

and giving a few tribal yells, they departed. Next day we received a visit from O'Brien in the College hall. The "O'Brien cheer" was repeated again and again as our hero entered, accompanied by Kilbride, the representatives of the N. Y. dailies and the principal members of the faculty. Gerald Griffin read an address in which he expressed our pride at having the privilege of escorting him the previous evening, admiration for his past career, our utter detestations of the tactics of the Toronto students, and our hearty good wishes for the rest of his trip and for the rest of his life. As O'Brien stepped forward to reply he was greeted with renewed cheers of welcome. In that short speech we came to know the man more intimately. He possesses personal magnetism to a remarkable degree, and in his outbursts of eloquence his spare frame would tremble with magnificent enthusiasm. Again we would lose sight of the great nationalist in the unassuming college-bred gentleman. He would pass from the passionate to the pathetic, from the pathetic to the humorous as only an Irishman can. "When I see that we can inspire young men so far away from Ireland with such enthusiasm as this, I feel that we have an unconquerable cause." The way he said "unconquerable," would inspire enthusiasm in the most phlegmatic Irishman in existence. He was glad to look on our Irish faces, hear our Irish names and to see he "almost said our Irish shillelahs, at any rate they were very good substitutes last night. I only wish I could be sure of such valiant defenders where I am going to-night."

But though there were no doubt, in Kingston many who would have been proud to defend him, we know the treacherous, blood-thirsty attempt on his life, after suspicion had been disarmed and his friends had quietly retired to their homes. The withering denunciation of the would-be murders of Toronto and the fact that they were exciting the sympathy of the world for

O'Brien had not penetrated the understanding of the pachydermous loyalists of Kingston. Were the Ottawa brethren more intelligent or more civilized? Not a whit. The students of '86-7 have reason to congratulate themselves on their work of that memorable night, and to feel a thrill of pride as they think that they saved William O'Brien from rude jostling, maltreatment, or perhaps worse. Aye, they might boast if they but saved from a rude word the idol of the Irish people, the purest and bravest patriot of that brave partriotic band towards which the eyes of the world are now turned in admiring wonder.

There is another incident of the O'Brien visit which I like to remember. It was in May, and after the usual exercises in the evening, just before the Angelus, Gerald went up to the officiating priest and asked for a prayer for the safety of O'Brien in Kingston. Ah! we have heard it said that O'Brien's escape in Toronto, Kingston and Hamilton was miraculous. It was at least providential, and who shall say to what extent due to the prayers of the faithful people of whose cause he is the chivalrous advocate.

In the same way, only, can we explain the victory achieved by the Parnellites over the blackest, most malignant, and most gigantic, conspiracy that ever stained the pages of the world's history. The strange part of it all is, that just as the loyal forgers of England have not only not succeeded in killing Home Rule, but have given it an irresistible impetus, so the loyal savages of Canada not only did not kill O'Brien but turned his mission which would otherwise have been a comparative failure into a brilliant success, by attracting the attention of the world to his damning arraignment of Landlordism. The world judged between O'Brien and Lansdowne, a typical nationalist and a typical landlord. No friend of Ireland has reason to be dissatisfied with the verdict.

CORY O'LANUS

