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# A SPLENDID RECEPTION

## Accorded to James F. Egan, Delegate of the Irish Amnesty Association, AT WINDSOR HALL, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES.

### A Sad Story, Dramatically Told, of the Sufferings Endured by Irish Political Prisoners in British Prisons—The Voice of Montreal Irishmen Raised in Protest—Justice Has Been Satisfied and Clemency Should Now be Exercised—C. R. Devlin, M.P., and Dr. Guerin, M.L.A., Deliver Addresses—The Expectations of the Leaders of the Amnesty Movement.

THE arrival of Mr. J. F. Egan in this city on Saturday evening was signalized by a large turnout of the members of our national societies. To receive in a befitting manner the delegate of the Irish Amnesty Association. During Sunday and Monday the St. Lawrence Hall—where Mr. Egan stopped during his visit—was crowded with Irish citizens who desired to pay their respects to him.

The representative of the TRUE WITNESS called on Mr. Egan, and found him busily engaged with a deputation from the united Irish societies, which had assumed the management of the mass meeting held at the Windsor Hall. Mr. Egan, however, found time to say a few words regarding the progress of the work of the organization which he had come to this city to represent.

In answer to the question, as to what he attributed the recent release of some of the prisoners at Portland prison, Mr. Egan said that it was solely due to the agitation inaugurated some time ago by the Amnesty Association, which exposed the severe treatment which was meted out to the Irish prisoners. In some instances, Mr. Egan said, it was so harsh as to render some of them insane.

In speaking of the work of the Association and its influence with the Irish people throughout Ireland, Mr. Egan said that it was the only movement which had received the approbation of the people without regard to creed or political leanings. In point of fact, said Mr. Egan, it has been the chief aim of the organizers of the Amnesty Association to avoid any discussions of a political nature. In referring to the probable outlook of securing amnesty for the other prisoners, Mr. Egan stated that he expected all the prisoners at Portland would be liberated in about two months, and that he was confident Her Majesty the Queen would grant a pardon to the Phoenix Park prisoners on the occasion of the celebration of the sixtieth year of her reign.

Mr. Egan, in answering the arguments used by the opponents of the amnesty movement, who said that it was an unjust proceeding to commute the sentence of Irish prisoners, said that in his opinion 18 years should satisfy justice. He instanced cases where other prisoners, confined for murder, were released after having served periods of 7, 10 and 12 years. Mr. Egan expressed himself as being well satisfied so far with the results of his trip to this side of the Atlantic. Already, said he, I have sent \$3500 to the headquarters in Ireland to relieve the wants of the families of the prisoners.

The TRUE WITNESS representative left the presence of this prominent worker in the cause of amnesty with mingled feelings. The intensity of the man had been contagious; the vivid pictures of the horrors of those British prisons were still before his eyes. The calm, deliberate manner in which Mr. Egan had told not only of bodily hardships suffered for the cause, but of mental sickness and of reason tottering, had been ten times more dramatic than any impassioned outburst of rage could possibly have been.

Leaving back in an arm chair, weighing every sentence fully before delivering it, with a far-away look in those eyes which can at times flash lightning, with hands tightly clasped together, he had spoken almost as though he were thinking aloud and I was not present, of those long hours in the still watches of the night, when he realized that memory was leaving him, and that he must rely upon his God and the prayers of Ireland's

saints to preserve for him his mental balance. The man, still young, with his hair already whitened, and his sharp, almost pinched features, was a revelation of the results which have followed the employment by England of such men as "Red" McDermott and LeCaron the spy.

#### MEETING IN WINDSOR HALL.

James F. Egan, the delegate of the Amnesty Association of Ireland and Great Britain, met with a royal reception at the hands of Montreal's Irishmen on Monday night last in the Windsor Hall.

Hundreds of the city's best citizens assembled to hear the liberated sufferer plead on behalf of fellow martyrs to the cause, who have been less fortunate than himself and who still linger in English prisons, and whose families the Amnesty Association seeks to assist.

On the platform were Dr. Guerin, chairman; J. Kilfeather, St. Ann's T. A. & B. Society; W. J. Hinchey, Young Irishmen's T. A. & B. Association; M. Sharkey, St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society; Ed. Quinn, St. Ann's Young Men's Society; President St. Gabriel's T. A. & B. Society; Geo. Clarke, No. 1 Division, A. O. H.; B. Wall, No. 2 Division, A. O. H.; the Presidents of Nos. 3 and 4 Divisions, A. O. H.; Ald. Connaughton, ex-Ald. Cunningham, A. E. Phelan, J. J. Costigan, Mrs. J. F. Egan.

Letters of regret were read from Sir Wm. H. Hinuston, M. J. F. Quinn, M.P., Hon. Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Scott, Flynn, and Hackett.

The choral section of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, under the direction of Mr. P. J. Shea, rendered the following programme:—

- Overture....."Irish Airs."
- Mr. P. J. Shea.
- Song and Chorus....."The Dear Little Shamrock."
- Mr. M. E. Mullarky.
- Song and Chorus....."Keep the Old Flag Floating."
- Mr. T. C. Emblem.
- Quartette....."Kerry Dance."
- Messrs. W. Murphy, Jno. Morgan, R. J. Hiller, and Ed. Quinn.
- Recitation....."Fontenoy."
- Mr. M. J. Power.
- Selection, Irish Airs.....
- Mr. J. J. Shea, Master Shea, and Miss Shea.
- God Save Ireland.....
- Mr. Ed. Quinn, soloist.

It was 8 30 P.M. before Dr. Guerin, M.L.A., chairman of the United Irish Societies, took the chair, with Mr. Egan at his right, and in appropriate terms welcomed all present.

Mr. Egan, upon being introduced by Dr. Guerin, was received with deafening applause. His voice, while not powerful, filled the spacious hall and his every word was listened to with marked attention. He thanked the Irishmen of Montreal for the welcome given to him as the representative of the men who had been carrying on the struggle for Irish national existence, now seven hundred years old. England had committed more crimes than ever Ireland or her children had. Only lately a lot of filibusters had made a raid on an offensive people, not, as the Irish, to demand what she should possess, but to rob and plunder, to destroy property and life. The men who embarked in that were received by the ruling classes of England as heroes. For years Irishmen had asked for the redress of grievances, but their requests were steadily refused by England. Was it any wonder, then, that in 1867 some Irishmen thought the time had come for using force of arms? Scarcely an Englishman to-day but admitted that the Irishmen of that time were justified in what they did. According to common sense and reason, they were justified. The men in prison and those who had been released followed in their footsteps, considering their policy right.

A good deal had been said about dynamite, but the use of dynamite had never been taken up by Irishmen at home or in England. (Applause.) There was no need for such reprehensible methods, seeing how well the constitutional agitation was succeeding. Led on by the genius of Charles Stewart Parnell. (Prolonged Cheers.) But the English Government employed men like McDermott and LeCaron (hisses) to work up the dynamite scheme in Ireland, and these men put the explosives in the hands of a few men. Mr. Egan illustrated the methods of these men by describing the events which led up to the arrest of John Daly, Featherston, Dalton, Deasy and others.

This was not the time to discuss the innocence or guilt of these men. Even if guilty, Mr. Egan declared, he would work for their release the same as those he considered innocent, believing they were actuated by good motives. He gave a graphic description of the treatment of Irish political prisoners. Never in the whole history of England had she committed such a crime as towards these men. Never before did any country stoop to such low and miserable means to destroy the body and mind of fellowmen. Detained for years in the cells reserved for the punishment of ordinary convicts, it was no wonder that men went insane. Of the Irish prisoners six had gone insane, four had died in

liberated. Justice has been asserted and her ends have been reached, no clemency can accomplish more than can cruelty, however refined.

"Be it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Home Secretary."

In moving the resolution, Dr. Guerin said these men were suffering from the duplicity of English spies, and were victims of British prison misrule. English public opinion was beginning to condemn the treatment meted out, and the Government had to-day an opportunity for reparation, which, no doubt, would be made. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. R. Devlin, M.P., made an eloquent speech in seconding the resolution, and received an ovation. He said he felt it was his duty to absent himself from his Parliamentary duties that night to speak on behalf of Ireland's martyrs. He was proud to stand beside one of these heroes in the person of James Francis Egan. (Cheers.) Eng-

interests had been his care for twenty years. Though suffering from lameness, in consequence of a fall from his horse, he was dragged along to a spot several days' march from Tananarivo. In a state of exhaustion from want of food, he was perched to a tree and left in that position for twenty-four hours. Then the Fahalalos fell upon him, tore the clothes from his body, and without actually killing him, stabbed and backed him with knives and assegais in the most frightful manner. They next compelled a servant who had accompanied him to strike at him with a lance and his man, through pity for his master, put an end to his agony by giving a stroke which at once proved mortal. Such is the report which appears in the Evénement, and it is doubtless correct, for the accounts from other sources prove that the Fahalalos are capable of any brutality. But the statement of our Parisian contemporary that they are under the command of English officers we cannot but regard as an embellishment due to the fervour of the journalistic imagination. The Fahalalos attack all Europeans alike, irrespective of nationality, and the lives of Englishmen in Madagascar are not a whit safer than those of the French residents.

#### SUNSHINE AND HEALTH.

A merchant noticed, in the progress of years, that each successive bookkeeper gradually lost his health and finally died of consumption, however vigorous and robust he was on entering his service. At length it occurred to him that the little rear room where the books were kept opened in a back yard so surrounded by high walls that no sunshine came into it from one year's end to another. An upper room, well lighted, was immediately prepared, and his clerks had uniform good health ever after.

A familiar case to general readers is derived from medical works, where an entire family became ill, and all remedies seemed to fail of their usual results, when accidentally a window glass of the family room was broken, in cold weather. It was not repaired, and forthwith there was a marked improvement in the health of the inmates. The physician at once traced the connection, discontinued his medicines, and ordered that the window pane should not be replaced.

A French lady became ill. The most eminent physicians of her time were called in, but failed to restore her. At length Dupuytren, the Napoleon of physic, was consulted. He noticed that she lived in a dim room, into which the sun never shone, the house being situated in one of the narrow streets, or, rather, lanes of Paris. He at once ordered more airy and cheerful apartments, and "all her complaints vanished."

The lungs of a dog become tuberculated (consumptive) in a few weeks if kept confined in a dark cellar. The most common plant grows spindly, pale and scraggling if no sunlight falls upon it. The greatest medical names in France, of the last century, regarded sunshine and pure air as equal agents in restoring and maintaining health.

From these facts, which cannot be disputed, the most common mind should conclude that cellars and rooms on the northern side of buildings or apartments into which the sun does not immediately shine, should never be occupied as family rooms or chambers, or as libraries or studies. Such apartments are only fit for purposes which never require persons to remain in them over a few minutes at a time. And every intelligent and humane parent will arrange that the living-room and the bedrooms shall be the most commodious, lightest and brightest apartments in his dwelling.—Home Queen.

#### CATHOLIC POPULATION.

##### INCREASE IN NON-CATHOLIC COUNTRIES.

The following statistics are given by the "Economiste Français," which give some idea of the great increase in the Catholic population in certain countries, since the beginning of the century.

	In 1850.	In 1890.
Germany (Catholics)	6,000,000	16,000,000
Switzerland	2,500,000	4,000,000
Turkey in Asia and Europe	6,000,000	12,000,000
India	150,000,000	200,000,000
Indo-China	200,000,000	250,000,000
China	387,000,000	500,000,000
The United States (now ten millions)	61,000	7,077,270
Canada	120,000	2,000,000
The Antilles and British Guyana	110,000	277,750
Oceania	28,000	2,000,000
Africa	47,000	3,000,000
England and Scotland	120,000	1,400,000
Holland	350,000	1,400,000
Russia (Poland not included)	20,000	2,000,000
Total	8,882,000	42,728,745

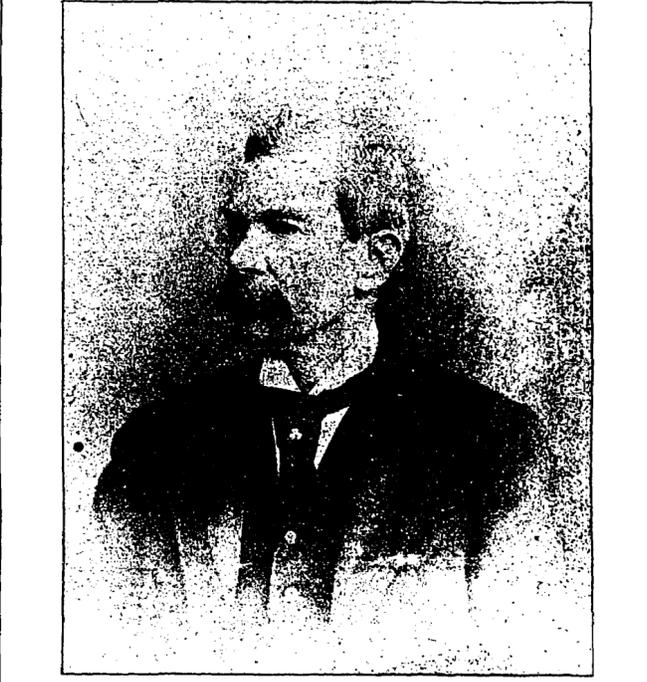
#### REPARTÉE.

In the midst of a stormy discussion a gentleman rose to settle the matter in dispute. "Gentlemen, all I want is common sense." "Exactly," interrupted another; "that is precisely what you do want."

But Sir Edward Clarke's retort in the Jameson trial is still more to the purpose. The Attorney-General had argued against Sir Edward Clarke's points as being contrary to common sense. Sir Edward objected. "Then you think," said the Lord Chief Justice, dryly, "that common sense has nothing to do with a legal point?" "No," replied Sir Edward, with that quickness and felicity which never fails him; "I am only of Archbishop Whately's opinion, who said that 'common sense is an authority to which every one appeals on any subject he does not fully understand.'"

#### A CATHOLIC MARTYR.

The Liverpool Catholic Times says:—From details received by Paris Evénement of the final moments of Father Berthier, whose death in Madagascar we have already recorded, it appears that he earned the martyr's crown. The tortures inflicted on him were of the most atrocious kind. The good Father was surprised by the Fahalalos whilst leading in to Tananarivo for greater security the little flock whose spiritual



MR. JAMES F. EGAN, DELEGATE OF THE IRISH AMNESTY ASSOCIATION.

prison and three died soon after release. The present Government had shown far more humanity than the late one, but much remained to be done. There would be no peace in any part of Britain so long as a single Irishman lay within prison walls. (Applause.) The amnesty movement had been started by men who never knew defeat, and who were determined that the prison gates must be open and their countrymen set free. They were determined that the agitation would not cease until all Irish political prisoners were released and once more breathed the free air which is the birthright of every man. The liberation of these men was wanted now, however, not later. (Applause.) Why should the English Government wait until torture and persecution had robbed men of their reason to release them? Release them! they release the body, what have they done with the mind? The mind cannot be released; it has been executed. Of the twenty prisoners in Chatham prison in 1890 six were murdered and six driven insane. The prisons of England are mismanaged and schools of vice. They are evidently not intended to correct or appease, but rather to embitter the prisoner and if possible to drive him altogether from the country. It is another means of transportation. This is the general system, but the treatment dealt out to an Irish political prisoner seems to have for its single object the extermination of the man.

Mr. Egan thanks the citizens of Montreal for the hearty manner in which they welcomed him, and expressed the hope that they might all meet again when the cloud of adversity was lifted from off the Old Land, and the bright warm sun of prosperity shone again upon her cherished soil.

Mr. Egan made a very favorable impression on his audience, speaking in an earnest, moderate manner. The following resolution was then moved by Dr. J. J. Guerin, M.P.P., seconded by Chas. Devlin, Esq., M.P., and carried amidst tremendous enthusiasm:—

"Whereas a number of fellowmen have for the past fifteen years been confined in British prisons, and are therein enduring the most cruel sufferings for offences of a political nature; and whereas several of said prisoners have, in the judgment of many, been unjustly convicted during a period of great political excitement, when action is not always guided by calm deliberation.

"Be it therefore resolved, that we Canadians of the City of Montreal, in mass meeting assembled, under the auspices of the various Irish societies, and who sympathize with Ireland in her trials, do hereby plead in the most earnest manner for the liberation of those still confined, and not permit a greater number to be deprived of reason and health, as those who have been recently

#### OUR RAMBLER

##### ON THE PRACTICE OF PUBLICLY PARADING THE FIRE BRIGADE.

MR. JAMES McSHANE SAID TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR TWO PUBLIC OFFICES—MR. McSHANE'S NAME MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH THE HARBOR BOARD.

As most people are aware, there are quite a number of begging gypsies in the city. From appearances, they are typical representatives of a nomadic people, and, though an atmosphere of romance may cling around them, they can hardly be classed as desirable visitors. In the city proper their solicitations for alms do not bother people very much, as we are used to that sort of thing at every street corner and may ever welcome a variation; but I understand that in the outskirts these gypsies are very annoying in their persistent importunities from house to house. Unless they can settle down and work, which is highly improbable, steps should be taken to make them move on.

One moment! Perhaps they are waiting for something, came here with an object in view.

Poor people! they left a far-off distant home after hearing tales of our unique greatness. Overcoming obstacles and difficulties insurmountable to the ordinary human being, persevering when others less dauntless would have fallen by the wayside fatigued and despairing, they were sustained and strengthened all the time by the one invigorating, nerve-giving thought that, in the end, when Canada's fair metropolis would spread itself at their bruised bare feet, and the red setting sun brighten their complexions as it shone o'er the brow of historic Mount Royal and danced through the greenish waters of the kindly St. Lawrence, they would silently, and with a calm feeling of hope, long deferred, about to be realized, pitch their tents and await the invitation.

Noisless though their tread had been for the last fifty miles of their journey; stealthily though they had crept along "neath the shadow of night," still, having full faith in the narratives related round the camp fires of their fathers, they were confident that their presence was not unknown to the chairman of the Fire Committee and that Montreal's Fire brigade would be put on parade for their edification and amazement.

This is what they wait for, why they tarry. Alberman Stevenson, what are you thinking about? Would you lose your reputation amongst the tribes of Bahemia? Why make an exception in their case? Traits of his boyhood hang around the man.

Remnants of the rustic, traces of the rural, are to be found in the very centres of great, throbbing commercial cities. We cling to some of the hobbies of our budding manhood with strange pertinacity in our more mature years and take an odd pride in exhibiting as marvellous what has ceased to be uncommon, in displaying as phenomenal what time has made quite natural.

Is there any good reason why our Fire Brigade is trotted out to exhibit itself upon the least excuse? Somebody of uncertain consequence comes to town and immediately the members of the Brigade are instructed to polish themselves and the apparatus up to the shiniest possible condition, and then, in formidable, shimmering array, "show themselves to the gentleman."

There are lots of other Fire Brigades just as nice and impressive to gaze upon as ours, and I don't think the genial chairman of the Fire committee himself can honestly imagine that anyone travels to Montreal for the purpose of looking at a street parade of engines and ladders and a body of men, good and true though they are, who would rather stay in their stations until called by actual duty than pose as curiosities or prodigees.

There are numerous interesting sights in and about Montreal to hold the attention of visitors for an indefinite period, and our habit of "showing off" the firemen must strike the traveller as decidedly green and more or less funny. It would look all right for the fire-extinguishers of Longueil, Ottawa, Lachine or Toronto to turn out for inspection and amuse visitors, but Montreal is too big for that sort of thing, and it is about time Ald. Stevenson and his confederates realized that fact.

If anybody comes to Montreal who will not believe we have a fire brigade until it is shown to him, let him go around and see it in sections, and by this means break the great fact of its existence to him:—gently.

The name of the Hon. James McShane is mentioned in connection with several high Government offices, notably the post-mastership and the chairmanship of the Harbor Commissioners. If the Hon. Mr. McShane deserves anything from the Liberal party he has earned the best.

Mr. M. J. F. Quinn's first effort in the House of Commons was a success, and members of both parties, as well as the general press, unite in congratulating St. Ann's new member. This should be very satisfactory to Mr. Quinn's constituents.

Amongst the possible Harbor Commissioners of the near future is Mr. Michael Guerin.