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## TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

Some Distinguished Irishmen who Served the British Government in Canada—Col. Talbot of the Malahide Family—The Croaghans—The Wonderful Career of Michael J. Dowling—Devere Hunt, who Rescued the Body of the Prince Imperial—The New Editor of the "Boston Pilot," and Some of the Old Ones.

Dear Editor Cronin,—One of the great Irish names associated with early Canada along with Carleton and Murray, is that of Talbot—one of the Talbots of Malahide. The life of Colonel Talbot, the founder of the Talbot district, has recently been written and published by Judge Ermatinger of St. Thomas. I do not know Judge Ermatinger, but I know his father, Col. Ermatinger, and nearly sixty years ago put in type many pages of his manuscript for the Hamilton "Spectator." He was a strong Conservative, and his letters were all in advocacy of Conservative principles, which at that time meant Toryism. I am much pleased, however, that Judge Ermatinger has given the public this life of Col. Talbot, and describes in a book the conditions with which he was surrounded at that early period of Ontario history.

Ontario at an early date was divided into districts. Kingston was the capital of the Midland district, Toronto of the Home district, Hamilton of the Gore district, and St. Thomas of the Talbot district, and I may here remark that Col. Gore, after whom the Gore district was named, was an Irishman too.

The Talbot district included a large portion of the southwestern portion of Ontario, east, south and west of the present city of St. Thomas. London was unknown when St. Thomas was founded, although Governor Simcoe at one time thought of making it the capital of Ontario instead of Toronto. With the opening up and settlement of that beautiful southern section of our province, the name of Col. Talbot is intimately associated. He is said to have been eccentric but masterful and many curious stories have been told and written about him. He was born of an ancient and historic Irish family at Malahide Castle, near Dublin, in the year 1771. When but a mere youth he joined the British army and was associated with the Duke of Wellington in Dublin. In 1790 he joined the 24th regiment at Quebec, and on the arrival of Col. Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, in 1792, he became his private secretary and confidant. He was present at the meeting of the first parliament of Upper Canada at Niagara, in 1792. He was absent on foreign service for a few years and on his return, May 21, 1802, began laying the foundation of his settlement at St. Thomas, where he continued to live until his death. The book is exceedingly interesting and has many illustrations, including a view of Malahide Castle in Ireland, and Old-Timer will peruse it with a great deal of interest, and in a future article may give some quotations from it.

It is a part of my preference to uphold the character of the Irish race on this continent, and its reputation for valor and administrative ability. Besides Carleton and Murray, in American history that commands attention. It is that of George Croghan, who served under Warren in the period preceding the American revolution in the west. He was the first white man, who was French, to travel the soil of Illinois and give a description of the great prairie country. He was Indian agent for the British Government and it was to him that the Indian Chief Pontiac, after a great struggle in 1763, submitted to. Personally, he was very popular among the Indians, and he was of immense service to the British government. He had a nephew named William, who, when the revolution

war broke out, took the side of the revolutionists, like Montgomery. He married a sister of Geo. Rogers Clark, the conqueror of the Northwest for the Americans, and has left many distinguished descendants, to one of whom there is an imposing monument erected in Lafayette, Indiana.

If Ireland is not great as a nation her sons have greatly distinguished her in almost every land. I suppose but few of your readers have ever read the story of Michael J. Dowling. He was speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives in the session of 1901-2, and if ever man made a struggle for distinction under diverse circumstances, he is the one. Literature does not furnish a greater hero than this fragment of a man, who was caught in a Minnesota blizzard, in which he had both legs, one arm and the fingers and thumb of his remaining hand frozen so badly that amputation was necessary. He now lives at Olivia, Minnesota. He is a man of education, ability and excellent character. After enduring untold suffering he has filled the positions of district school teacher, chief clerk of the Minnesota Legislature, Speaker of the House, and special commissioner of the President of the United States to examine into and report upon the educational system of the Philippine Islands. He was born in a New England village of Irish parents. He was an only child and his mother died when he was only ten years of age. His mother was a Miss Barry, a descendant of the well-known Barry family of the Valley of the Lee in the County of Cork. The family resided successively in Massachusetts, Chicago, Buffalo, St. Louis and St. Paul. He was only fourteen years of age when he was struck by the blizzard that so nearly cost him his life and left him a wreck. He held many minor positions in Chicago and elsewhere, getting his education as best he could until fortune at last lifted him into the speaker's chair in the Minnesota Legislature. He was herding cattle at the time he was struck by the blizzard, which was December 4, 1880. It is hard to find another such example of pluck, endurance and fortitude as is furnished by this Irish-American boy, who won fame under the most adverse circumstances. One of the most interesting incidents in his life was his interview with the Sultan of Sulu in the Philippines.

Reading John Bright's remark about the death of the Prince Imperial of France in the Zulu war that—"he went to South Africa to amuse himself with murder and was killed himself"—reminds me that I knew a man in Chicago—an Irishman of course—that was present at that incident as a British soldier, and carried the dead body of the prince off the field after he had been assassinated. This man's name is Hunt—Denene Hunt—and now resides in Oklahoma territory, where he practices medicine. In Chicago he practiced law.

Is Paul Kane, the artist, dead? Well, I suppose he is, although there was an exhibition of his pictures in Toronto not long ago. I have some recollection of this noted Irish-Canadian artist, who was a Toronto man. He was a tall, thin man, with red hair and a decidedly artistic appearance, and sometimes affected Indian costume. His father used to keep a tavern on Yonge street, a short distance north of King, on the west side of the street. He took to imitating Catlin, the great American artist, who went among the Indians and made pictures of them. I shall endeavor to find out more about his career and make it known to you.

## AN INSPIRING SIGHT

In the Commercial Department of the Central Business College of Toronto there may be seen any day prior to April 1st next, not less than two hundred bright young men in training for participation in the conduct of the business of our country. To this number of young men may be added at least fifty young women, who are also enjoying a thorough training for business pursuits.

Then in the Shorthand Department of this excellent school may be seen quite a large number of young people, preparing for business life as stenographers. In this sphere young ladies predominate in point of numbers in proportion of three to one. The Telegraph Department of this College is also widely attended, and while the numbers are not so large, the seventy-five now in attendance have gathered in from distant places, and actually represent every province in the Dominion.

While the aggregate attendance is comparatively large, the excellent and well systematized plans in vogue for carrying on the work of this college, under the direction of a staff of twenty-two well trained and experienced teachers, render it possible for every student to make excellent progress, with the result that this school is to-day turning out a superior grade of graduates, whose services are eagerly sought by the leading business men.

A visit to this famous school, particularly at this season of the year when attendance is at its maximum, creates an inspiration for better preparation along practical educational lines for winning success in life, more particularly as it is well known that the great majority of those who have enjoyed special training in this particular school during the past decade, have met with marked success, and have been real winners in reaching the best positions in the gift of our largest mercantile and financial institutions. This college admits students any week during the year. It issues a very interesting catalogue, which will be sent free by addressing request to W. H. Shaw, Principal, Yonge and Gerrard streets, Toronto.

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your readers. But it looks like a long way back to Paul Kane. So much the better for interest in the man.

I have recently read a lecture of Mr. Wm. J. Onahan of Chicago, delivered in St. Louis, on "Daniel O'Connell," in which he warmly commends the peace policy of that great Catholic statesman. When I was a young man I did not approve of the policy which maintained that "the shedding of one drop of human blood was not worth any amount of liberty." I do now. O'Connell was right. All warfare is brutal notwithstanding the cause it is waged for might be holy. Moral force, when properly directed, will have its effect in time. O'Connell showed how effective moral force was in the abolition of West Indian slavery, in which he took a prominent parliamentary part. Physical force or rebellion has been a woeful failure in Ireland, while moral force has been succeeding by degrees. All warfare is hideous and ought to be put a stop to. Could anything be more revolting than the present war in Manchuria, which is being waged simply for plunder on both sides.

I read in the English news that Sergeant John O'Neill, a survivor of the "Birkenhead" troopship disaster, died recently at Boston, Lincolnshire, at the age of 78 years. I remember Grace Greenwood, in her lecture in Toronto many years ago, eulogizing the sailors of the "Birkenhead" when they recognized that their ship was going to founder, took hold of each other's hands and met a watery grave as if they were destined to endure that kind of death. This was what the lecturer distinguished as "heroism in common life." I have been told that most of the crew of the "Birkenhead" were Irish, and I am reminded of this by the death of Sergeant O'Neill, at the age of 78 years.

Last year was a great year for Irish lexicographers. In addition to an Irish-English dictionary there were published two English-Irish dictionaries, one by E. E. Fournier and the other by O'Neill Lane. Biography is represented by Miss O'Farrell's "Leabhar an Athar Eoghain," which while telling the story of Father O'Growney, relates the history of the language movement. There have been some text books, including a reader of Father Deenee, Dr. Henry's Handbook of Modern Irish, Craig's Grammar, etc., numerous small works and a mass of fugitive literature to the press, of which Father Peter O'Leary was the most prolific contributor. The new school of Irish bearing produced a scholar magazine in "Eiru," and the other Gaelic periodicals continued as in 1903.

When County Court Judge Curran opened the business of the Hilary Quarter Sessions for the division of King's County, there was no criminal business, and Mr. Richard Bull, sub-Sheriff, presented His Honor with a pair of white gloves. This settles a point that I have had in my mind a long time, and that is whether the Bull family of Hamilton, Ont., were Irish or Norwegian. This item shows that there exist other Irish bulls besides those commonly attributed to blundering. Of the Hamilton Bulls one was named Richard, the same as the sub-sheriff above mentioned, and a nice gentleman he was.

Katherine Eleanor Conway, the new editor of the "Boston Pilot," fills the chair which has been occupied at different times by Dr. Walsh, Thos. D'Arcy McGee, Father Roden, John Bayle O'Reilly and James Jeffrey Roche, who has been appointed by President Roosevelt to a consulship in Italy.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

## Three Martyr's Beatified

Rome, Jan. 15.—Three Hungarian martyrs, Pouceze, Grodecz and Christiano, were beatified to-day at St. Peter's in the presence of a vast congregation, including many Americans. This is the last function of its kind in connection with the festivities incident to the jubilee of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

## IRISH HIERARCHY AND TRINITY COLLEGE

Protest Against the Educational Bribes of the Protestant Institutions

By the Standing Committee of the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland the following resolutions have been adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the insidious attempts now being made by the authorities of Trinity College and some of its Protestant supporters, to induce by pecuniary bribe the youth of our Catholic schools to enter that institution so often condemned by their pastors, we feel it our urgent duty to warn our flocks against the danger of accepting those educational bribes.

The present attempt in no way differs in principle from the attempts made by Trinity College for the past 300 years, to wean away the Catholic youth of Ireland from their allegiance to their faith and their country. It is, in spirit, an offering of pecuniary bribes, in no way differing from those so often offered to Catholic boys to induce them to frequent proselytising schools in the West of Ireland and elsewhere.

Trinity College, unsectarian in theory, is Protestant in its government, its teaching, and its atmosphere. Numbers of its most distinguished men have recently boasted that the College is Protestant, and hope it will always remain so. It is no place for loyal Catholics. They cannot frequent its halls without the gravest danger of detriment to their faith, which is their highest blessing and greatest treasure.

As their pastors, we call them in the most earnest manner to spurn this new bribe, as their fathers spurned similar bribes in the past. No true Irish Catholic will accept the proffered scholarships, and those who may be weak enough to do so may rest assured that their fellow-countrymen will never forget their recreancy in this crisis of our struggle for educational equality.

In vain have the Bishops appealed year after year to the Government to do justice to the Catholics of Ireland in the matter of University education. In vain have Ministers responsible at various times for Irish administration, acknowledged the reasonableness of the Catholic claim. In vain have our members of Parliament, representing alike the views of the laity and of the clergy, made an unanswerable case in the House of Commons for a University suited to the wants of the Irish people. At the dictation of an intolerant minority, the Government has abdicated its functions, and nothing is to be done unless it pleases intolerance to say when, and where, and how.

In such circumstances it is our duty to tell our people, whose vital interests are at stake, that they are fully justified in taking up the question in a way that will teach intolerance a lesson it badly needs. Trinity College and the Queen's Colleges are no places for the intellectually-gifted youth of a race that, through all the centuries since we received the faith, has prized religion as its most precious inheritance. It is intolerable that these institutions should hold their endowments, as if to serve the Irish people, when the small sections of the population which they do serve, mercilessly bar out the bulk of the people from University education in any form acceptable to the nation at large. A monopoly so oppressive is already doomed, once public opinion is enlightened by a full discussion of the subject, and the eye of the nation fixed on the blighting influence of this degrading form of class privilege.

The device of trying to allure distinguished intermediate students of Catholic Schools into Trinity College by Scholarship bribes is quite in keeping with the history of that institution from the start. But it will only help to build up the determination of our people to have at long last, in a way that suits them, for higher education, their proper share of the income which Trinity College draws from eighteen Irish counties without showing any high example in its dealings with its estates.

If there is an objection against a fresh grant to provide a University for Irish Catholics, as restitution for the plunder of the past, or out of moneys drawn from Ireland in ruinous over-taxation, then the Irish Bishops, the Irish representatives, and the Irish people, are bound to take all legitimate means to secure that the endowments of Trinity College and the moneys annually voted to the Queen's Colleges are made available for University education in a way the nation will endorse. There is only one Irish nation; that if there were two or more, as has recently been suggested by a distinguished authority, the revenues of those institutions can scarcely be said to go to the right one.

As the Government has shown that reason has no weight with them in the matter of educational justice if the old ascendancy chooses to object, it only remains for the Irish people to say that this ascendancy must altogether cease.

The whole country should rally round our Parliamentary representatives and give them the whole strength of the nation's support in their endeavor to secure ordinary civic rights for Irish Catholics in educational and all other matters.

We request the clergy to read this statement in the churches on Sunday, the 5th of February.

Resolved, That it would be singularly inadvisable from an educational point of view to diminish the organizing staff for music, domestic economy, experimental science, and manual instruction, in connection with the system of Primary education in this country, at a time when everyone interested in Primary education is disposed to help in developing those useful branches of it, and many managers had incurred no inconsiderable expenditure in providing the necessary equipment for the work.

Resolved, That until duly qualified persons have been secured in sufficient numbers for organizing and developing the practical side of Primary education, and until money is forthcoming, as it ought to be without delay to provide adequate salaries for the teachers, it is premature to arrange for even a suitable grade of higher elementary education in the National Schools, above the Sixth Standard.

MICHAEL CARDINAL LOGUE, Chairman.  
RICHARD ALPHONSUS, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.  
HENRY, Bishop of Down and Connor.  
Secretaries to the Meeting.

## Golden Jubilee of Rev. John B. Meurer, S.J.

La Plata, Md., Jan. 13.—The 50th anniversary of the entrance of Rev. John B. Meurer into the Society of Jesus was celebrated at St. Thomas' Manor Church yesterday with a solemn High Mass. Rev. Father Meurer was celebrant. He was assisted by his youngest brother, Rev. James Meurer, Dean of Northern Alabama, of Mobile Diocese, as deacon, and Rev. J. F. Mulvaney, S.J., superior of St. Thomas', as sub-deacon. Rev. F. X. Brady, S.J., pastor of St. Ignatius' Church, Baltimore, preached.

Rev. Father Meurer was for fifteen years pastor of Bally (Goshenhoppen) Berks County, Pa., and of missions as far as Reading. He is one of four brothers who devoted themselves to the priesthood—one as a diocesan priest, one as a Redemptorist and the present jubilant as a Jesuit. Rev. Matthias Meurer, the eldest brother, died in 1884 at Glen Riddle, Pa., and was buried by his three brothers.

## St. Mary's Whist Club

At Webb's cafe Thursday evening Jan. 19th, "Cap" Kelly's team entertained "O'Halloran's Colts" to an oyster supper, which was the outcome of a game of whist, in which "Cap" Kelly's team finished second. After the oysters had justice done to them speech-making was in order.

Mr. D. H. Corey gave an interesting account of his recent trip to Frisco. Mr. Cias. McCurdy delivered his famous lecture on the stock yards in Chicago. Mr. D. Sullivan and Mr. John Murphy made witty speeches. Messrs. C. J. Read, Jas. Doyle, Jos. Broderick and G. Furlong gave musical numbers which delighted everyone. Cap Kelly made a capable chairman. Those present were: R. Kelly, Jno. O'Halloran, D. Sullivan, Jno. Murphy, McCurdy, G. Furlong, C. McCurdy, J. Zeagman, J. Broderick, D. A. Corey, J. McBride, J. Doyle, W. J. Read, M. McInerney, C. McGarry, W. Gayheart, W. Byrne, H. McGarrigle, J. Furlong, W. McGuire, C. J. Read, C. Gilleoly, C. Zeagman, D. Murray.

## The English College, Valladolid

The London Tablet announces that the Rev. W. Wookley, who has for some years been secretary to the Bishop of Salford, has been appointed rector of the English College of Valladolid, in succession to the late Mgr. Allen.

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