

his arm was no longer able to hit them hard enough.

Again returning to his desk, he again called out, "Master Edmund Fennell—" speaking still very loudly, though the boy was within a very few inches of him. Neddy arose, willingly enough.

"I the more readily, and the more easily have been induced to remit the punishment due to your offence, sir, of repelling even by one single ungentlemanlike blow, the attack made no matter how brutally, upon you, because your late re-entrance into the English Academy, after a long absence from it, since your good father's death—" Neddy burst out crying—"may have caused you to forget that I require from the youth of my establishment, not the turbulence of prize-fighters, but the habits of young gentlemen. Sir, there shall be no boxing-matches in the English Academy. If there be cause of quarrel, it must be immediately referred to me, and justice shall be dealt to both parties. Go now, Master Edmund Fennell, and return your respectful thanks to Miss Helen M'Neary, to whose generous interference, you stand chiefly indebted on this important occasion; go, sir—if indeed the young lady can bear to regard, even for an instant, the present very ungentlemanlike state of your features."

Neddy was instantly hastening, as fast as he could walk, his arms wide open, to obey this reasonable and pleasant request.

"Stop, sir," roared James Charles Buchmahon. This unexpected countermand sounded like a gun-shot in Neddy's ears, and he certainly did stop.

"Pray, sir, in what seminary did you acquire that uncouth and brim-like method of paying your respects to a young lady? Retire some distance back, and make an obeisance to Miss M'Neary; thus, sir; look at me, sir, if you please."

Neddy looked accordingly, and beheld James Charles Buchmahon advance his finger and thumb to the brim of his cream-colored beaver, keeping his elbow turned out, and his arm well rounded as he did so; and then he beheld him solemnly raise the beaver from his bald, grey head, sway it downward gradually and gracefully, and bent his body, until his head came on a line with his hips; and James Charles, during all this process, smiled and simpered his very best, and at last said, in a fascinating tone—"Miss Helen M'Neary, I return you my most sincere and respectful acknowledgments."

"Now, Sir!" And James Charles again stood very straight, and holding his head very high, proud of the perfection of his politeness, while his eye took a short circuit round the school-room, to notice the universal admiration which his dignified gracefulness must have called forth. Neddy Fennell contrived to turn his face from the observation of his preceptor, while he performed the task prescribed to him; and then gave—repeating every syllable he had heard—so correct an imitation, in tone, manner, and action of James Charles Buchmahon, that the row of young ladies before him, and all the boys around him, were nearly suffocated with the attempt they made to suppress their laughter.

"That will do, sir: you may now retire to your place," added James Charles.

And Neddy did so; and afterwards took his own time and opportunity for returning, in his own way, to Miss Helen M'Neary, "his most sincere and respectful acknowledgments;" nor is it mentioned, that the little lady disliked this repetition of a display of his gratitude, or indeed, that she considered Neddy's way on the occasion, as very much inferior to James Charles Buchmahon's way. But this looks too like telling tales out of school.

(To be Continued.)

[Written for the TRUE WITNESS.]

SKETCHES OF IRELAND.

BY "TIERNAN O'GEE."

NEWRY—COUNTY DOWN.

A pleasant little town, immediately south of the Mourne Mountains near to the mouth of the Newry river, and connected with Lough Neagh and the sea by canals; doing a flourishing export trade, that is, as flourishing as can be expected under the present circumstances of Ireland, and possessed of about 14,000 inhabitants. Such is Newry in the historic County Down. Its modern history presents but little of interest, and its chief attractions to the student or tourist are its former powers, religious and political. The word Newry is a corruption of "An Iubhar," (An Yewr)—i.e., the yew tree—and its ancient name was Tubar Kinn Tragh (pronounced Yoor Keen Thraw)—i.e., the yew tree at the head of the strand. In the year 646 it is recorded that Maclaebh, King of Ulidia, kept his court there, where, when the *Fillets* or poets were banished from the other parts of Ireland, he maintained them to the number of twelve hundred. About the year 830, the Danes in one of their marauding expeditions, landed at Newry, and from thence marched on Armagh. Three hundred years afterwards, in the year 1144, by the advice of St. Bernard, "the holy Malachias, bishop of Down, erected the monastery of Iobhair Cinn Tragh in the County Down" for Cistercian Monks. Some fourteen years elapsing, "Mauritius Mag Lachlain, Rex totius Hibernie universis," &c., liberally endowed this establishment and the instrument of endowment is commonly, though erroneously, amongst others by the Rev. T. Walsh, regarded as a *foundation* charter. The deed was witnessed by "Eda Maglanha, Brenanus de Insecumscry," Gillaodair O'Casag, Herhennanus Dundaletghlas (Gilla Odeir O'Casey, Superior of Dundaletghlas) by Cumaigne O'Flinn, Rex O'Turtrag, by Angen, Superior of Bromore, and by Gilbert O'Caran, bishop of Raphoe.—In 1160 the Abbot Finnian Mac Tiurcan was made bishop of Kildare. A. D. 1162 the library of the Abbey, all its effects, and the yew tree which St. Patrick planted, were destroyed by fire. In 1373 this Abbey being

only a mere Irish one, holding conversation only with the Irish, spending its rents and profits on the Irish, and being therefore as a matter of course barbarous, was deprived by Edward III. of England of its lands, which were given to James Ballew at a rent of forty shillings with a carucate and a half of Louth for life. This was done we may rest assured to advance the Faith in Ireland. In 1543 the Abbey, at the suit of Arthur Magennis, was converted into a collegiate Church, which it remained until the suppression, when, with the other holy places of Ireland, it became a wreck. After the English invasion, Newry became the theatre of many bloody contests between De Courcy and De Laey, and other plundering adventurers in Ireland, for the mastership of Ulster. In those days the brave MacGenisses were the native chiefs of the district, and such they remained despite the renewed efforts of the stranger to dispossess them until the reign of Elizabeth. It was during the reign of the *collach rina* that Sir Henry Bagnal built the Castle of Newry. Into this Castle and the olden Abbey he threw a garrison to hold the district for his mistress. The Great Hugh, however, was then in the flesh and at Beal-an-atha-buidhe the fierce Sir Henry bit the dust before the avenging arm of the gallant men of Ulster. In virtue of letters patent issued by James I. a few canting undertakers became the owners of Newry, but in 1641, under the gallant and deeply-wronged Sir Phelim O'Neill, the native chieftains routed the interlopers and again Newry was possessed by its own. In the Cromwellian wars the town fell into the hands of the Roundheads and in the Jacobite wars William occupied it for several days, waiting for artillery wherewith to attack James. Thus we see that like unto the other towns of Ireland, Newry has a record alike of glory and of shame. There monarchs of free clans revelled in the praises of the Bards. There holy men prayed, died and went to Heaven. There also canting English troopers sullied the sacred places and made desolate the people. For the benefit of those who have not an opportunity of consulting original works in reference to Ireland we transcribe from Reeves' Ecclesiastical Antiquities an extract from the endowment charter of the Monarch of Ireland which will give the reader an idea of the extent of wrong done not only to the monks, but to the people upon whom they spent "their rents and profits" by the robbery of Edward III. "Mauritius Mag Lachlain Rex totius Hibernie Universis, &c. Sciatis quod ego, &c. condonavi et confirmavi in honore Beate Marie, et Sancti Patricii et Sancti Benedicti, patris et fundatoris ordinis Cisterciensis, Monarchis Deo servientibus in NIPORCYNTRACTA in perpetuum et puram elemosinam Terram O'Comair ubi fundatum est Monasterium. *Athraitin* (now included in Sheeptown) cum terris suis, silvis et aquis; *Enacrotall* (now Carumcan) cum terris suis, silvis et aquis; *Cromglean* cum terris suis et aquis; *Castellomigan* (now Castle Enigan) cum terris suis et aquis; *Lessinelle* (now included in Sheeptown) cum terris suis et aquis; *Croa*, *Dramformact* (now *Crohan* and *Cro-reegh*); *Leta*; *Coveragh* (now *Coverreegh*); *Pidglussayn* (now *Conleah* and *Greenan*); *Tir-nogennuani* (now *Turmore*) *Cimocul* (now *Car-naeall*) *Nudromani* usque *Athnass* cum terris suis, silvis et aquis; *Cromcaill*; *Ballenatin* usque ad *Athniseall* *Saoicean* (now *Ballyhol-land*), usque ad *amnem Athdoniayra*; *Bile* in *Ledangan* (now *Derryleekagh*) cum terra sua; *Terram Lislorca* (now *Lisduff*); *Carac-tum* (now *Ryan*) cum terris suis, et molendinis; *Bethac* (now *Bonagh*) cum terra sua." The reader may draw his own conclusions and the Ulsterman may well ask—"Did the coming of the stranger purify religion in Ireland?" We think not but then we are MERE IRISH.

THE GREAT FIRE.

We give below such particulars of the terrible disaster that has befallen Chicago, as we have been able to glean from the columns of our contemporaries:— CHICAGO, Oct. 9.—This city has been visited with one of the most awful and devastating conflagrations which has occurred in the history of the world since the great fire of London. Yesterday Chicago stood proud and erect, the great commercial emporium of the west, with railroads centering here from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and from Lake Superior and the Gulf of Mexico, filling her store-houses and granaries with the produce and wealth of a continent. To-day the entire city is absolutely and literally obliterated from the face of the earth, and nothing remains of this great proud, prosperous city but a fringe of scattered dwelling houses in the suburbs. It is utterly impossible to particularise or give the names of places burned, as to do so would be to give the entire business directory of the city. The fire which occurred here on Saturday night, and previously reported, burned over an area of about twenty acres, principally covered with tenement houses, machine shops, wood and coal yards; total loss about five hundred thousand dollars, and one woman burned to death. This fire had been subdued and no apprehensions of further danger had been felt, until half-past 9 o'clock last night a fire broke out at the corner of the Canal, Port Avenue and Halsted street, in the south-west part of the city, about one mile and a half from the Court-house Square, and half a mile south of the fire of the previous night. As this was an extensive pork packing and lumber district, and the wind was blowing strong directly towards the Court-house Square and the centre of the city, the devouring element soon got beyond the control of the firemen, who were promptly on the spot and battled heroically, but were obliged to retreat from square to square rapidly. In less than one hour the flames had spread over half a mile and crossed the canal into the extensive lumber and storehouses near Polk street. Here the flames spread with fearful rapidity, and the wind increasing with the flames, threatened the des-

truction of the entire city, as all the efforts of every fire-engine of the city were absolutely powerless, and the water thrown on the flames seemed only to add to their fury. By this time the streets became blocked with thousands, fleeing before the fire unable to save anything, and vast numbers with bare feet and nothing but night-clothes on, filling the air with cries and wailings for children and friends burned in the flames. The fiery fiend spread rapidly over the southern part of the city, and by half-past one o'clock the new Court House and the immense blocks of marble buildings surrounding it on the west and south sides, including the Chamber of Commerce, were one mass of flames. Here the scene presented was the most awful the imagination can picture. The unfortunate inhabitants of over a square mile of the most densely populated part of the city, over which the fire had passed were rushing in every direction in a frenzied state of bewilderment. In a few moments the roofs of the Court House, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants' Insurance Building, and Coolbach's Bank fell in with a fearful crash. Here an attempt was made to stop the progress of the flames by blowing up some of the large buildings with gunpowder. Five kegs were exploded in Coolbach's Bank, but the shattered debris of wreck only added fury to the flames. The scenes presented here were terrible and it was now evident the entire city was doomed to destruction. The flames rushed on with irresistible force and appeared like a huge monster of flame and smoke, over a mile and a half long, with its head on the Court House square. Here the huge flames would leap up among the clouds of smoke, illuminating the whole city as at noon-day for miles around. Presently from a sudden gust of wind they would dart down along the ground and along the walls of adjacent buildings, which would immediately burst out in flames. The Sherman House, on the north side of the Court House Square, next caught fire, the guests rushing out through the doors or jumping through the windows, in every direction, many escaping without their clothing. Nothing whatever was saved, and it is not known how many persons may have perished here and in the immense buildings surrounding, as no one can go within a mile of it to-day. From here the flames rapidly advanced to the Lake Street Building, the Tremont House, and every building on Lake and Water streets to the Illinois Central R. R. Depot and Illinois Central Elevator. The whole southern part of the city, from where the fire crossed the Canal at Polk street, to the Court House Square, and from thence to the Illinois Central Railway Depot, over a mile and a half in length, and from the canal to the lake shore, one mile wide, was one solid mass of flames. This comprises the wealth and principal business part of the city, containing the Court House, Post Office, Sherman House, Tremont House, Palmer House and the immense new Pacific Hotel, Michigan Southern and Illinois Central R. R. Depots all the leading banks of the city, the *Tribune*, *Times*, and all the newspaper offices of the city, Chamber of Commerce, all the theatres and public libraries, and halls, all the wholesale houses and large retail houses of the city, and the rich and fashionable residences on Wabash and Michigan Avenues as far as Harrison street, one mile from the canal. Everything is absolutely lost over this vast area of one mile and a half long, and one mile wide, of the very heart of the city, not even a wall or chimney remains standing as far as the eye can penetrate from the outside, but as yet no one can enter it, so intense is the heat. From the immense elevators and store-houses along the canal the flames shot across to the north side, burning all the vessels and canal boats in the canal, and rapidly spread over to the north side. Here the extent burned over at the present writing is much greater than on the south side, and the flames are still raging. There is no hope whatever of restricting the fire till it spreads its force on the prairies five or six miles north from the Court House. The north side from the canal to Lincoln Park along LaSalle and Dearborn streets, and the lake shore is the oldest part of the city and is occupied by many of the wealthiest citizens, while the city north of Clark and State streets and along the line of the north branch of the canal is principally occupied by foreign element, Germans, &c., mostly poor. At the present writing, an area of three miles long and one and a half broad is one blackened, charred desert, not even a tree or blade of grass is left living, and the flames are still advancing north. There is no hope of any portion of the north division of the city being saved, which covers an area of about six miles long and an average width from the north branch of the canal to the lake shore of half a mile. The part of the north side already destroyed includes the water works, Roman Catholic Cathedral, and about forty-five churches of different denominations. The area burned on the south side contains about twenty of the most beautiful and costly churches in the city, and many smaller ones. It is utterly impossible to attempt an approximation of the entire loss. The part burned down contained nearly all the grain elevators, lumber yards, wood and coal yards, just filled with winter supply; all the banks public buildings, all the hotels, wholesale and principal retail houses, all the best churches, the theatre, the costliest and most fashionable private residences of the city. It is within the bounds to say that three-fourths of the entire wealth of the city has been swept away in a few hours. The loss of human life must be very large many hundreds at least, but the exact number can never be known. The confusion on the north side this morning and all day baffles description; people rushed round frantically crying and bemoaning loss of friends. The means of escape from the North side were over draw bridges across the canal, and over these the poor people rushed, some carrying children, and everyone with pots, pans and bedding; presently a tug-boat would come along towing a vessel from the flames, loaded with human beings, when the bridge would

swing open to let her through, many of these near the bridge were forced into the water by those in rear, in their efforts to get away from the flames surrounding. The screams, shrieks and imprecations at these bridges are utterly indescribable. At least 170,000 souls are homeless and homeless to-night, and without shelter of any kind having lost everything—added to their misery, want of water; the waterworks having been destroyed. There is not a well in the city and no access to the lake for service of five miles. Many in their thirst drink the putrid water of the canal into which the sewerage of the city empties.

Oct. 10.—The fire continued to burn all last night on the north side, but this morning it is under control. It is tolerably true that there is nothing remaining of that side from the river on the south to Lincoln Park on the north and from the north branch of the river on the west to the lake on the east. This portion of the city, except along the Main street, where there are warehouses, was occupied by dwellings. Two-thirds of the population of this district were German and Scandinavian. These people are now homeless; some of them in frame buildings on the northwestern section and others on the Prairies without shelter. Throughout yesterday a renewal of fires in the west side was looked for and a change of five degrees in direction of the wind at any time would have led to that result; there would then have been no refuge for any. Everybody had clothing packed ready to start for the prairie at a moment, but God averted this last possible addition to our disaster. At sundown the wind lulled and at three this morning, rain so fervently prayed for, came. It did not rain long but roots of houses and ground have been wet so that now it is possible to have fires and cook food for the multitude. 1,500 citizens were sworn in last night as an extra police force, and the Secretary of War authorized Gen. Sheridan to employ all available for a guard. Five hundred soldiers are on duty. Two men caught in the act of firing houses on the west side were arrested and immediately hanged to lamp posts. This summary action has checked the thieves and murderers.

No business house is left in the South Division. The Water Works and Gas Works went early in the night, so there was no water in the city. Steam fire engines arrived from Milwaukee but were useless. A fearful loss of life occurred because of falling walls. A vain attempt was made to tear down blocks to check the flames. Ten thousand business men will be compelled to make assignments, and an insurance crash is inevitable. Desolation and sorrow universally prevails. The river is impassible between West and South Divisions, except at 12th bridge, all the others being burned and it is feared this remaining one will be crushed beneath overwhelming traffic. Five thousand families are homeless and penniless. Help should be sent at once to the poor. The wind is still boisterous, and if it turns north nothing can save the Western Division. The present loss is estimated at from one hundred to two hundred million dollars. Fire proof buildings burned like tinder, especially banks, not one of which remains. Few business houses have been saved—not even their papers.

The whole population were busy all night, and the streets are now like a bivouac with sleeping men. The shipping in the north branch of the river was sent adrift into Lake Michigan; many vessels were burned. All business is suspended, and must remain so for the present. Tremendous efforts were made to save the *Tribune* and *Post*, as well as the City Hall and Government buildings. Nothing remains but blackened stones and crackling cinders. No papers can be published until type comes from elsewhere, as the type foundries are burned. A large number of firemen were killed, and all did their duty nobly, but the streams of water on the burning blocks were like fountain jets against the awful heat of the conflagration. The new hotel, eight or nine stories high, just completed, sent up pyramids of the solid flame, making the water of Lake Michigan ruddy coloured for miles, the flaming bridges along the river swinging a graceful arch of fire from shore. Burning ships sailed in crimson waters. All the churches, in the south division, Convent of Mercy, all the railroad buildings and front mansions on Michigan and Wabash avenues are gone. The very pavements are burned. A rumor says now that another fire has broken out in Hyde Park, a southern suburb and is moving north. If this be true the destruction of the remaining portion of southern division cannot be prevented. 100 squares are already burned in the south division. The population will probably be reduced to 50,000 in a month. Business men cannot resume unless substantial help is sent from the east and west. A hundred thousand employes engaged in mercantile business are out of employment. Streets leading to the unburnt part of the south and all leading to one unbroken bridge west are completely blocked by all kinds of vehicles carrying sick and injured people and blackened furniture.

It is conjectured, with good cause, that nearly 500 have been burned to death. We saw four men enter a burning building, and in a moment they were overwhelmed by a falling wall. There was a crowd of men around the corner of the building trying to save property, when the wall yielding some of them were buried beneath it. About 12 or 15 men, women and children rushed into the building of the Historical Society, a fire-proof building for safety. In a few minutes the flames burst up and they were burned to death. Among those who took refuge in this building was the venerable Col. Samuel Stone, 80 years of age, for a long time connected with the Society; also J. B. Gerard and wife, and Madame Defelgerne, the noted teacher of music. It is feared that Dr. Frear and family were also burned, as they were in the building, and have not been seen since. Mr. Easall, whose husband was murdered last week, and who was suffering from an illness, was carried to a

building which was afterwards consumed, and it is feared she also perished. All the books and papers of the Historical Society, including the original copy of the famous Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln, for which the Society paid \$25,000, were destroyed. It is feared that a large number of children, inmates of the Catholic Orphan Asylum, on State street, were also burned, as many are missing. On Chicago Avenue a father rushed up stairs to carry three children away, when he was overtaken by the flames and perished. In the same neighborhood a family of five persons perished.

Late on Sunday evening a boy went into a stable in Dohoven street, near the River at the West side, to milk a cow, carrying with him a kerosene lamp. This was knocked over by the cow, and the burning fluid was scattered among the straw. This was the beginning of the fire. A single extinguisher on the ground, or active work of the police in tearing down one or two shanties, would have prevented the spreading of the flames.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

We have already indicated the two great evils under which the Irish Civil Service labours—the predominance of a favoured sect and the strong infusion into its ranks of Englishmen and Scotchmen. The General Post Office we have recently shown to be a fair example of the one evil; while of the other we care not to take any particular instance, as we find that almost every department has been leavened with Londoners and North Britons. We will take, for instance, the Poor Law Office, and what do we find? Since the introduction of the Poor Laws into this country, in 1838, nearly all the paid Commissioners have been Englishmen, and, with the exception of Mr. JOHN BALL and the present third Commissioner, Mr. BELLEW, all have been Protestants. The present Chief Commissioner, an Englishman, got drafted into the Irish office when a very young man, in the inception of the Poor Law system, and attained his present lucrative position a great many years since. The Commissioners for Administering the Poor Laws have duties to perform which are strictly defined by Acts of Parliament, but is it too preposterous to suggest that if the Commission for the last thirty-three years had been composed of representative Irishmen, would we not have had a more perfect, or, at least, a more generous administration of the system? and may not many social reforms, which are not yet thought of by our legislators, have been proposed if the office were held by men having a sympathy with, and a thorough knowledge of the people of Ireland? We merely throw out these suggestions as they occur to us in examining the Poor Law Office, and we shall now proceed to analyze the office-holders of this important department. Here are the component parts of the commission:—The Chief Commissioner, an Englishman and a Protestant; the Medical Commissioner, a Protestant; the Secretary, or Chief Clerk, also an Englishman and a Protestant; and the *sic* first-class Clerks, of whom *five* are Protestants, and three of these Englishmen, compose the head-quarter's staff of the Irish Poor Law system. This body, with the inspectors and the auditors, form the whole moving power of our poor relief organization. The inspectors are the men who constitute the connecting link between the Board in Dublin and the Poor Law Unions throughout the country. Need it be said that for the performance of their duties it is necessary that out of the *ten* inspectors there should be *seven* Protestants, of whom one must also be an Englishman? Then we come to the auditors. Their duties do not seem to necessitate the same strong religious bias, as we find there are *three* Catholics to two Protestants! Those twenty-four officials we have just referred to represent the central authority, of whom it thus appears *seventeen* are Protestants and *six* are Englishmen, while the remaining *seven* are Catholics and Irishmen. Amongst the second-class clerks there are four Protestants and six Catholics; and in the third class there are nine Protestants and eleven Catholics. However, as these perform only routine and office duties, their value in the administration does not count for much. We gather from a tot of the salaries that in this office the Protestants receive £16,663 per annum; and the Catholics an exact moiety of this sum, or £8,820. We cannot think that this fairly represents the proportion which ought exist in the Irish Poor Law Department. In pursuing this examination of the Irish offices we must not be understood as seeking to throw any discredit on the men who compose the service. We war with the scandalous and unfair system which is discovered at every turn. If it can be shown that it is necessary for the just administration of the Laws that there should be such a preponderance of Protestants and Englishmen in the higher offices, we shall resign the position we have assumed, but if not, we shall deem it our duty to pursue our inquiries farther into the Irish Civil Service, in the hope that a "little light let in" may lead to a prompt and complete reform of the system.—*Dublin Freeman*.

PLAYED OUT.—At the risk of being charged with disturbing somewhat unkindly the decayed remains of a moribund notoriety, we may venture to refer to the appearance within the last few days in Ireland of Mr. George Francis Train. Mr. Train arrived in Cork for the purpose of lecturing, and was unable to draw fifteen people into a room to listen to him. On a former occasion he was so popular in the humorous city, that his admirers presented him with a dish of sausages on his departure; now he appeals to them in vain. No antic he can perform, no display of meaningless bombast which he is ready to give will induce people to listen to him. Mr. Train has, without knowing it, committed the "happy despatch" on the peculiar kind of reputation which was formerly made of him. He may be as treacherous now as ever he like, but he is obliged to attentivise to empty benches, without the prospect of a cheer.—He is no longer even an international curiosity. It is with satisfaction, we confess, we record the ejection of Mr. Train as an American-*Irish* agitator.—Our neighbours are grievously afflicted by the native