

REMINISCENCES OF THE IRISH "RISING."

Splendid Exploits in Dublin and
Kildare.

United Irishmen in the Ranks of
the Red Coats.

A Massacre on the Curragh.

THE night of the 23rd of May, 1798, says a writer in the Irish World, witnessed exciting scenes in Dublin. Through the instrumentality of spies, it had been discovered that on that night the insurgents meant to attack the city. Wild rumors flew around of thousands of fierce rebels being massed at Santry and Rathfarnham, and preparing to march upon the northern and southern sides of the city simultaneously. It was known that insurgent feeling in the city was very strong; that many a man who for policy's sake wore the uniform of a yeoman, sympathized with the rising; nay, that whole regiments of the regular army were sworn United Irishmen. If the loyal citizens of Dublin were not all to have their throats cut while they slept they must be on the alert. The clang of arms and the tramp of armed men filled the streets. Bugles rang out shrieks of alarm in never ending succession upon the night air. Swords and rifles were distributed to every man capable of carrying them. Portly and perspiring burghers rushed hither and thither with the wildest terror depicted in their countenances. The district of Smithfield, which was expected to be the first point of attack, swarmed with soldiery of every description till the streets became impassable.

So the loyalists waited in breathless suspense for the insurgents' attack. Hour after hour passed and gave no sign. The shades of night gave way to the bright hues of morning and still not a rebel came in sight. Then with a sigh of relief the weary men crept back to bed. Meanwhile, what had become of the insurgents? Alas the measures taken by the Government had effectually disorganized their plans. What happens even the best army upon the field of battle when its commander-in-chief is shot down, when all its generals have been captured, when every officer capable of assuming command has been killed or taken prisoner? Courage and skill for the moment are rendered powerless, and the army becomes a rabble.

So it was with the United Irishmen on May 23, 1798. A few days previously their leader, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, had perished in a dungeon cell. The Brothers Sheares had been hanged. Neilson, Emmet, McNeill, O'Connor and all the other leaders were in prison. There was far away in France still incessantly pleading the cause of Ireland. In short, all the men who had initiated and organized the movement in Leinster had been removed by death or imprisonment, so that uncertainty reigned in the councils of the United Irishmen.

It was at this time that a young gentleman of Kildare named Edward Aylmer assumed command, and proved himself fully equal to the task he had undertaken. Kildare is a county which affords every facility for the evolutions of an army, but it is quite unadapted for guerrilla warfare. It consists of a vast plain, with scarce a hill of any kind to relieve the monotony. Aylmer saw that his chances of victory depended on the swiftness of his movements—on striking the enemy sharply and quickly and risking pitched battles only when it was absolutely necessary.

The district in which the town of Prosperous, County Kildare, is situated had been the scene of some of the most atrocious crimes of the military. Free quarters, hargis, burnings, pitch cappings and floggings had driven the people to madness. Here it was that Kildare struck the first blow. On May 23 the United Irishmen collected under the leadership of Capt. Farrell and made an assault upon the barracks. Capt. Swayne, who commanded the North Cork Militia, defended the barracks and met the insurgents with a heavy musketry fire. The insurgents, who had no arms or ammunition worth mentioning, determined to cut their opponents by stratagem. In the face of a withering shower of bullets they advanced to the gates of the barracks and set them on fire. They then threw burning fagots through the windows, and in a short time the building was in flames.

When the dastardly militia saw themselves cornered they shrieked for mercy, but the rebels had too strong a recollection of the woes from which they and their families had suffered. As soldier after soldier emerged from the burning barracks they were pursued and picked till every man of them perished.

On the same night the insurgents attacked the military who were stationed in free quarters at Ballymore-Eustace and cut them off to a man. A certain Capt. Eustace, of the Buff Dragoons, hearing of this disaster to the Royal troops, quickly advanced to Geraldine, vowing that "neither himself nor his men would breakfast until they should breakfast upon the Croppies of Ballymore."

On reaching the town he found the insurgents posted upon a slight elevation and at once ordered a cavalry charge. He expected that these raw peasants would scatter before his bold dragoons.

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like chaff before the wind. To his intense surprise, a line of unwavering pikes hurled them back far more quickly than they had come. Again and again they charged, but with an equally ineffectual result. When the peasants saw that their foes were almost exhausted they in their turn assumed the offensive and completely routed them. Though the two sides fought man for man, the Kildare peasants, with their simple weapons, proved themselves more than a match for the flower of the British cavalry. The bold captain who had sworn the extermination of the United Irishmen attempted to escape by jumping into a pond, but had a pike driven through his body.

The garrison at Rathangan were the next to be attacked. After a few hours' defense they evacuated the barracks and fell back upon Phillipstown. Here they were reinforced by a yeomanry corps called the Black Horse, and accordingly made a stand.

Nothing, however, could resist the valor and impetuosity of the insurgents. Captain Dooley, a respectable young farmer of Lallymore, distinguished himself by his courage. He evinced a complete contempt for the musketry of the enemy, and advanced time after time up to their very front lines. But the royal troops were momentarily expecting further reinforcements. Soon a corps of the North Cork and another of regulars were observed hurrying up. Several field pieces were brought to bear upon the ranks of the insurgents, with the result that they were compelled to fall back, though in perfect order. Dooley, after a clever retreat, effected a junction with General Aylmer.

The battle of Ovidstown was the turning point in the fortunes of the Kildare insurgents. The royal troops were composed of Highlanders, Dragoon Guards and Yeoman cavalry, and had several powerful cannons in train. Aylmer, who was attacked unexpectedly in the early morning, lost no time in disposing his forces. The gunsmen, who amounted to a few hundred, were ordered to direct their fire toward the enemy's cannon in order to pick off the artillerymen. When any sign of wavering was observed the pikemen were to advance at the double quick. Unfortunately, the latter misunderstood their orders, and before the proper time arrived, exposed themselves, and were mowed down by heavy showers of grapeshot. A panic occurred, the pikemen retreated, the gunsmen wavered, and the royal troops were quickly in pursuit. In this action 200 insurgents fell and 50 of the enemy.

In the meantime, a yeomanry corps, under Lord Ely, had been attacked at Rathfarnham, County Dublin, and was on the point of defeat when a troop of dragoons under Lord Roden hurried up in the nick of time and saved them. At Dunboyne a Scotch regiment called the Royal Fencibles were cut off, and a similar reverse overtook the Suffolk Fencibles at Barretstown.

However, the insurgents were not equally successful in all their engagements. This need not excite any surprise when it is considered that they were without arms, discipline or proper commissariat. Their movements in the field were greatly hampered by the numbers of women, children and old men who accompanied them. Once a man took the field he dare not leave his family after him, for they ran the risk of instant outrage and slaughter. This fact should be remembered when reading prejudiced accounts of the battles of the war. A rebel force, for instance, is estimated at 3,000 when it perhaps contained not more than 500 active combatants, the remainder being women and children. Of these about one-fourth perhaps possessed guns, while the other three-fourths had no better weapons than pikes or pitchforks.

After an engagement at Tara Hill, which was unsuccessful, Gen. Aylmer, out of humane motives, recommended his followers to disperse and surrender whatever arms they possessed. He thought that now at any rate the vengeance of the enemy was fully glutted, and that they would be satisfied with submission on the part of these homeless, long suffering, peasants. Alas, for his faith in English justice and humanity!

On the 3d of June a multitude of people might be observed proceeding from every side to Gibbet Rath, which is situated on the Curragh of Kildare. They had been informed by a proclamation of Gen. Dundas that in case they surrendered their arms they could depart unmolested to their homes and henceforth receive full protection. Their faces expressed no love for the mission on which they had come. Dire necessity dictated it. Their leaders had told them it was their only resource, and poor Lord Edward, who would never have counseled submission or despair, was cold in his grave. A tear, half of sullenness, half of pity, for their lost cause, trembled in the eyes of each insurgent as he flung down his battered pike or gun. At last the ordeal was over. The men were preparing to return to their homes, or at least to those places which contained the ruins of their burned hovels, when Gen. Duff, who was on his way with troops from Limerick to Kildare, and who had timed his appearance at Gibbet Rath to a nicely arranged scene.

THE MASSACRE OF GIBBET RATH.
The extermination of these unfortunate men had been fully determined upon, but some sort of a pretext was required for action. Unfortunately one of the insurgents unsuspectingly afforded it. Before surrendering his musket, whether by accident or pardonable bravado, he discharged it in the air.

Before the echoes of the shot had died away home, foot and artillery were mowing down the defenseless multitude. No quarter whatsoever was given. There was no shelter in which the unhappy men could take refuge. They fell like sheep, and their blood dyed the plain for miles around. Such was the massacre of Gibbet Rath, in which not less than 500 people perished, and which is not the least infamous transaction of the period.

Here is how General Duff in his letter

to General Lake, the Commander-in-Chief, describes this abominable outrage:

'P. S. Kildare, 2 o'clock p.m.—We found the rebels retreating from the town on our arrival, armed.' (A lie.) 'We followed them with the dragoons. I sent on some of the yeomen to tell them on laying down their arms they should not be hurt.' (A lie.) 'Unfortunately (sic) some of them fired on the troops.' (A lie.) 'From that moment they were attacked on all sides—nothing could stop the rage of the troops. I believe from two to three hundred of the rebels were killed. I am too much fatigued to enlarge.'

No wonder, after shedding such cataracts of blood and falsehood, that Duff was too "fatigued to enlarge." Needless to say, he did not receive the least reprimand for this act of indefensible treachery, which, on the contrary, was a splendid recommendation for promotion. This massacre ended the rebellion as far as Kildare was concerned. Aylmer, Ware and Luby surrendered themselves to Gen. Dundas, and, after a period of imprisonment, were released on condition of leaving their native country. As an exemplification of how the Celt has become scattered all over the world, it is instructive to notice that of these three men Aylmer joined the Austrian army, Ware the French army, while Luby emigrated to America. Our hopes now turn to the North, to the slumbering West, but above all to "gallant little Wexford."

OUR BRETHREN IN ENGLAND.

Some Recent Happenings There of
General Interest.

LONDON, June 20.

One of the latest and most practical ideas which have found favor with English Catholics lately is to hold an annual congress of the Catholic members of English Boards of Guardians. The conference will be held at the residence of the Bishop of Southwark, and papers and discussions upon several matters of great importance to Catholics will mark the proceedings, which will begin on July 3 and last till July 6. Unity of aim in this field as in others cannot fail to produce beneficial results.

One of the most interesting gatherings in London since the social movement amongst Catholics of the Metropolis began to make rapid strides has been the annual meeting connected with the federation of Catholic clubs, largely due to the Hon. E. Fielding and supporters at Newman House. For the past few years the meeting has been held mostly at St. George's Club, Southwark, where the prizes won by the various clubs in the competitions resulting from the federation have been distributed by such distinguished Catholics as the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Ripon, Lord Herries, the Earl of Denbigh, and Lord Russell. There were many initial difficulties to be overcome before the movement could be considered to be successfully launched, but from every one of these annual reunions it derived increased strength and more solid unity, and now it may be said to be on its way to embrace all Catholic clubs in London, and to form the base from which Catholic Socialism may continue to advance.

A paper on 'The Working of Our Sunday Schools' was read by Mr. Robert Barton at the Conference of the Catholic Truth Society in Wigan recently. Mr. Barton said: It is painfully evident to the clergy and all interested in the welfare of the Catholic Church in England that something must be done more than is being done, especially for those who have left our day schools and who are consequently with greater difficulty gathered together for instruction. Those outside the Church fully realize the importance of Sunday schools, for we see them so efficiently and so successfully worked that they prove a most powerful organ for the strengthening of their respective positions, and are used by them not only for the spreading of religious but even of political views. It is true they have no the same difficulties to contend with as we have, for while we want teachers—and by that I mean persons capable of imparting knowledge in orthodox language—they, from the fact of claiming private judgment as a prerogative, have at their disposal any educated man willing to offer his services. And so we find professional men of every class engaged teaching, and seeming at least to look upon it as a labor of love.

We cannot use our Sunday schools for the propagation of political views; in fact, as a body, we have none to propagate, being free to follow any party, except inasmuch as they interfere with our religion, and in that case we are guided by our Bishops; still we should, like them, popularize our Sunday schools, feeling sure that we should by doing so have a powerful instrument for good amongst ourselves and an attraction for them to join us.

At the last meeting of the Douglas, Isle of Man, Poor Relief Committee a letter was read from Mr. Daniel Flinn, a Catholic member, resigning membership on the grounds that the chairman, Mr. John Boyd, and a large majority of the committee, had shown religious bigotry in electing in place of two Catholic members who had died, two non-Catholics. He charged the chairman with being afraid of the Wesleyan vote and with narrow-mindedness. The chairman defended his action in the matter. It was decided to defer consideration of the letter for a month.

The Saturday Review, while agreeing that the report that Mr. John Morley has joined the Catholic Church is unfounded, adds that it is, however, generally understood that Mr. Morley has abandoned his former attitude of aggressive anti-Christianity, and it is said that he is greatly impressed with the return to faith which is so marked a characteristic of the best English life and thought at the close of the century.

The Duke of Norfolk and Lord Ralph Kerr took part in the celebration, at

Arundel, of the Feast of Corpus Christi. A short service was held in the Castle grounds, and the procession re-formed to the church from which it had started. At the rear of the procession was carried the Blessed Sacrament, under a canopy of white silk embroidered with gold. The scene was a picturesque and impressive one.

Colonel Ivor Herbert, C.B., C.M.G., now commanding the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, and lately in command, with the local rank of Major-General, of the Militia of Canada, is about to succeed Colonel W. H. MacKinnon, late Grenadier Guards, who is about to give up the post of A.A.G. in the Home District and take a much-needed holiday in America. Colonel Herbert, who is a graduate of the Staff College, and saw much service in the Egyptian campaign of 1882 as Brigadier-Major of the Guards, and the Nile campaign of 1885 with the Guards' Camel Corps, was for four and a half years Military Attaché in St. Petersburg.

Communications with reference to the proposal to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the death of Geoffrey Chaucer have been received by the committee from many distinguished people. Cardinal Vaughan wrote: "The 500th anniversary! Tired to death with anniversary! My expression of opinion is—Spare us!"

It is now settled that the marriage of the Princess Dorothea of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Duke Ernest Gunther of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg will take place at Coburg during the month of August, in the Catholic Church of St. Augustin, when the ceremony will be conducted as quietly as possible.

I learn from the Western Mail of the forthcoming sale of Tintern Abbey by the Marquis of Worcester, along with 25,000 acres of land surrounding it. Tintern, in the Catholic days of old, was a great Cistercian monastery, and was founded by Walter de Clare. The church—dates from the thirteenth century, and was erected mainly by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. When the monasteries were suppressed Tintern was granted to the Earl of Worcester. Is it too much to hope to see this ancient foundation again in Catholic hands?

THE SALOONS IN GREAT CITIES.

Statistical Summary of the Consumption of Alcoholic Drinks in London, Paris and New York.

Drunkenness and the disorderly acts consequent upon it are decreasing in the enlarged New York. In Paris the police figures show that they are increasing, and in London, where systematic temperance agitation is kept up, the arrests for drunkenness and offences caused by it keep pace with the expansion of the population.

In New York there are now approximately 12,000 liquor saloons, hotels, restaurants, taverns, and roadhouses, the present population being about 3,300,000. Three years ago the number was greater by nearly 3,000. The annual consumption of intoxicating beverages includes 7,000,000 barrels, or about 200,000,000 gallons, of beer and ale, and about one-fifth as much whiskey and other ardent spirits, though this portion of New York's liquor bill can be less accurately computed. Relatively very little wine is drunk, even among the foreign-born inhabitants from wine-drinking countries, Italy and Hungary notably. About 500,000 barrels annually may be estimated as the quantity, bringing up the city's entire consumption of beer, ale, wine and whiskey to 8,800,000 barrels a year.

A recent official report gives the number of drinking places in London as 14,000. The daily consumption of wine is 5,500 gallons, besides 16,000 gallons of spirits, and the quantity of ale, beer and porter drunk yearly may be estimated fairly at 200,000,000 gallons, or about 550,000 gallons daily.

The population of Paris returned by census of 1896 is 2,600,000. The consumption of beer is much greater than formerly, but is yet much less than in either London or New York, amounting to no more than 10,000,000 gallons annually. Paris, however, exceeds all other cities in its consumption of wine, taking 125,000,000 gallons yearly.

Of the three cities, London consumes in a year the most beer and ale, and Paris the most wine. New York is second to London in its consumption of ale and beer, and is ahead of Paris in its consumption of spirits.—New York Sun.

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CATHOLIC SOLDIERS.

Those in the American Army Practice Their Religion.

It is very gratifying to learn that in all the army camps the Catholic soldiers are manifesting a lively devotion to their faith. Army life is not conducive to piety or gentleness of thought and conduct, and it requires the exercise of a very robust religious spirit to overcome the adverse influence.

Of course, where an army is composed mainly, if not wholly, of Catholic soldiers, who enjoy the constant ministrations of chaplains of their own creed, it is comparatively easy to keep up the morals of the men to a certain fairly high standard. But in the case of our own forces, which embrace men of every

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faith and of none, whose laxity of religious observance is but the reflection of the same thing in a more advanced stage of development in civic life, one would naturally look for more or less demoralization with regard to spiritual concerns, even at the very outset of mobilization. Therefore, when we learn from all sources that the Catholics in camp are flocking to service conducted by Catholic chaplains whenever the opportunity presents itself, the inference is a most consolatory one.

At Chickamauga, some days ago, before the dispatch of a large body of the troops South, Mass was said in the open air, by a Catholic chaplain connected with one of the regiments. There were some twelve thousand men in camp, regulars and volunteers, at the time, and according to the correspondence of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, fully one-half of them assisted devoutly at the impressive and solemn function. A great many approached the Holy Table improvised out of the rude materials at hand, and altogether the spectacle was a most inspiring one. Even the non-Catholic comrades of the worshippers were greatly edified by the serious deportment of the latter in this profession and proclamation of practical faith.

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Is there record kept anywhere of fancies conceived, beautiful, unborn? Some day will they assume form in some yet undeveloped light? If our bad, unspoken thoughts are registered against

us and are written in the awful account, will not the good thoughts unspoken, the love and tenderness, the pity, beauty, charity, which pass through the breast and cause the heart to throb with silent good, find a remembrance too?

The Liquor and Drug Habits.

Father Quinlivan's Testimony.

The writer of the above has been well known to me for years, and I can fully and conscientiously substantiate all he affirms. His case appeared to be one of the most utterly hopeless as to cure that ever came under my notice. All self-control and self-respect appeared entirely gone. Though an excellent worker when sober, his sole purpose in working appeared to be the earning of what would procure drink. I induced him to take Mr. Dixon's cure, and the results are correctly set forth in his letter. I am therefore anxious, fully believing in what is claimed for it by Mr. Dixon, to see this remedy brought to the notice of victims of the liquor habit, temperance workers and friends of humanity in general, who seek a means of relieving such victims.

The good points of the remedy, in my opinion, are the following:—First—If taken according to directions, it completely removes all craving for liquor in the short space of three days; its use for a longer time is intended only to build up the system. Second—It leaves no bad after effects, but on the contrary, aids in every way the health of the patient, whilst freeing him of all desire for drink.

Fourth—Its very moderate cost places it within the reach of everyone. Altogether it cures those yet heard of as very costly, operate slowly, are doubtful as to effect, and often impair the health and constitution of the patient.

I therefore look upon this remedy as a real boon, recommend it heartily to all concerned, and bespeak for it here in Montreal and elsewhere every success.

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