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VOL. XII., No. 26

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1904

PRICE FIVE CENTS

CHRONICLES OF AN OLD-TIMER

Continuation of the Memoirs of General E. A. Theller—His Speech in the Dock—Found Irish Sympathizers Among the Volunteer Soldiers on Guard Duty—An Unexpected Verdict.

Chicago, June 11, 1904.
 Editor Catholic Register:

Herewith is General Theller's speech in the dock as given in his memoirs:

I addressed the jury briefly and calmly. I told them: "That I had not intended to take any part in the proceedings, conceiving that the last act of the farce was written before the first began. But that respect for my own feelings forbade me to let pass without comment the abuse and uncalled for language of the attorney-general. Official duty called for the exercise of talent to promote the ends of justice, but never demanded from my functionary self-degradation or personal vindictiveness. The assertion had been made that I was a British subject. Yea, I was now on my trial as such, for the crime of high treason—a crime of which none but a subject could be guilty. If so, where the dignity of so high an officer as the crown in conferring on me the epithets in which he had indulged, if I were a murderer, a robber, a rascal, a Yankee pirate, would not try me as such? No, they could not, they dared not. Vengeance would lose its victim for lack of proof."

"I admitted that I had been taken in arms, fighting under an acknowledged flag against Her Majesty's dominions—dominions which I strove to release from European despotism. ('Acknowledged flag,' ejaculated the attorney-general.) 'Yes, the flag was acknowledged by your late governor,' I answered, 'in sending the flag of truce to treat with the party at Montgomery's; it was the flag of the independent provisional government of Canada, a flag planted on the soil of Canada by Canadians themselves at Navy Island. No act of piracy had ever been committed by me, or by those under my command. Why, then, the use of such foul epithets? Why should not those bred to the courtesy of the law keep within the prescribed limits of legal discourse? And why undertake to prejudice the minds of the jury, already unfairly excited?'"

"Had I deemed it necessary in this mock trial—yes, mock trial, my lord—I might have challenged the whole panel; for every one of you, both judge and jury, have had your opinion formed before you, gentlemen of the jury, were sworn in the box, and long before many of you had uttered what you thought should be my doom. Nor do I now say so, to evince that I could have had another jury any better; for what avail would it have been, save to protract, for a little time, the execution of the executive orders, when all in this quarter of the province had been partisans of the Government, and had borne arms against the patriot cause. I could have objected that you all belonged to a society whose political and religious feelings are hostile, bitterly so, to my cast and character. The accused institution of Orangism, which deluged my native land in blood, has lost none of its venom on this side of the Atlantic. Yes, gentlemen, pardon me, but I honestly believe you came here this day fully bent on my conviction; the subject of my guilt has been deeply impressed upon your minds ere you were summoned to attend on this court. The form of law to gild and adorn the preliminaries of my execution. Even the very judge on the bench has said to the bar around me, that I must be executed; that I must be hung up to prevent my countrymen from following the path I had pursued. Yes, strange as it may appear, gentlemen, I feel indifferent to your verdict. I rise but to proclaim my American citizenship; to protest most solemnly against your procedure. I am no subject, but a citizen of a free republic. No slave but a free man. I leave the issue to my adopted country. In my opinion, in this trial is involved the

sanctity of American laws, and my country will look to it. You can trample on my person and give my limbs to dissection; it will be but a paltry trial compared with the glorious results which I confidently predict will follow.

"Were it possible for you, gentlemen, to dismiss from your minds your preconceived opinions, I would call your attention to the appropriate bearing of the testimony. I would point you to the necessary character of the witnesses, who, in order to magnify their own heroism, have swelled a mountain out of a molehill; a small water craft into an armed frigate, irregular musketry into broadsides, and bloody noses into fields strewn with blood. Strip their testimony of their victory at Malden and where is your crime? Had not I, a citizen of the United States, the unquestionable right to express my opinions freely of the measures of your government? Had I not the right to attend meetings in the United States; yea, and contribute means to aid the revolution here, and not violate your laws? If such be an offense it is not against the laws of my own country, and not against the laws of this. But I was taken in arms. True, most true; I boast, I glory in it. But how different would my case have been viewed had success crowned our efforts. Now I am a brigand, a pirate, a traitor; but otherwise the case had

"Successful rebellion decked the brows of traitors; heroes they who gave freedom to the slave. And law and liberty to the oppressed."

"Yes, many now around me, had such been our fortune, would have showered blessings instead of curses on my head.

"But we failed; circumstances beyond our control conquered us, and I, as one of the humble instruments embarked in the glorious undertakings, am willing to meet the consequences. We played for a great stake—a nation's liberty—and we lost. Tyranny may now do its worst; my life is not worth preserving at the sacrifice of honor, or by a tame subserviency to prolong its being, or I needed not now have been here. I complain not; but I do protest against being spread upon your records as a subject of a crown. I am a free man—proud of my rights as an American citizen, to obtain which I left my native country. Your obsolete principles of dusty common law, fit only for slaves, and corresponding to the age when the slave could sell his self, is unrecognized in my country, and is scouted at and repudiated by the philosophy of civilization. The doctrine of once a subject always a subject would make the great Washington a traitor, and have retarded for centuries the enlightenment of the continent of North America by the rays of civil and political liberty. Away with such stuff! Its annunciation at this age—in this tribunal—is an insult to justice and brings shame to common sense."

"Yes, gentlemen, are told I am an Irishman by birth, but a renegade to Irish feeling. What should I reply? Tame submission and repression my honest indignation? Never, never. If it was the last word I had to utter on earth, I will hurl the lie back on the assertion. Foul and false aspersion pronounced! No action of my short but checkered life is tainted with the slightest blot of treason to Irish hearts and the Irish character. Ireland—oppressed Ireland—is my native land. Ireland, suffering under the same cruel despotism that now blights the prospects of poor Canada, is the home of my childhood, and is dear to my fondest recollections; and I regret indeed, would I could, I forget the proud distinction of an Irish birth. I can never forget the wrongs my native land has endured from British rule, portrayed in living light in her history, and transmitted as the precious legacy of accumulating national vengeance from site to son. But, thanks to propitious heaven, I am no born serf to her soil, and especially when that soil is down-trodden by the rule of the law, urged by the crown's attorney, classes me as such, but I indignantly repel it, and in behalf of thousands and thousands of bounding Irish spirits throughout the United States, nay, the world, reject and deny the doctrine with scorn."

"I have heard—true it was elsewhere than here—that this same hypocritical functionary, who has turned so out of his way to insult me, has ever been distinguished as the defamer of Ireland, and yet he dares, to Irish ears, to flatter my native countrymen for their loyalty to an alien, very, all for the artful purpose of creating prejudice against me. I shrink not from a comparison with the loyal Irishmen of the province, whom he styles as having preserved this gem of the British crown; I am willing that posterity shall judge whether your conduct, gentlemen of the jury, or mine, best accord with Irish pride and Irish ways. And he recites with marked emphasis the stanza of Scott:

"Lives there the man, with soul so dead,
 Who never to himself hath said,
 This is my own, my native land?"

"If he means that my native land is forgotten he indulges fancy at the expense of fact, and shielded by the power of place, insinuates that which, under other circumstances more propitious to a prisoner, he dared not breathe.

"Ireland I love; England I hate. Have I no reason? Look at history. Gaze on Ireland now, and what she has been, and what she could be, and what she has made by her blood and treasure of the British power, and what Irishmen can honestly love British rule! 'My native land,' yes, in the very word 'Ireland' there is an eternity of wrongs, hecatombs of victims, voluemes of outrage, and when Ireland forgets England it will be amidst the sleep of nations and when all

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earth is dissolved by the magic of the last trump.

"There were standing immediately behind me a number of Irish volunteers, belonging to the Queen's Foresters, a regiment which had been raised after the defeat at Montgomery's—one of whom, a tall, red-haired, raw-boned young man of the genuine Milesian cast, who, wrapped in thought, was picking the prisoners' box with his bayonet, while honest tears coursed down his cheeks. One of his comrades near him accosted him with a strong and distinct whisper, which I overheard. He exclaimed:

"Holy Saviour! Murphy dear, ain't that true?"

Although but a whisper I, as well as many others near, heard the remark, and turning around, I clapped the young Milesian on the shoulder, exclaiming:

"Ay, Murphy, it is true; and you, my countryman, who know its truth, are here with arms, sustaining the oppressors of your country, and the murderers of your countrymen, and tacitly stand by and allow these tyrants to condemn to death your countryman, merely for the crime of being your countryman."

"This sudden digression had the effect of causing a stir in the audience, as if a stream of electricity had poured from heaven among them. They were chiefly Irish, and from their murmuring and their clapping of hands, so unusual in courts of justice, I came to believe that I had attained the object which I had desired.

"Silence, silence!" rang through the hall, and the court, interposing, observed, "That I had been allowed a latitude of speech unprecedented, that I must now cease my unwarrantable and treasonable harangue."

"I replied that the crown officer's remarks impelled my course; that his denunciations were irrelevant and insulting; that I did not flatter myself that my remarks would change my doom, long pre-determined, but that were I now standing on the scaffold, I would vindicate my character and motives from unjust and cruel expressions."

"His lordship replied 'That the court would not tolerate such language, and that I must confine my remarks to the subject matter of the indictment, and that I was to be silent.'"

"Even for that," I continued, "I care not. Be it so—that I am condemned unheard—what a picture of justice will it present to the civilized world! I have borne your utmost rigor of imprisonment, your chains, your insults, your dungeon, your solitary confinement, and now I can stand the stern blow of your lordship, and the pitiful contempt of the queen's attorney-general, whose nose, by nature, magnifies the outward manifestations of the inward malice of the man."

"This allusion to the remarkable personal defect of the attorney-general produced a smile among the jurors and the bar, but the audience broke out into open laughter. After cries of 'silence!' I was permitted again to address the jury. I said:

"That whatever motive prompted the poetical quotation of the counsel, I thanked him for the glorious theme. Had I time and permission I could appeal to every Irish heart, for ample causes why Irishmen should rebel against the power of Great Britain, but I would cease to trouble the sensitive feelings of the court; and that it must be obvious that when the Canadian refugees fled naked to the United States, no Irishman, remembering his own country's wrongs, could turn a deaf ear to their appeals. I could not, I did not, you, gentlemen, if men of common feelings, will understand me, and will solve the question, whether I was a serf or a free man—a British subject or an American citizen. I entertain no hopes of your verdict; it will be one of conviction, and now only wanting the form of delivery and record; but I am consoled that the deed is not done close with your act nor my execution."

Separate School Field Day

The city separate schools will hold their annual Field Day on Friday next at Exhibition Park, the programme opening at 2 p.m. sharp. Much interest has centered around this coming event, which promises to surpass all predecessors.

A very lively contest is expected for the valuable school trophy which was won last year by St. Patrick's School. Fully 420 entries have been made for the 40 events.

Many enterprising business men and friends of the schools have contributed valuable prizes, several of which range in value from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

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The Education Question

To the Editor of The Register:

In your last issue the attitude of the United States' priests and prelates regarding the higher education of the clergy was touched upon. The attitude of the Irish priesthood on the same question will form an instructive sequel. And, the year's correspondent draws his material from a yearly publication issued by a renowned Irish ecclesiastical seminary. This publication comes forth with the approval of the teaching body of the seminary, and hence its contents must be in harmony with their views.

In what may be called the bulletin of 1904 there is an article on 'university education for clerics.' Its text consists of an extract from an encyclical of Leo XIII. to the bishops of France, in which that illustrious pontiff says: "In order to maintain the influence of the clergy on society, let that body number in its ranks a sufficiently large number of priests who in scientific knowledge are able to stand side by side with the teachers of State lycées and universities." Mark the reasonableness and balance of these words. The illustrious Leo does not expect that a laboratory be fitted up in every priest's house and that every curate be an authority on sun spots, the polarization of light, etc. He recognized that such a state of things, however desirable, would be unattainable. But he urges that a sufficiently large number of priests be so versed on all scientific questions, some making a specialty of one subject and others of different branches, that the clerical body as a whole would be able to hold its own with the teachers of State universities on their own secular field.

With this appeal of the great Pontiff recently passed away for his foundation stone, the writer of the article in question proceeds with his structure. He points out the intellectual revival which is taking place in the teachers of State universities, which is being made for a university in harmony with the aspirations of the great majority of the people. And he goes on to say that if the past traditions and awake to their present opportunities, they will avail themselves to the highest possible extent of University training.

On the advantages of such training for the development of a fine type of clerical character the testimony of Cardinal Newman is quoted and commented upon with warm approval.

"In the case of most men," writes Newman, "University training makes itself felt in the good sense, sobriety of thought, reasonableness, candor, self-command and steadiness of view, which characterize it. In some it will have developed habits of business, power of influencing others, and capacity in others it will elicit the talent of philosophical speculation, and lead the mind forward in this or that intellectual department. In all, it will be a faculty of entering with comparative ease into any subject of thought, and of taking up with aptitude any science or profession."

Now the very qualities specified in these admirable words are those oftentimes conspicuously absent in those occupying leading positions in our land. Instead of sobriety of thought, reasonableness, candor, self-command, we find in men who are supposed to wield the destinies of the people a narrowness and pettiness characteristic of an imperfectly trained mind face to face with a situation it is unable to grasp and with duties for the due discharge of which it is not equipped. And such qualities which bring out all the more clearly their obliquity at times associated with a seemingly total blindness to their obliquity. The term "ill-balanced" well describes characters of this kind. They are as unconscious of their unfairness as a badly constructed balance is of its defectiveness.

And like the same balance, the fault is in their construction. Their training has been on lines which solicited

Every accommodation will be provided for parents and friends who wish to encourage the boys by their presence. Mr. J. Gardner, of Munro Park, will provide refreshments, so that all may enjoy a pleasant outing. The Toronto Street Railway Co. will have cars running on Dufferin street from 2 to 6 p.m. Admission to grounds, free. Winners of events will be announced by megaphone and on blackboard.

The events will be in charge of the following staff of officers: Judges, Ald. J. J. Ward, J. J. Ryan, A. T. Hernon, Trustee W. Boland, Inspector W. Prendergast, R. Dissette. Timekeepers—S. P. Grant and P. Kennedy.

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STRATFORD

Fifteen boys and thirty-three girls of St. Joseph's Church Parish, this city, received their first communion on Sunday last from their new pastor, the Rev. Chas. E. McGee. The children have been under the careful training of the Loretto nuns and Rev. Father Laurenda, and have met with good success. The main altar was beautifully decorated with flowers, etc., and presented a handsome yet suitable appearance. In the afternoon at three o'clock the children were enrolled in the scapular. On Sunday, June 19th, the Rt. Rev. Fergus P. McEvay, D.D., Bishop of London, will administer the right of confirmation in St. Joseph's church, this city.

The announcement was made at St. Joseph's Church on Sunday last that in future the church doors will be open until 9 p.m. during the week, and service of benediction will be given at 8 o'clock every Friday evening in the future. Mass during week days is at 7.30 a.m.

The death is reported in Winnipeg of Mr. John Boyle of Winnipeg, a member of the Stratford branch of the C.M.B.A. The local branch have telegraphed the president of the Winnipeg branch of the C.M.B.A. to care for their dead. No particulars as to cause of death have yet been obtainable.

Rev. Albert McKeon, P.P. of St. Columban, Ontario, one of the best known priests of the London diocese, intends holding a grand union picnic under the auspices of the Catholics of Huron and Perth at St. Columban, on Wednesday, June 22, 1904, from 9.30 a.m. until 9.30 p.m. (The event of rain falling on the 22nd of June, this carnival of harmony, speech and song will be held the following day.) Music will be furnished for Grand Marches, Lancers and Quadrilles, by the far-famed St. Columban Orchestra, the best quadrille band in Canada. The band consists of 3 first violins, 2nd violin, violoncello, contra bass, clarinet, flute, cornet and slide trombone.

Some of the best singers in the adjacent counties have been engaged for the moon and evening concerts. And plates will be set for 1,000 people. Arrangements have been made for half fare on all trains to St. Columban from Goderich, Stratford and intermediate points. Trains will leave Stratford at 9 a.m., 11.35 a.m., 5.00 p.m., and 8.30 p.m. Last train leaves St. Columban at 10.12 p.m. Excursion tickets good to go on June 21st, 22nd and to return until June 23rd. This will certainly be a red-letter day for Huron and Perth. Many prominent C.M.B.A. members of Stratford and parishioners of St. Joseph's church, intend spending the day in St. Columban. Father McKeon, who is an ardent worker, will leave no stone unturned to make this the best picnic ever held in that section.

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