce passions of a demon.

One holy sabbath, the Catholics had assembled, and were one by one, proceeding to the wild rockschapel, on the beach, when the spy, with a number of his accomplices, concealed himself at some distance and there waited until the last of the worshippers had stealthily entered the cavern. He watched closely, but could not ascertain whether the priest was amongst them; for in those days the rude dress of the person concealed the character of him who might have spent many a happy year amidst high-minded and polished associates, in the academic halls of Rome or Salamanca. Nor long did the priest-hunter

* In 1468, Pope Paul II. published a bull, granting an indulgence to such persons as contributed, by pecuniary aid or personal services, to the rebuilding and enlarging of St. Mary's church, at Youghal.

wait, but, creeping from his lurking place like a were-wolf on the trail, proceeded at once to the mouth of the cave, and with loud shouts commanded the "bloody idolators" to surrender the priest." There was no reply. Entering the cave as far as the daylight permitted, no sound

A large quantity of furze-faggots was pressed into the mouth of the cavern. Between that combustible heap and the outer entrance, a wall sea-weed of the shore. Then through a small feet to take that view, was covered by the aperture, left for the purpose, fire was introduced. The crackling element threw out large volumes | if heard, could have been of no avail, as no buof smoke, and fragments of the rock, split by man being could approach the spot he now octhe fury of the flames, fell down, and blocked up cupied. The voice, however, was heard by perall chance of escape for those within. Eagerly did the priest-hunter listen, but no voice was they? They came to the very verge of the heard from the inside. Could there be any pos- frightful precipice, but he saw they were not his sibility of escape? One of the party was ordered to ascend the cliff, and take a survey of struggle against the surf, and it was manifest that the upper ground. He saw a volume of smoke his strength and courage were giving way. The rising out of the field at a short distance, and on people on the cliff evinced no small anxiety about After a little observation, the conviction of a sad failure dashed their spirits for the moment.

The fire was allowed to burn itself out, and as they might now enter the cave without oppo-

After passing through several windings without noticing anything remarkable, they entered a spacious room, at one extremity of which appeared some articles on a projecting shelf of the rock. Approaching they found it was a rude gates, exhibiting on the outside, innumerable altar, with candlesticks, chalice, and missal resting upon it, and the candles appeared as if recently extinguished. Another discovery was made -it was the body of the priest in his vestments. It was in a reclining posture, pressed up against the side of the rock, to which he had staggered for support, or to get a little air from some chasin. At a short distance, on the opposite side of the altar, was also found the lifeless body of a young female, about eighteen years of age. holding a white linen cloth in her hands. The minutest search revealed nothing clae, except, indeed, the traces of many footsteps around the

> The reader is necessarily anxious for an explanation of these strange facts. It was furnished by the relation of the persons who had escaped.

> At the time that the effects of the fire began to be felt inside, Mass bad already been commenced, and the priest had arrived at the most solemn part of the Sacrifice when be could not depart or cease even at the peril of his life .-The attendants feeling no such difficulty, fled, and saved themselves by the passage above the cliff. In their anxiety for his safety they urged the priest to fly with them, and also her whose lifeless body was found in the cave. The former made no reply, but proceeded with the service: the latter whose name was Nora, with the devotedness of a kind, spirited girl declared she would not forsake her venerable friend and pastor. She was to have communicated, too, on that day, and this explains the eircumstance of her being found with a portion of the altar linen grasped firmly in her hands. It was manifest she had obtained the object of her devotional wishes, as the appearance of the chalice, the altar, all, clearly proved the sacrifice to have been just finished when the breath of death

reached them. Skinner Dhuv, the spy (for such was his name -a name of terror-the adjunct dhuy or black. being given him by the people to express traits of person as well as of character), wishing to make the most of his present success, determined on leaving the bodies in the cave, hoping that when their friends came to take them away they could not escape his snares. To remove all suspicious of such intention, he and his party moved off towards Youghal, without appearing to have made any discovery. When arrived at a small promontory which cut off all view from the ground near the cave, they retired for the purpose of concealment under a projecting rock, while Skinner Dhuy crept back again through the dark and narrow passages, to watch the

* Major-General Ludlow speaks exultingly; of one of these facts as having been achieved by himself in Dundalk After describing the mode of smothering those in the cave, Ludlow says, that "among the dead they found the priest's robes, a crucifix, chalice, and other farniture of that kind."-See Ludlow's Memoirs, published in 1569.

movement of those he knew would come to look after their friends, and give the alarm.

The day which up to the present moment was calm and sunny, suddenly changed. The wind rose, black clouds drifted from the sea towards the land, and the tide which had been for some time on the ebb rushed to the base of the drizzling rain, not a little increased by the foam and spray from the billows. In the meantime cave, so intent on his object, and fearful of being seen, that he never adverted to his danger till he found himself beammed in by the sea in a small bay, from which the rocks rose perpendicular .-The tide was still rushing on. He cast a wild look around, seeking some passage to escape. waters. He uttered a fearful yell, which even sons on the very summit of the cliff. Who were party. By this time he had thrice fallen in his him, but it was impossible to render any assistments frequently under water, a heavy wave came on, threw him down, and on its return, after breaking on the rocks, it was seen dragging the body apparently motionless, out to sea.

A thrill of horror passed the spectators above, and one exclaimed-" A prayer for his soul!"-They all fell on their knees, their eyes continuing still rivetted on the snot where the body disappeared. After some moments they rose, and he who had called for the prayer said :- "Tho he is the murderer of my daughter, and of our good and faithful priest, I forgive him; and may God forgive him!" "Amen!" resounded from

By the report of a person who had entered the cave at the departure therefrom of the spy sad catastrophe, and were waiting an opportu-nity to remove the dead bodies. This they were now afforded by the death of Skinner, and the escape of his less ardent associates.

Long in the memory, and afterwards in the traditions of the simple people of that remote district, did the terrible occurrence survive .-Their imaginations chained the ghost of the spy to the spot on which he died, as a punishment for his erime. And when the sea is more than usually troubled, particularly at night, the herdsman returning from his cattle, or the fisherman from the beach, is even now accustomed to tell his friends at the fire-side how he heard the agonized scream of Skinner Dhur, high above the roaring of the winds, and the ever-restless dashing of the breakers. It is the coloring of funcy, this, but it is also an evidence of that horror which the faithful Irish entertain for the renegade. Need we say it is also a proof of their deen-seated sympathy for those who stood by their holy creed, when stupid bigotry banned the religion of Peter and l'ius IX .- Duffu's Lrish Catholic Magazine.

REV. DR. CAHILL

ON INDIA. (Prom the Dublin Cutholic Tetegraph.)

England has now entered on the second year of her campaign in India; and from the accurate information that can be gleaned from all sources of intelligence, it would seem as if the spirit of rebellion has rather increased than diminished; and that the ultimate success of the English arms is more distant than ever. The assault and the possession of the in a cities of Delhi and Lucknow are, undoubtedly, brilliant instances of strategy and courage which have not been surpassed in modern warfare; the names of the generals who led their brave companions on these crimooned fields of British and hish glory will be handed down to posterity as examples of mil ary eminence and as objects of national love. But these victories have been folloged by no great practical advantages; on the contrary, England has lost more than she gained in these triumphe; English blood and English treasme, when weighed in a just balance, are by far a greater loss than all we have acquired by these transcendant conflicts; and as an ancient general once said, after a successful battle-" Another such victory and

The hot season has now set in, when the Sepoys can march forty miles a day succe-sively for several days, and are even said to be able to accomplish, when hard pressed, sixty miles; while

fatigue will thin the English ranks more than the bullet and the sword, the Hindoos are now " simultaneously" collecting several small arm'es at several distant points. Their movements are so rapid the Europeans cannot overtake them: their points of concentration are so distant they can mature their plans, perfect their commissariat, organise their forces, and be provided with all the munitions of war without fear of molestation; and lastly, they are convinced that as the English army is so small the Commander-in-Chief cannot divide his forces into sections to attack at once the various and distant positions which they at this moment occupy, in compact and well appointed numbers .-Experience has taught them that their own forces, however numerous, have been on almost all occasions, beaten by a handful of English troops; they have, therefore, in this year changed their tactics; they now assemble on several distant points; and they hope that sickness and climate will waste and conquer the army which they are unable to withstand in pitched battle or regu-

This is the most dangerous feature which the Indian war has yet assumed. The climate now is so intensely hot these men require small covering, while they sleep in the open air on the ground: their constitution as well as their religion require little food, and this food is me ely boiled rice and vegetables; hence their commissoriat is easily furnished; while they can run like hares, climb trees and rocks like cats, d's appearing and re-assembling before the enemy like a flock of wolves. Being thus educated in two modes of warfare-namely, their own guerilla fashion and the English skilled manœuvre, the Eastern mutiny has assumed a most formidahle aspect; and no doubt is now entertained in France, in Austria, and in Russia, that if the Sepoys carry out their present military scheme with skill and perseverance, the Indian empire must be necessarily lost to England. In the case before us the defeat of a Sepoy army, the taking of armed forts, the possession of fortified cities, have no sensible effect on the rebel cause : they assemble again on new points and make the same hostile demonstrations as before their defeat. Neither does it appear that the slaughter diminishes to any despairing extent, the survivby tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions, tens of millions, and hundreds of miltions, it follows that all the men who can be killed by British valor make no sensible diminution of the enemy. After the successful sieges of Delhi and Lucknow their heaten forces seemed as unthinged and as numerous as the day hefore the battle: the hundreds of their spiked or captured guns, which are said to be lost to them. seemed to be repaired on the following day : and the rebel troops which have been reported in telegrams as killed in beans, are all replaced within forty-eight hours, as if the swords of Havelock, Outrain and Campbell had cut no crimsoned gips in their reeling and bleeding ranks; like the planted dragon's teeth, the dead Sepors seem to rise up from their graves on the field of battle. and even to double their numbers in men-living men-the day after the fight. The only hope. under these new circumstances, on which England can now rely for the final subjugation of the country, is the interminable mutual jealousy and contention of the petty princes; their unsteady character; the want of union amongst the penple, and their perfect indifference about what we value so much—namely, the love of country.

Sir Colin Campbell already feels the appalling difficulties of his situation; and wherever it can be done, he has ordered his troops into summer quarters, to escape sun-stroke, and fever and cholera, and dysentery; and he is compelled to be a motionless speciator at the present moment. while thousands and tens of thousands are assembled in front, and flank and rere, defying his fearned strategy, his military fame, and mocking his northern constitution and his vanishing host. In order to meet this menacing disaster, Eng-

land has employed the Sikhs to conquer the Mahomedans! She has taken the Punjub into pay to subdue Hindostan! The Times of the 28th of May states that on last year she first employed 2,000 Sikhs, then 10,000, then 20,000, then 35 000; and that, from repeated frials, finding this nation faithful, the has at the present moment not less than \$2,000 of these foreign troops in her Indian service I or, as the Times expresses it, she has foreign auxiliarly soldiers who are in the proportion to the English troops of three to one! During the last fifty years England sat on the back of the Bengal tiger, and rode him about all India, collecting her rints, making just annexation of the surrounding states, and preaching the British Gospel .by John Bull, has at length tw ned on his keeper; three successive days, perform half the distance. hopes that, under her peculiae training, she will great nation; and if she could only cease to ri-Knewing well that chimate, marching, dis ascand succeed in taming the one and subduing the dicule the policy and the creed of other peoples

other. But all those who know England and her policy state the contrary, and boldly assert that the new levies of the North may be more troublesome than the late troops of the East; and that the force from the Punjaub will, in time to come, not only avenge their defeat at Alliwat, Chillianwallah, Gougerat and the Smtlej, he also will add revenge for the conquest of their country at I the blood of their companions. Who, on conduct of these new levies, taken into England's service, from being former enumies, does not remember the history of ancient Romeunder Valentinian the Elder? The tottering empire received its most deadly blow from the barbarians whom she once oppressed, whom she afterwards trained in her own discipline: took into her own service : and who in the end, inorder to gratify the revenge of ages, were the chief assailants, whose battle-axe shivered the imperial tyranny.

The first conquest of India by England was an easy achievement compared with her present struggle. She then conquered her enemies in individual succession: she now contemb against several combined chiefs. She then took advantage of party fends, religious prejudices of class against class, of caste against caste; but at present she disputes against universal combination, against the union of all classes, castes and religions. In former time she advanced in her conquests from province to province, and in one hundred years she executed the final conquest of the country; but at present her quarrel is with the whole population at once, and the victory is to be won in one year, in place of one century .-In the language of the French press, which seems to know more of Indian politics than we do, "If the Indians carry out their present scheme of warfare with England, her empire of the East must necessarily be wrested from her hands." And if this untoward fate should thus befal the Government of our Indian empire, the future English historian, in telling the story of 1858, has only to copy the record of the fall of ancient Rome. This statement will transmit to the coming generation the remarkable policy, of England, so like that of ancient Rome -namely, that while she has carried into all dependencies, science, the arts, commerce, literature, and an and his party, they had been made aware of the of their battalions in the fight or in the retreat advanced civilization, she has never been able to awaken in her foreign subjects, respect for her ing forces; the hostile population being counted name, trust in her national honor, or confidence in the justice of her policy. On the contrary, it is a historical fact, which does not admit strict contradiction-namely, that she has ever changed her colonial possessions into the seats of permanent insurrection, by the partial administration of her laws, and by the bigotry of her rubne .-During the Protestant reign of three conturies, and throughout her vast continental and island acquired territories, she has never- made of any one race of her numerous conquered, peoples, a friend to her practical constitution or a convert. to her actual faith.

From private letters received from India it

would appear that her prestige there is not only on the decline, but actually extinct. Up to the present time the employment of the Sepoys in her military science was considered not an act of necessity but of kindness; but on this year, when, she has demanded, almost implored, the assistance of the Sikhs to crush the Hindoo mutiny, the universal impression has gone forth that English power is now a mere name, a systam of temporary toleration, and that her further reign in the East depends entirely on the will and the cooperation of former enemias and new fickle allies. This deplorable consummation is entirely the effect of her own reckless conduct. She has annexed (as it is called) a whole quarter of the earth, a fourth part of this terrestrial globe, to her British insular dominions. And while, on one hand, she has without doubt introduced: amongst these peoples the arts of agriculture and commerce, and has published in their country a distinguished civilization, she has, on the other kand, insulted them by an official insolence (as is her custom) which knew no bounds; she has enraged them by a mode of collecting her rents which of en amounted to torture; and she las wounded their religious prejudices by a senseless bigotry which has driven upwards of two hundred millions of her subjects into raving revenge. Every country where she is known can readily believe these statements of her political, social and religious conduct; every Catholic community in Europe has already branded her for the very same insolence and sectarian rancor which has produced the Indian mutiny; and it is true to say that whenever her imperial decline shall commence, all mankind will unite in ascribing her fall to the domineering character which she assumed after the rattle of Waterloo; and again to the incongruous scheme which, at the same time, she has adopted, of propagating her Gos-The tiger having been goaded ruther too much pel by lies, by bribery and persecution. It is not in the spirit of triumph that these remarks the European soldier can, with difficulty, for and England now rides on the Indian lion, and are made: quite the contrary: England is a