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TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

The Golden Story of California in Munsey's Magazine for November—A More Than Twice Told Tale—Recollections of the Men and Circumstances Mentioned—Poets and Story Writers—The Great Mine Operators—McKay, Flood, O'Brien and Fair—An Irish Mayor, Sheriff and Chief of Police—United States Senator—A Murphy Legislature—The Press Largely in Irish Hands—The Hibernia Savings Bank.

In "Munsey's Magazine" for November I find a glowing description of the State of California, its climate, its products and its people, by Mr. Newton Dent. Who Mr. Dent is I do not know, but I know or did know the State of California well. I have read such eulogies as this before. In fact they appear periodically. There are interests behind those leading publications that believe in advertising, and this is one of their ways of doing it. Sometimes and oftentimes it is the railroad corporations; sometimes the hotelkeepers; and sometimes the real estate owners. All are interested in bringing eastern and southern people and capital to the Pacific Coast, because "there is money in it." Accompanying the present article are 46 half-tone illustrations of views and persons. The views include the state capital at Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, in the Sierras, Yosemite Lake in the Yosemite Valley, Yosemite Falls and Cliffs, Cliff House, San Francisco, Big Trees of Calaveras Grove, Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, Pickering Oranges at River Side; Seal Rocks and Seals at Santa Catalina Islands; Ostrich Farm at Pasadena; Yucca Cacti at Hesperia; Drying Raisins at Fresno; and the Garden of the Mission of San Jose. The portraits are those of Mark Twain, Joaquin Miller, Bret Harte, John W. McKay, General Fremont, Collins Potter Huntington, Henry George, Adolph Sutro, Darius Ogden Mills, Leland Stanford, James B. Hoggan, James R. Keene, Luther Burbank, Stephen J. Field, Jacques Loel, D. J. Belasco, Mary Anderson, Charles Crocker, John Muir, Claus Sprickles, David Starr, Jordan Benjamin Ide Wheeler, George C. Perkins, Frank P. Flint, James D. Phelan, Irving M. Scott, Eugene E. Schmitz, U.S. Senator George Hearst and his son William Randolph Hearst, Gertrude Atherton, Ambrose Bierce, and Edwin Markham. Many of these men are dead, some for many years; and but few are young and new to the public eye. The poets and literary men are Joaquin Miller, "Mark Twain," Bret Harte, Henry George, Ambrose Bierce, Edwin Markham and one lady, Gertrude Atherton. Although those persons made their reputations in California most of them did not remain there. Miller and Harte, I understand, are yet there; Harte and George left there long ago and both are dead; Mark Twain and Edwin Markham are now living in the East, but where Gertrude Atherton is residing I cannot say. Henry George I knew personally very well and admired him very much for several reasons. He had strong Catholic and Irish sympathies and his family are Catholics. Markham, too, is a broad and generous soul and is, I believe, of good old Irish stock. Bierce is English, talented and unscrupulous. Bret Harte in writing his stories, adopted the Missouri dialect as that of the California miners, because I suppose the Missourians were the first Americans on the ground among the gold diggers, and their dialect was the most peculiar of any. Gertrude Atherton wrote stories of early California life and the habit and manners of the Mexicans, who preceded the Americans, and, I believe, without slandering them. They were known as the "native Californians," and are admitted to have been a generous and hospitable people, though not up to time in modern methods.

But those whose names are mentioned above are not the only literary people who won distinction in California. Daniel O'Connell I knew fairly well. He was a literary man during my days in the Golden State. He was a nephew of the great Dan Russell and resembled him very much. He was associated with Henry George in publishing a daily paper called "The Post" in San Francisco, but got more credit as a writer of verses, which a few years since were gathered into a volume that I saw reviewed in a Chicago paper. The reviewer remarked it was a wonder that so excellent a poet was so little known. It was during my time, there, too, that Charles Warren Stoddard, afterwards, and I believe still, connected with the Catholic University at Washington, won distinction as a poet and descriptive writer. For five years he travelled in Europe and elsewhere, writing letters of his observations for a San Francisco Sunday paper, and I looked for them regularly. He went away dressed like any other American citizen and came back in the garb of a monk, so that foreign Catholic influences had made a decided impression upon him.

The next group of noted Californians that are mentioned in this Munsey article is the successful miners. The only one of these whose portraits are printed are John W. McKay and Adolph Sutro. McKay was an Irishman and a Catholic. The writer styles him as "one of the greatest civilization builders." In

early life he was a blaster. He became a multimillionaire through his part ownership of the Bonanza mines of the Comstock lode. Others associated with him were Flood and O'Brien and Fair, well known names now, but their owners are dead. McKay was a very enterprising, very generous man, whose memory is more respected than any of the great and successful Californians. I had a friend residing in Oak Park near Chicago, who told me this story of Flood and O'Brien: "Before I came west long ago, I was a farmer in Massachusetts. Two Irishmen came to me at one time during the California gold excitement, looking for work. I gave it to them and they proved to be such good hands that I intended to keep them. But it was not long before they gave me notice that they intended to quit. I told them I liked their work and would raise their wages if they remained. They agreed to remain a little longer at any rate, and they did; but news came of new and great discoveries of gold in California and they said they would stay no longer, as their intention was to go to California, and off they started. Their names were Flood and O'Brien, the same men that were afterwards associated with McKay and Fair in the Bonanza mines, and who became immensely rich." When Flood and O'Brien started the Bank of Nevada in San Francisco, there was a tremendous rivalry between them and the Bank of California with D. O. Mills as president and William Ralston as manager. But Ralston at that time was the bank and the bank was greatly interested in Nevada mining matters, having a monopoly in most of the mining utilities from which millions of dollars were acquired annually. This Ralston was a great and generous soul, liberal to a fault and public spirited beyond any of his contemporaries. His life if written would make one of the most interesting romances ever written about early California days. It was he who built the great Palace Hotel, on which he spent over \$3,000,000. Both banks had their friends and the stories that were purposely circulated about their doings—about Ralston and Mills on the one hand and Flood and O'Brien on the other—were both alarming and shocking. At any rate Ralston went under, the bank failed and the great financier and promoter ended his life by drowning. Then there was a commotion among the big capitalists. John B. Feltren, a great lawyer and scholar, whose Irish father had been head of a great eastern university, was the attorney of the Bank of California, and undertook to restore it to its former position and standing. This he did by getting the millionaire stockholders to double the amount of their stock. The man who was mostly responsible for the downfall of Ralston, it was said, was D. O. Mills, the president, who ordered an investigation of Ralston's account with the bank, when it was discovered that the manager was behind \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 short. Ralston was a great favorite, a great entertainer, and a great promoter, but a very extravagant man. D. O. Mills did not remain long in California after that, notwithstanding his magnificent home at Belmont, but went to New York and carries on even now some magnificent enterprises there. But he had the name of a cold, sordid man.

The Irish race was splendidly represented in California in those days. They figured well in every line and branch of business. The mayor of San Francisco was one Frank McCoppin, who from his personal beauty, was styled "the man of faultless physique," one of the United States Senators to Washington was Eugene Casserly, a great lawyer of San Francisco; the Sheriff of the County of San Francisco was Matthew Nunan, a big Irish brewer; many of the Superiors were men with Irish names and mostly all of the police force with Captain Lees, an Irishman, at their head. Murphy, Grant & Co. were owners of the largest wholesale dry goods house on the "coast"; Mr. Grant, however, was a Californian. Murphy was then a great name in California. The State Legislature was called by the San Francisco "Chronicle," the Murphy Legislature, because it had six Murphys in it. There were beside those that I have mentioned, "Murphy of San Raphael," "Murphy of the Big Trees," "Murphy of Lonoma," and "Murphy of San Jose."

San Francisco had at this time, too, one of the largest savings institutions in the world in the Hibernia Savings Bank, and I doubt if even at this day there is another anywhere possessed of a larger amount of deposits. The name of the founder of this bank I cannot now bring to mind, but the Tobin family have been identified with it from the beginning, and have the management of it now.

The press, too, was largely in Irish hands. The "Alta-California," the oldest paper in the state, was owned by Frank McCrellish and edited by Col. John McComb. "The Examiner" was partly owned by "Don Philippe Roach" and edited by a young Irish lawyer, who has since been made a judge. "The Morning Call" was edited by a Mr. Higgins; "The Chronicle," the De Vinna paper, was edited by Denis McCarthy, a young Irishman from Australia, and so on. Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose and Stockton, also had Irishmen as owners and editors of their newspapers. Right here I want to mention a circumstance personal to myself. I established a weekly county paper for Alameda County, at Oakland. One day a young man applied to me for a position wherein he might learn journalism. He appeared bright and willing, but I knew nothing about him. I employed his services, however. He

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assisted at all kinds of work, writing editorials and squibs and reports. I soon learned that he was a Canadian and that his father used to work for an old friend of mine in Toronto, Thomas McCrossin by name, as a hatter. That young fellow is now a veteran journalist, who was afterwards editor of the San Francisco "Examiner," and is now chief editorial writer for Mr. Hearst's daily paper in New York city and gets the largest salary of any similar writer in America. His name is Arthur McEwen.

Adolph Sutro was, I think, a native of Switzerland. He distinguished himself as a mayor of San Francisco. He was the man who erected public baths for the people at his own expense. He was a great man on the Comstock too, and made the Sutro tunnel. In this work he encountered great opposition from the men that held franchises for doing certain work for the mining companies. The Sutro tunnel was designed to furnish a new base of operations for companies whose shafts were down 2,000 feet or more. The tunnel was run through Gold Hill at a depth of 1,800 feet or more and gave the operators a decided advantage in working their mines at that reduction of depth. First he had a difficulty in getting his franchise from the legislature on account of the opposition of the men who were making money out of the conditions as they were then, and then he had many delays in carrying out his project. He was then looked on as a benefactor and nothing was too good for him. I believe Sutro remained in California and did not betake himself to New York as so many others of the California minded men did.

While writing of the mining operators there is one thing I want to touch upon that is seldom or never referred to by writers on those "flash times." It was not alone by the gold mines that the operators made their money. I believe it was more by their operations on the stock market. Everybody then dealt in mining stocks and every possible device was used to deceive or stimulate the public. False reports were constantly circulated, new "strikes" were reported and new "discoveries" bruited about. There was great rivalry, too, among the leading stockholders and a desire to get a majority of the stock, so that there was deception and fraud constantly practiced. I remember one very tragic occurrence, when a diamond drill struck a great body of ore in a leading mine. The story went that a certain leading operator got a knowledge of this fact before anybody else and caused an "accident" to occur by which all the men then at work in the "shaft" or "drift" lost their lives. He did not want them to spread the news and by means of his brokers he was able soon to purchase all the shares available of that particular mine before any one else knew of the important discovery and was then enabled to become its principal stockholder at little cost. This circumstance was rumored abroad from time to time but there was never any investigation to ascertain the facts. I heard a newspaper man of Virginia City once declare he knew all about it but dare not publish it, as he would be sure to lose his life by assassination if he did. "At any rate" said he, "I would very quickly have to leave the country if I did."

WILLIAM HALLEY.
(To Be Continued.)

A Word to Young Men

George Zeigler of Kingston, a young man in a responsible and respected position who lately committed suicide by shooting himself, left "A Word to Young Men," in which he calls drink a curse. It had ruined him and was ruining more young men than any other thing. He asked young men to shun bar-rooms, and called on temperance workers and ministers "of all the churches in our fair Dominion, be they Protestants or Catholics, to take an active step in suppressing the sale and manufacture of liquor." He besought young men for God's sake to take heed, "for at last you will fall as I have. May my fall be a lesson to you which you shall never forget." He also left a personal and pathetic letter for his wife and five-year-old daughter.

The giving of gifts that are essentially Catholic is becoming more and more the custom amongst Catholic people, therefore, the Register begs to state to its readers that a magnificent stock of all classes of Devotional articles, such as Rosaries, in gold and silver, or precious stones (which are contained in satin lined boxes at a very low figure) as well as Prayer Books, and Sacred Pictures, Statues, and Statuettes, in endless varieties, can now be had in Toronto. A visit to the show rooms of W. E. Blake, 123 Church Street, Toronto, will easily prove a very profitable one. Open evenings during December.

IRISH EXHIBITION A Permanent Exhibit of Goods Manufactured in Ireland to be Established in Dublin

(From the Dublin Independent.)

It will be welcome news to everybody interested in the industrial movement that a permanent exhibition of goods manufactured in Ireland is about to be established in Dublin. This laudable project, which is entitled to the heartiest support, is about to be undertaken by the Irish Art Companions, an organization that has already accomplished much useful work in the direction of popularizing Irish manufactures.

For the past twelve months the Show Room of the Irish Art Companions at 27 Clare Street, has been used as a sale depot by the small home industries and the success that attended the experiment has been so great that it has now been decided to utilize the same premises, together with the Exhibition Hall at the rear of it for the purposes of a permanent exhibition of manufactures representative of the whole field of Irish industrial enterprise. The necessary initial outlay will not, it is expected, be very considerable, and should the project meet with success, as there is every reason to hope that it will, it is proposed to still further increase the area of the Show Rooms. The amount of space at present available is 4,000 square feet, and the wall space 11,645 square feet. Spaces for exhibition cases, for example, and illustrated show cards will be let from 5s. a year upwards. It is not proposed, however, that a profit should be made on the undertaking. The charge mentioned will be devoted to defraying necessary expenses, such as the salaries of assistants, rent, etc., and for this purpose also a small percentage on orders booked will be levied. Any surplus arising after the payment of working expenses will be devoted toward the further development of Irish industries.

The goods shown in the windows will be changed at least twice a week, each exhibitor receiving the benefit of this special form of display in turn. In the case of perishable goods, carriages, or large agricultural implements, which for obvious reasons, it would be impracticable to exhibit in the ordinary way, illustrative placards will be displayed giving the names and addresses of the manufacturers, and the retail warehouses at which these goods can be procured. Goods received will be classified under these heads:

1. Samples for exhibition only, for particulars of which inquiries will be referred to the agents named by the manufacturers.
2. Samples exhibited on the understanding that wholesale orders only are to be booked, the goods to be subsequently delivered direct from the factories in the ordinary course.
3. Samples exhibited on sale or return, in wholesale or retail quantities.

It is intended also to connect with this store of samples a Central Information Bureau, in which any inquirer, wholesale or retail, may learn at a moment's notice the names and addresses of the makers of all commodities, and the names and addresses of their retail agents. The Irish Art Companions have already prepared a list of Irish manufacturers for this Bureau, but as this is probably imperfect and incorrect, they will be glad to receive correct names and addresses from every manufacturer in Ireland.

The advantage of such a Bureau are obvious. As has been said, the Companions do not propose that it shall be a profit-making concern. They desire only to extend the opportunity of co-operation originally confined to the cottage industries, to the general trade of Ireland. One often hears complaints regarding the difficulties of obtaining certain classes of Irish manufactured goods, but in future the intending purchaser need but call at the Clare Street Bureau, and he will be directed at once where to go. It is only by some such co-operation, as is indicated in this scheme, the Companions point out, that the smaller industrial workers of Ireland can ever become known to their fellow countrymen, or can hope to press forward into the larger markets of the world.

Dr. Windle, President of the Queen's College, Cork; Dr. Douglas Hyde, and Mr. R. A. Anderson, of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, have consented to act as a Vigilance Committee on behalf of the exhibitors, to see that the financial part of the scheme is faithfully adhered to.

Applications for space, in writing only, will be received by Mr. P. J. Gleeson, Secretary, at 28 Clare Street, Dublin, from the 14th of November, on and after which date the premises can be seen by any prospective exhibitor.

All applications will be attended to strictly in order of arrival, but classed under four heads, representing the four Provinces, so that each Province may have equal treatment.

The best variety of Catholic Devotional articles in Canada. That is a big statement for a Church Goods House situated in the Province of Ontario to make. But it is a fact nevertheless. Outside of New York City and some of the larger American Catholic centres there is not a larger variety kept in stock to be found of Catholic Devotional Articles than is shown by the enterprising house of W. E. Blake, 123 Church St., Toronto, Canada. If you are contemplating the purchase of an acceptable Christmas gift the Register by all means invites you to visit this establishment. Open every evening during December.

NOBLE ONE THOUSAND

An Army of Young Men Communicants. "An Irresistible Force for Good," Says Archbishop O'Connor.

In addressing the Young Men's Catholic Association of Boston recently, Archbishop O'Connell reminded his hearers of a truth Catholics should nowhere be permitted to forget—namely, that Catholic progress means not so much increase of numbers as increase of effort in the right direction.

"I am told," he said, "that a thousand men of this organization are in the habit of going once a month to Confession and Holy Communion. Here, I believe, is a tremendous force for progress in the right direction which is silently clearing away the obstacles and bringing you infallibly into your rightful place—a place compared to which all boasting and accusation and vulgar pushing for place is not only zero, but a minus quantity. . . . That noble thousand who, no matter how busy, how distant from home, how driven for time they are, each month go apart from the noise and the confusion, and the false values, and the false allurements which surround them, enter the silence of their own souls, count up the errors, the mistakes, and the weaknesses, put them in full view of their own consciences, unburden themselves of them all in the Sacrament of Penance, then go forth to receive strength in Holy Communion. That is really preparing for the future. That is really changing conditions, while others who do not really mean it are merely talking about it. That holy practice is making strong men who will be needed and whose presence must be felt throughout the whole community. That is making clean hearts, pure minds, and honest consciences. That influence is creating noble lives with strong purposes; the kind of men to be trusted in any position. The men with a conscience never dimmed, these are the men who will be heard from soon when the people have grown tired of deception. Work and prepare. This is the work which prepares."

"If that number can be increased here in this city from one to twenty thousand, we should have such a force for good as nothing could resist. A magnificent, permanent, Catholic sentiment of high spirituality in the daily life of our people, which would soon compel attention and would sweep away forever every remnant of prejudice." Then indeed might we well be confident of the future.

Catholic Priests in the House of Lords

The following account of the coming of an English priest to a title is taken from the New York Freeman's Journal:

By the death recently of Lord Arundell of Wardour leaving no children, his brother, who is a Catholic priest, succeeds to the title as Lord Arundell of Wardour. His accession (observes the Catholic Herald) "adds another to the very few examples there have been in modern times of Catholic priests entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords. The last one was that of the Hon. and Right Rev. Mgr. Petre, who succeeded, twenty-two years ago, on his father's death, as thirteenth Baron Petre. During the nine years that he enjoyed the title the late Lord Petre took no part in political life, nor did he ever even take his seat in the House of Lords. As the new Lord Arundell is in his seventy-third year, and has lived for a considerable time in great retirement at Bourne-mouth, it is not probable that he will figure as an active politician any more than did Lord Petre."

In a newspaper interview Father Arundell said he hardly knew what his future arrangements would be, and being questioned, "Of course, your lordship will be going away from us now?" he answered, "Don't be too sure of that. It does not follow by any means that I shall be leaving you. Remember that the successor to the Baronetcy of Sir Wm. Heathcote, who was a Jesuit priest, preferred to go on with his work amongst the poor and needy rather than take over the management of the estate with its farms and lands. One thing is certain, whatever happens, I shall have nothing to do with the estate at Wardour. In fact, it is left to the Lady Arundell for life. I shall have an allowance, and, of course, a seat in the House of Lords." He would be able to do more good if he had a seat in the House of Commons.

A. O. H. Demonstration

The greatest demonstration ever held in Montreal by the Ancient Order of Hibernians took place on Sunday morning and Monday evening, the 18th and 19th inst., when the Order in Montreal paraded to Mass on Sunday and held a grand patriotic entertainment on the evening following. The parade was largely attended, about 6000 members being in line, and headed by the Hibernian Knights and the St. Ann's Cadets band, marched from Richmond Street hall to St. Patrick's church to attend Mass in memory of those immortal three—the Manchester Martyrs. A grand concert and lecture were given on Monday evening, Mr. Matthew Cummings, National President of the Order in America, being the speaker. A banquet was afterwards tendered the President at the Grand Union Hotel, many prominent members of the Order and citizens attending.