

ciala under the influence and direction of some foreign potentate.

Here then we have adequate reasons for maintaining to the utmost in Ireland the influence of those who keep an open Bible before the people. Every sound principle of government demands that we shall not establish nor throw our influence into the scale of those who refuse this inestimable privilege to their adherents.

It is in truth suicidal for a governor to do so. He parts with his authority, placing it in the hands of others who make their own will, and not God's Law, the rule which they instruct men to follow.

### NOW AND THEN.

By William Shannon.

[Written expressly for "THE ALTAR AND THE THRONE."]

"But policy, and politics, and piety,  
"Are topics which I sometimes introduce;  
"Not only for the sake of their variety,  
"But as a subservient to a moral use."

On the bare slope of a wild hill, in the vicinity of the Glens of Antrim, on a certain Sabbath in May, 1789, a congregation of Covenanters lay encamped for public worship. Now it so happened that, although no actual rising of the United Irishmen had taken place, yet from information received by the government authorities at Dublin Castle, such an act was daily expected. A sharp look out was therefore kept on all assemblages of the disaffected, and field meetings such as the present were particularly objectionable to the administration. The Rev. Alexander Cameron well knew that by persisting in holding such meetings, he was drawing upon himself and his people the displeasure of the government; but, inheriting largely all the prejudices of his sect, in relation to the power of the civil magistrate, and being, as was subsequently discovered, deeply compromised to the authors of the conspiracy to overthrow law and order in Ireland; come what would, he determined to hold field meetings as usual, and this one in particular.

The scene chosen for the camp ground was in unison with the stern department and character of the party assembled; bounded by gently undulating hills the terminations of which formed abrupt and stupendous headlands, which frowned defiance on the most turbulent waters of the wild Atlantic. In one direction higher than even these, rose the precipitous heights of Slemish—and two miles further off its counter-part, the well known Skirry. (The natives tell you that St. Patrick leaped from Slemish to Skirry, over the intermediate space of two miles, known as the Braid—and lest you should doubt the circumstance, they show you where he left the track of his feet, a memorial to this day of the Patron Saint's ability in the athletic exercises. If Saint Patrick really did this, it is very certain that no other individual has ever gone over the same distance in so short a time.) But to return, the Irish reader will judge from the description of this scene, that it occupied a site in a central position between the triangle formed by the towns of Larne, Antrim and Ballymena. Though on a hill as has been already stated, yet by the presence of other and higher hills all around it, the congregation hoped to carry out their illicit proceedings without interruption or molestation. It was now the season of the year when the peasantry gathered along the shore to collect and save up the harvest of ocean, usually denominated the May Fleece. This consists of plants and vegetables swept on shore from the depths of the Ocean and in such quantities that pot-ashes, or kelp as it is termed, is manufactured from it to an enormous extent, and the refuse is spread by farmers over the surface of the soil, as the very best manure that can be procured. While therefore the raging of the seas kept up a continuous roar, it was certain that the singing of the psalms would not be heard at such a distance from the spot, as to create any unusual excitement. Overhead flew the froth and spray of that restless ocean, while the angry crests of the mountain waves curled on high, and then falling with a shock they rolled in foamy surges of tempestuous froth amongst the rocks of that iron-bound coast, making a noise to be heard far inland.

As Mr. Cameron proceeded to address the assemblage, a military officer approached the temporary pulpit that had been erected for the occasion, and demanded "By what authority, in such troublesome times, he had countenanced the gathering together of so many people?"

The minister replied "that the people had met to worship God; that they were not the cause of the troublesome times; and as they did not interfere with the authorities, the authorities should not interfere with them."

"Well, sir," said the officer, "what you state may be all true, —but have you not your churches to worship in? You must be aware that if you are permitted to hold such meetings, other people will expect a like privilege, and this at a time when almost the entire kingdom is subject to martial law, cannot be allowed. Under these circumstances it will be more prudent for you to advise your people to return to their respective homes. By obeying the laws, and respecting the injunctions of those entrusted with the peace and well being of the nation, they can serve God as effectually as they are doing here in this conventicle."

"My duty, sir," said the minister, "prompts to a different course. I am commissioned to preach the gospel in the highways as in the house, under the canopy of heaven as under the most lordly dome. I prefer the service of my Master, the King of Kings, to that of His Majesty of England. By Him I am an appointed minister, and in His name I will discharge the sacred duty appertaining to my office."

"Then, sir," said the officer, "unpleasant as is the duty, I have no alternative but to arrest you in the name of His Majesty King George III."

Saying which he laid hold of him, and was taking him off, when a demonstration to rescue him was made; but the officer pointing to a company of military stationed at a short distance, but not before observed from the scene, they at once desisted. Then he was borne to the camp at Blarriess Moor, where he was summarily tried before a military tribunal. He was remanded under present circumstances, as the times were so critical that an outbreak was momentarily expected; and for safe keeping, on account of the great numbers of disaffected persons that were daily brought in, he was sent to confinement on board a hulk, or tender, that lay moored in the Bay of Carrickfergus, which is commonly termed Belfast Lough.

### CHAPTER II.

"The nation not so blest as these,  
"Must in their turn to tyrants fall,  
"Who thou shalt flourish great and free.  
"The dread and envy of them all!"

Already there were many prisoners on board of the hulk, who had been seized for political offences. Of these, John Henry, a young man of prepossessing appearance, and apparently of good education, attracted more particularly the attention of Mr. Cameron. The patience and fortitude which he exhibited in his captivity; the intelligence and expression of frankness expressed in his countenance; and the sincere and earnest manner in which he reasoned with those, in whose society for the time being he was thrown, eloquently bespoke for him their sympathy and esteem. Whether this style was assumed or not, we leave the reader to judge, for if ever there was a Jesuit on earth he was one. There was sufficient evidence against him to send him to the gallows, as he had when apprehended, concealed on his person, a captain's commission in the insurgent force from the Dublin directory.

Mr. Cameron had no fears for his own safety, having been assured by the tribunal which tried him that unless something more serious should turn up to his prejudice, a short confinement would be the only inconvenience he should suffer by his arrest. He wished therefore, that his young fellow prisoner, could by any means effect his escape, as the government had already shewn a terrible evidence of the summary manner in which it was determined to punish the crotchies.

Henry, aware that Mr. Cameron was a party to the conspiracy, and finding that a degree of confidence was shewn him in that quarter, made no effort to conceal his guilt, or his intentions and as he was often in company with him, it was hoped than an early opportunity for escape might occur.

The officers from the garrison of Belfast, and the castle of Carrickfergus would occasionally visit the hulk on duty, or for pleasure, and at such times the prisoners would enquire the news of the day. Mr. Cameron arranged with Henry that on one of these occasions, he would get up an excitement of some sort to engage the attention of the officers, thus affording Henry an opportunity to escape from the prison ship. Soon after the maturing of this plan, the ship was visited by an officer high in authority, and Mr. Cameron asked liberty to address his fellow prisoners and such of the soldiers and sailors as were not on duty. He request being put in a respectful manner, and the officer being desirous of allowing the prisoners every liberty possible, or compatible with their safe keeping, gave orders accordingly and all hands were permitted to be present.

While all were assembling, John Henry concealed himself beside a gun, and subsequently moved noiselessly behind a large coil of rope. This movement was unobserved, and Henry consoled himself with the hope, that the sun would set ere the minister would terminate his theological discourse, and he determined should his surmises prove correct, to let himself down the ship's side into the water, and then strike out for the shore. While these thoughts were occupying the mind of the prisoner, Mr. Cameron was earnestly stirring up the feelings of his audience. The officer referred to, gave the greatest attention to the proceedings, in fact, as much so, as if this special service had been mainly got up for his benefit, but when the minister had concluded the exercises, he asked him, "well, my good man, you took sufficient time to pray for all the great folks around the globe: what reason do you give for leaving out the name of our good and gracious monarch, King George III? why did you not pray for the King?"

"Did I not pray for the King?" said he.  
"No, sir! no," said the officer. "I paid considerable attention to every word you uttered, but you never once mentioned the name of His Majesty; and, sir, let me tell you, that in times like these, it becomes every good and true man, who wishes well to the peace and freedom of our country, to the stability of the throne, and established institutions to pray for the health, weal and happiness of our beloved Sovereign, a Sovereign who presides over an empire, justly esteemed as the wonder of the world."

"Without replying to the particular tenor of your remarks," said Mr. Cameron, "I beg to say that I entreated the Lord for every one under the election of free grace, and if you exclude the King from that mercy, you are perhaps the best judge."

"You may consider this cant all well enough, for these ignorant fellows who have jeopardised their lives, and anticipate a halter cravat at an early date," said the captain, but I am greatly mistaken, if it passes with your judges. For ought that I know your intentions and dispositions may be all right, but your conduct is both inconsistent and reprehensible. You are not ignorant of the fact that the disaffected consist of ignorant Papists and Freethinkers; that the doctrines inculcated for several years past by the firebrands of sedition are those of Paine, Robespierre, Rousseau and Murat: that the ends to be accomplished by any attempt against the present establishment, are, the overthrow of law and order, the subversion of the Bill of Rights, by which you and yours are guaranteed safety and protection, and freedom to worship God, these would be followed by a succession of such murderous scenes as have recently been enacted in France during the Reign of Terror! Shame! shame man, where in the Holy Scriptures, which you profess to expound, do you find a precedent for such an unholy alliance, as that in which the disaffected in this country are united? What success ought you reasonably to expect when joined with men whose hands are yet reeking with the blood of your forefathers and mine? Believe me, sir, it will be a sorry day for the Protestants of Ireland should their present government be overthrown. There is no doubt of it, that the kindred spirits of Popery and infidelity are the undercurrent which is raising the waves of trouble, now about to roll over the land, and the poor gulls who expect to frighten the administration by their turbulent proceedings will learn to their cost, that their schemes will be frustrated, and their cause subdued, in defiance of all support, they may expect from France, or .....

Just then a splash was heard alongside. "Watch look out," said the captain. "Perhaps there's another boat from the Castle. The Carrick boys promised to be aboard this evening."

It was well that the officer took the matter so coolly, for the sentry walked over to the larboard and cast a long searching glance in that direction, without seeing any object in the surrounding darkness. At the same moment John Henry was striking boldly for the shore where he hoped to fall in with a body of the Confederates. He escaped in safety, and the arm of the law never again was laid upon him. By some means unknown to the writer, Mr. Cameron also escaped in about a month afterwards and fled to the United States, and there he died in or about the year 1850. As his name will not again occur in this story, one circumstance must be stated, by reason of its truth. I can certify for this state-

ment. Mr. Cameron spent upwards of fifty years of his life, in confessing his repentance that he had been connected with the United Irish Organization! Could he have lived over again the years that were past, he would shun a conspirator against British rule, as he would the father of all evil.

To be Continued.

### CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE LOYAL ORANGE ASSOCIATION.

(Continued.)

99. Should the defending Brother or Brethren fail to appear, without assigning any reason, then shall the Lodge proceed to examine witnesses and to adjudge the case; and may, according to its opinion, in any matter not distinctly coming under the special provisions of the Grand Lodge, inflict a fine in a sum not exceeding two dollars, but in all other matters shall proceed upon the penalties set forth by the Grand Lodge Regulations.

100. In all such cases the County Master shall summon the meeting of the County Lodge, at some proper place most convenient to all parties, except when decided otherwise at a previous County Meeting.

101. At a County Meeting a fee may be established for County purposes, and, when established, the Lodges and officers within its limits shall be held liable for the same, in the same manner as all other fees.

102. Whenever any Lodge becomes dormant by the non-attendance of its members, or from any other cause, the Lodge chest, and any other property of said Lodge, may at once be taken into possession by the County Master, in the name and on behalf of the County Lodge to which such Lodge has been attached, and any claims for rent which may be standing against such property, shall be liquidated by such County Lodge, and any person or persons applying for such property thereafter, shall reimburse such County Lodge in any sum paid by it on account of such property, previous to receiving it. Under such circumstances, the County Master shall take the Warrant into his possession, and no Brother shall, under any circumstances, be allowed to detain the Warrant from the County Master for rent or any other cause whatever, under pain of expulsion, and the County Lodge shall be held responsible for the payment of Grand Lodge dues of all Lodges within the County, including dormant Lodges, until the Warrants are returned, or notice given to the Provincial Grand Secretary.

103. In case of a Lodge becoming dormant, the County Lodge shall have power to grant a certificate to any Member thereof who was in good standing, upon the payment of a fee of fifty cents and all dues which he may have owed to such Lodge at the time it became dormant, (such fees to form part of the County funds), and such certificate must be sealed with the County Lodge seal, and signed by the County Master, Deputy Master and Secretary.

104. County Masters shall not be obliged to call a special meeting in all cases of appeal.

105. Each County Lodge shall, from time to time, fix its place of meeting, and meet as often as it may deem necessary.

106. No Master or Secretary of a Private Lodge, that have not made their returns, shall be allowed to vote in the County Lodge. (See G. L. Rept. 1869, page 24, line 46.)

### DISTRICT LODGES.

107. District Lodges are composed of the District Officers, Masters, Deputy Masters, Chaplains, Secretaries, Treasurers and Senior Committee Men of Private Lodges, all Past District Masters and Last Past Masters of Private Lodges, all having received the necessary Degrees, and being in connexion and good standing in Private Lodges within the District.

108. Members of the District Lodge must have at least the Degrees of Orange, Purple and Blue.

109. The Annual Meeting of the District Lodge shall be held on the second Tuesday in January in each year.

110. Each District Lodge shall elect for the year a District Master, District Deputy Master, District Chaplain, District Secretary, District Treasurer and District Director of Ceremonies.

111. Each District Lodge shall, from time to time, fix its own place of meeting, and meet as often as it deems necessary.

112. It shall also be the duty of each District Master to visit each Lodge in his District, at least once in every year, and he shall have power to correct all irregularities, taking for his guide the Regulations of the Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge.

113. The District Master shall have power to cause any subordinate officer to be summoned before the District Lodge for any refusal to obey his orders, given in conformity with the Rules and Regulations of the Association, and such summons shall be proceeded with, in manner and form, as pointed out herein.

114. It shall be the duty of the District Master to open all new Lodges in his District, and to install the Master thereof.

115. It shall also be the duty of the District Master to see that the Annual Returns are made, and Grand Lodge dues paid by Private Lodges, on or before the Annual District Meeting, and to report the same, and also those who have not paid, or made returns, to the County Lodge, at or before its annual meeting. The District Master that has not made his returns shall not be allowed to vote in the County Provincial or Most Worshipful Grand Lodges. (See G. L. Rept. 1869, page 25, line 28.)

116. The powers conferred, and the duties imposed upon the District Master, in his absence, shall be exercised and performed by the District Deputy Master, and in the absence of both, the senior officer present at any district meeting, shall pre-ide, and shall have, during the sitting of the Lodge, and for the purposes thereof, all the powers of the District Master.

117. Seven members shall be necessary to form a quorum.  
118. No member shall be eligible for election as District Master unless he has the Royal Scarlet Degree: nor can any one be a District Master who has not first received that degree.

119. At a District Meeting, a fee may be established for District purposes, and when so established, the Lodges and Officers within its limits shall be held liable for the same, in the same manner as all other fees.

120. Any person being an Orangeman, and having withdrawn from constant and regular attendance, by certificate or otherwise, and thereafter being deemed guilty of any crime unworthy the character of an Orangeman, his case shall be considered by the District Lodge; and if, after such consideration, it shall be decided that the charge involves expulsion, then he shall be notified by the District Secretary that the charge or charges will be heard and examined at the next ensuing County Lodge, and that he is required to appear with his certificate, to answer such charges. In case of his non-appearance, and proof of the service of the notice having been made, then the decision of the District Lodge as to the penalty of expulsion shall be confirmed, and notice thereof shall be given to all parties concerned.

121. Each District Lodge shall have power to frame By-laws (not contrary to this Constitution) for its own guidance.

122. Not less than three Private Lodges shall, in all cases, be necessary to constitute a District.

123. No Master or Secretary of a Private Lodge, that have not made their returns shall be allowed to vote in the District Lodge. (See G. L. Rept. 1869, page 24, line 46.)

### PRIVATE LODGES.

124. No new Lodge shall be opened until a Warrant has been issued for it, and no Lodge can open or work unless its Warrant is placed in some conspicuous part of the room, so as to be easily seen by the Brethren.