

judgment unfavorable to St. Colmcille, and Colmcille mustered the northern clans against Tara. The King of Connaught's son had, in a moment of passion, slain one of the royal stewards during a quarrel in Tara. The high king had condemned the slayer to death. The King of Connaught lent his aid to the Ulster rebels, and Dermot's army was routed, with terrible slaughter, at Cooldrevney, near Sligo. St. Colmcille, in bitter remorse for what he had done, exiled himself from Ireland forever.

A state official, abroad on the high king's business, was murdered by Guary, King of Connaught. The offender fled for sanctuary to St. Ruadhan of Lorrha, who twice gave him shelter in his monastery. But Dermot discovered his hiding-place, dragged him thence and put him to death. St. Ruadhan and his monks thereupon cursed Tara and all within it with a deep and abiding curse, so that thereafter the seat of kingship was deserted. It was a fatal and a terrible error. The central authority lost its prestige with the abandonment of Tara, and Dermot's noble dream of nation-making came to naught. He himself stayed with Tara to the last. His enemies made headway, however, and, striving to rally the loyal chiefs to his cause, he was assassinated, under circumstances of peculiar atrocity, at Moylinny, in Ulster.

There is a spot on Tara Hill which the country folk call the "Croppies' Grave." It marks the scene of one of those disastrous episodes which abound in the history of the Rebellion of 1798. There, one day early in the insurrection year, four hundred of the Meath United Men were shot down by yeomanry. There they died, back to back, pike and fowling-piece their weapons, facing the artillery, fighting to the bitter end. After the battle was over the slain patriots were buried where they fell. The bodies of the rebel-martyrs of '98 could find no nobler, no more fitting resting-place than the spot where they lie, enshrined by glorious relics of Eire's mighty past—mound, pillarstone, altar of the Druids—on Teamhair na Riogh—Tara of the Kings.

HUBERT A. O'MEARA.

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