

ancient Dublin club, must prove interesting to you:—

"This curious assemblage was called 'The Aldermen of Skinners' Alley:' it was the first Orange association ever formed; and having, at the period alluded to, existed a full century in pristine vigor, it had acquired considerable local influence and importance. Its origin was as follows: after William III. had mounted the English throne, and King James had assumed the reins of government in Ireland, the latter monarch annulled the then existing charter of the Dublin corporation, dismissed all the aldermen who had espoused the revolutionary cause, and replaced them by others attached to himself. In doing this he was certainly justifiable; the deposed aldermen, however, had secreted some little articles of their paraphernalia, and privately assembled in a ale-house in Skinners' Alley, a very obscure part of the capital: here they continued to hold anti-Jacobite meetings; elected their own lord-mayor and officers; and got a marble bust of King William, which they regarded as a sort of deity! These meetings were carried on till the battle of the Boyne put William in possession of Dublin, when King James' aldermen were immediately cashiered, and the *Aldermen of Skinners' Alley* reinvested with their mace and aldermanic glories.

"To honor the memory of their restorer, therefore, a permanent association was formed, and invested with all the memorials of their former disgrace and latter reinstatement. This organization, constituted near a century before, remained, I fancy, quite unaltered at the time I became a member. To make the general influence of this association the greater, the number of members was unlimited, and the mode of admission solely by the proposal and seconding of tried aldermen. For the same reason, no class, however humble, was excluded—equality reigning in its most perfect state at the assemblies. Generals and wig-makers—king's counsel and hackney clerks, &c., all mingled without distinction as brother-aldermen: a lord-mayor was annually appointed; and regularity and decorum always prevailed—until, at least, toward the conclusion of the meetings, when the aldermen became more than usually noisy and exhilarated—King William's bust being placed in the centre of the supper table, to overlook their extreme loyalty. The times of meeting were monthly: and every member paid sixpence per month, which sum (allowing for the absentees) afforded plenty of eatables, porter and punch, for the supping aldermen."

MAJOR.—Barrington, though a Protestant was no friend to the admirers of King William, and consequently his description of the Skinners' Alley Aldermen must be taken *cum grano*.

DOCTOR.—Aaron Burr, and Randolph of South Carolina, being in Dublin, requested Sir Jonah to introduce them to the celebrated Henry Grattan.

"We went to my friend's house, who was to leave London next day. I announced that Colonel Burr, from America, Mr. Randolph, and

myself, wished to pay our respects, and the servant informed us that his master would receive us in a short time, but was at the moment much occupied on business of consequence. Burr's expectations were all on the alert! Randolph also was anxious to be presented to the great Grattan, and both impatient for the entrance of this Demosthenes. At length the door opened, and in hopped a small bent figure, meager, yellow, and ordinary; one slipper and one shoe; his breeches' knees loose; his cravat hanging down; his shirt and coat-sleeves tucked up high, and an old hat upon his head.

"This apparition saluted the strangers very courteously, asked, without any introduction, how long they had been in England, and immediately proceeded to make inquiries about the late General Washington and the revolutionary war. My companions looked at each other; their replies were costly, and they seemed quite impatient to see Mr. Grattan. I could scarcely contain myself, but determined to let my eccentric countryman take his course, who appeared quite delighted to see his visitors, and was the most inquisitive person in the world. Randolph was far the tallest and most dignified looking man of the two, gray-haired and well-dressed; Grattan therefore, of course, took him for the vice-president, and addressed him accordingly. Randolph at length begged to know if they could shortly have the honor of seeing Mr. Grattan. Upon which our host, not doubting but they knew him, conceived it must be his son James for whom they inquired, and said he believed he had that moment wandered out somewhere to amuse himself.

"This completely disconcerted the Americans, and they were about to make their bow and their exit, when I thought it high time to explain; and, taking Colonel Burr and Mr. Randolph respectively by the hand, introduced them to the Right Honorable Henry Grattan."

LAIRD.—I dinna like the idea o' writing accounts o' great men, in sic daft like predicaments. If ony ane had ca'd at Bonnybraes on a certain afternoon during the late hot weather, he would hae caught me in a fine mess. Girzy was mending my breeks, and during the operation I was sitting at the house end smoking my cutty, wi' naething on my lower regions except a petticoat o' the damsel's. Noo suppose the editor o' a paper—say the *Kingston News*, or the *Hamilton Spectator*, had stopped at my dwelling to get a drink o' butter-milk, or maybe something a trifle stronger, and seen me sitting like a clockin' hen! What wud ye think o' the land-louper if, for lack o' something else to say, he made a leading article oot o' me and my honest sister's habilliment?

MAJOR.—Your indignation is righteous, most excellent flail-flourisher! Nothing can be more abominable than authors running, like gossiping elderly vestals, to the press, with every item of tittle tattle about friend or foe which they can