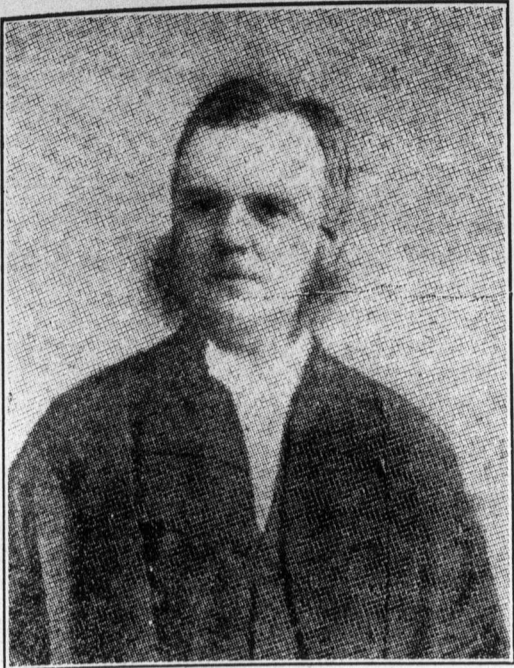


SKETCHES OF IRISH-CANADIANS.

Hon. Justice H. MacMahon.



HON. JUSTICE HUGH MACMAHON.—One of the most distinguished members of the High Court Bench in the Province of Ontario is the Hon. Hugh MacMahon. He is a native of Canada having been born in Guelph on the 6th of March, 1836. His parents were both natives of Ireland. Justice MacMahon's father was a gentleman of classic attainments, and he undertook to supervise the education of his son. For some time the subject of our sketch held employment under the Canadian Government, but in 1857, feeling that the civil service offered no prospects for an active mind, he resigned and applied himself to the study of law. In 1864 he was admitted to practice, and he entered into partnership with his brother, the late Thomas B. MacMahon, with whom he remained for five years at Brantford. His partner then became county judge of Norfolk. Although the clientelle of Mr. MacMahon was large, at Brantford, he ventured on a change, and went to reside at London, where he soon acquired an extensive practice. In 1876 he received his patent as Q.C. from the Ontario Government, and in 1885 the Dominion conferred upon him a similar distinction. He represented the Dominion in the dispute

concerning the boundaries of Ontario, which commenced in 1879, and when the matter was finally carried to the Privy Council in 1884, he was one of the counsel who went to England on behalf of the Government of Canada to plead the case before that tribunal. Judge MacMahon had few equals at the Bar of Ontario as a pleader in criminal cases. In 1883 he removed from London to Toronto, where he again built up a lucrative practice. In November, 1887, Sir John A. Macdonald offered him a judgeship of the common pleas division of the High Court of Justice of Ontario. This was a singular mark of confidence, as Mr. MacMahon had always been politically opposed to the Government of Sir John. Judge MacMahon was promoted upon his merits as a distinguished member of the Bar. His career since his elevation justified the choice of the Right Hon. leader of the Government of that day. In the words of Mr. Davin in his work on "The Irishman in Canada," "Justice MacMahon is one of the most enlightened Irishmen in the Dominion; he uses his voice and pen to promote that cordial feeling between his countrymen which it is so desirable should exist in their own interest and in the interest of Canada."

OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER. ON INSINUATIONS!

HERE is an old axiom that runs somewhat this way "an open enemy is preferable to a hidden foe." No doubt all men have experienced, from time to time, that it is better in the end to know the nature of a danger that awaits them than to be ignorant of the fact of its existence. This great truth has been expressed in so many and such different ways that it would fill a volume to repeat the sayings of the different authors. One of the best known is to the effect that "to be forewarned is to be forearmed." But all this has reference to physical or natural dangers that menace. There is, however, an enemy that no man can possibly defend himself against, and that is an evil or slanderous tongue. The word of injury escapes, and the victim of it is generally unaware of it ever having been spoken; he has no idea that false or bad impressions are being created against him; and when he does learn of the wrong, he is entirely incapable of counteracting it in any way. He may be able to say a few words on the subject to one, or a few people; but it is beyond his power to follow the story into all the recesses of the social organization, wherein it has developed and expanded its poisonous qualities. This, in itself, would form a very interesting and a very timely subject for

of omission. There are positive and there are negative wrongs that may be perpetrated. If I were asked to indicate the worst class of insinuation I would say that it consisted, very often, in the unspoken word.

Take for example a couple, or more, of people who meet in general conversation. The name of a neighbor, or of one with whom there are some of them well acquainted, while others of them do not know him quite so intimately, comes up, and a person present says of the absent one that he is a good man, or that he is worthy of certain support, or deserving of a certain office, or any such remark as may fit the circumstances. The insinuating individual does not deny the good qualities of the absent one. He is in accord with the one who praises the object of the discussion. Still he adds a blank to the conversation; he says, for example—"Yes, he is a fine man, a deserving fellow, but it is a pity he should have a fault"—or else, "but appearance are not always truthful;" or, "if all is not known," or "if they knew all I do," or some such remark. He has really said nothing positive, he has indicated no wrong, no flaw of character; he has merely created a suspicion, that may, or may not have any foundation. He has injured that man's character, he has cast a doubt upon his integrity, he has left it an open question whether he really deserved such commendations or not, he has lowered that person in the estimation of those who had such a high opinion, possibly he has injured him in his chance of life; in a word, he has stabbed him in the back, giving him no opportunity of defending himself, and has, like a coward, gone off under the protection of his mean insinuation. He is decidedly guilty of a great sin in the eye of God, of a mean act in the eye of society, of a crime in the eye of humanity. The law of the land cannot reach him, no more can the victim of his insinuation—but he may rest assured that there is a justice that will sooner or later make him repent his deed.

AN EXAMPLE.—I was led to these reflections by a fact that came to my knowledge a few weeks ago. A young man was about to be offered a very remunerative and enviable position by the head of one of our leading business firms. It chanced that his name came up, in the course of a conversation, at a lunch in one of the downtown restaurants. The head of the firm in question was present. One or more of the gentlemen there spoke highly of the young man. Finally turning to an intimate acquaintance of the family, one of them asked,—"don't you think that J. has a fine career ahead of him?" The other merely shrugged his shoulders, winked, and replied, "well, I never tell tales out of school." What he meant would be hard to understand, and possibly he could least explain his own meaning. However, the head of the firm, who had been interestedly listening, there and then changed his mind, a doubt had entered it, and the young man never got the expected chance; nor will he ever be able to trace the cause of his failure. What is the reader's opinion of the one guilty of such an insinuation? It is quite possible that he still passes for a friend of that family, and may be of the young man whose future he had so wondrously injured. Needless to multiply examples. It is a safe motto to beware of the insinuator.

MR. REDMONO'S SPEECH IN LONDON!

AT the St. Patrick's Day banquet, held in London, England, Mr. John E. Redmon, M.P., chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, presided and delivered one of his characteristic speeches. He said in part:—

Those annual occasions were, in his opinion, of great value to those Irishmen whose ordinary avocations were of such a character as to prevent their active interference in Irish National affairs. Those gatherings afforded an opportunity to them, once a year, at any rate, to make what might be called a public profession of Nationalist faith, to renew their pledge of devotion to the prosperity and freedom of the land of St. Patrick. That night all their hearts were filled with love of Ireland. That night all their minds were filled with the thought of her past, and anxiety and solicitude about her future. He found that night his mind carried irresistibly back to the first occasion when he was present at a St. Patrick's Day

banquet in London. It was more than twenty-five years ago when that great Irishman—whose greatness he did not believe was yet sufficiently appreciated and acknowledged by the Irish people—Isaac Butt—was in the chair. He himself was but a lad, and his father was a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party. At that time he well remembered how high were their hopes and how boundless their enthusiasm, and how strong their confidence in the future of their cause. Twenty-five years had passed since then, and one great awful fact stood out through all those years. During that period of twenty-five years more than one million of the flower and strength and manhood of the Irish race had left the shores of Ireland, and the one great awful fact that stood out that day after a lapse of twenty-five years was that this emigration from Ireland still continued and was going on at this very moment.

KEEP THE PEOPLE AT HOME.—For the prelate and the politician alike, for the Englishman and the Irishman alike, he would say, there was one great duty of the moment, and that was to make some effort to keep the Irish people at home. If the people continued to leave Ireland as they were doing at the present time, the prelates and the priests in the near future might find those stately edifices that had been raised by the devotion, the generosity, and the faith of the Irish people to the worship of the living God, those great edifices which had been erected upon the ruins of the old churches where their forefathers worshipped and which were destroyed by the hand of oppression—they might find in the near future those stately edifices desolate—the churches left, but the worshippers gone. And the politician who was to-day engaged in the effort to regenerate and emancipate the nation might soon find there was no nation left to regenerate and emancipate. If that emigration continued as it was going on at this moment, Englishmen—and he did not say it by way of a threat—might soon find out, and find out when it was too late, that, in the inevitable justice of Providence, there was a Nemesis for the exterminators of the people. And if the Irish people continued to go from the country as they were still going the Irishman in every land would turn his gaze towards the cradle of his race, and see only a depopulated and degraded province, not Irish, not English, but a mixture of the worst qualities of both. Therefore it seemed to him that the paramount duty of the moment was to do what they could to stem the tide of emigration. He asked, how could that be done? He looked at it from the point of view of the politician, and his belief was what they wanted in Ireland was one breath of freedom. The young men of their race flew away from Ireland to-day, they flew away from the British flag, which for the Irish people in the past had been the symbol of oppression. They flew away from Ireland as a land where native opinion had no force and no influence in the government, where the government was foreign, and founded upon force. They flew away, and it was worth the while of English statesmen to consider this fact—they flew away, but they did not go to the English colonies, they did not follow the flag. No; they left Ireland because it was not a free country, and they went to America because there they lived under a free and independent flag. The first essential, in his opinion, to keep an Irishman at home was to give him freedom in his own land, to give the Irish people at home the power of governing Ireland. Second that, and indeed largely independent upon that, as a means of arresting emigration, was the movement that was on foot to stimulate Irish industries. He believed, in the first place, that Ireland could never be prosperous industrially until it was a self-governing country, and the very least that Ireland could ask from her sons in order to support those industries was that they should always give preference to home-made goods.

IRISH NOTES.

CATHOLIC ACTION.—In a circular letter, which was read in all the parish churches of Belfast on a recent Sunday, His Lordship Bishop Henry, in referring to the annual meeting of Catholic householders, says:—

I attach the greatest importance to the objects for which this annual meeting is held; namely, of a Congregational Committee, whose duty it will be to promote the indispensable and urgent work of registration and to advance Catholic interests generally; and, secondly, to elect suitable delegates to take part in the deliberations of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Association. It is, to say the least, most desirable that Catholics should co-operate in the heartiest manner with one another, especially in Belfast, where unfortunately sinister influences are continually at work, not only to retard their religious and social advancement, but in many cases to thwart the modest aspirations of individual Catholics even among the humbler classes. In these circumstances it behoves Catholics to help one another in accordance with the instruction of St. Paul: "Let us work good," he says (Gal. vi., 10), "towards all men, but most of all towards those who are of the household of faith." The Catholic Association, with the zeal and loyal support of priests and people, can be made a useful instrument against unreasoning opposition to Catholics as such. Not until we are accorded the full measure of our rights as citizens, and until the religion of our people is no longer an obstacle to their advancement, can we hope for a becoming Christian spirit of toleration and respect among all classes of the community. The Catholic Association, while aiming at concerted action among Catholics for the public good, does not entertain any sentiment of hostility nor feeling of bitterness against those who are of a different religion. Our claim is for distributive justice—for a fair share of representation on the public boards, and for equal treatment against exclusiveness in appointments to positions of trust and emolument. The record of the Catholic Association justifies the hope that the persistent efforts of the united Catholic body in the ranks of that organization will eventually lead to the attainment of our just and reasonable demands. The experience of every succeeding year brings with it fresh reasons for renewed energy and vigilance in prosecuting the aims and objects of the Association.

THE GAELIC LEAGUE.—There was another movement on foot which had for its object the arresting of the stream of emigration. He alluded to the Gaelic movement. In his opinion that movement was one of the most remarkable movements which ever sprung up in any nation in the world. It was a non-political movement in this sense, that there were men in the Gaelic movement who were not Nationalists, men in the movement who were not politicians, and, speaking in the name of the Irish Nationalist party in the House of Commons, and also in the name of the members of the United Irish League in Ireland, he said that every member of the Parliamentary Party, every member of

the United Irish League, was a supporter of the principles of the Gaelic League. He had always been a supporter—an enthusiastic supporter—of it, and if he had not been able to take as much part in the actual work of the Gaelic League as he could have wished it had not been because he did not desire to do so, but because his hands were full in the conduct of the National political movement. He was happy that night to be able to congratulate the Gaelic League movement on its unprecedented success. A few months ago there seemed to be a danger of some friction arising between the Gaelic League and the political movement. He viewed that prospect with alarm, and he was happy that night to say that the danger had passed, and the two great movements—the one auxiliary to the other, the one, he might almost say, necessary to the other—were working in absolute harmony for the benefit of Ireland; and he desired to congratulate his friend, Dr. Douglas Hyde, one of the best Irish Nationalists that he knew, on the success of the movement with which he was so closely identified. That movement had not merely been one, as some people in England seemed to imagine, for the revival and spread of the old language of Ireland, but it had another and wider scope. It had had for its object, in the words they were so familiar with, the creating of public opinion in Ireland and making it racy of the soil. To-day happily it was no longer unfashionable to be Irish in Dublin. To-day it was happily no longer a source of shame or humiliation to have an Irish name or an Irish accent. To those three great agencies he had mentioned he looked for the arresting of the tide of emigration. In that spirit he greeted them that night in the name of Ireland, when they were celebrating the festival of St. Patrick, and when their hearts were filled with the sweet, tender, and glorious memories of the past. With an undying faith in the destiny of their race, and with confidence here in the future, let them all reverently pray God save Ireland.

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A NEW PRESBYTERY.—The 17th of March was a red letter day in the parish of Ahoghilly, the occasion being the laying of the foundation stone of the new parochial house. After nine o'clock Mass, which was celebrated in St. Mary's Church by the Rev. John Nolan, P. P., a procession composed of the entire congregation was formed, and headed by acolytes and cross-bearer proceeded to the site selected for the new house. Here the ceremony of blessing and laying the first stone of the building was performed by the Rev. Gerald Nolan, M. A., B.D., professor St. Malachy's College, Belfast.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.—There was an immense congregation in St. Malachy's Church, Armagh, recently, the occasion being the anniversary of the consecration of Ireland to the Sacred Heart. His Eminence Cardinal Logue presided. An eloquent sermon on devotion to the Sacred Heart was preached by the Rev. Peter Sheerin. The Blessed Sacrament was then exposed on the High Altar, and His Eminence the Cardinal Primate recited the Act of Consecration. Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, given by the Cardinal, concluded the impressive devotions.

THE KING'S VISIT.—The Belfast "Irish News" in reference to this question, remarks:—

The abandonment of the King's visit to Ireland forms the chief subject of conversation at present in political circles. It is freely stated by public men who claim to know the facts, that the King himself does not approve of the decision, but that he does not feel justified in ignoring the representations of the Cabinet. The advice tendered to him was, it is said, based on the fact that public opinion in Ireland runs so high on such things as the Boer war and the Coronation oath that hostile demonstrations in the cities would be inevitable, and that the spread of the United Irish League in the agricultural districts has produced such feelings among the people that in many districts they would insist on presenting political addresses as "petitions of right."

Another difficulty was the question of addresses from the Orange Society. His Majesty is said to have been anxious to be spared the necessity of receiving such addresses and taking one consideration with another his advisers thought it well to dissuade him from the journey. The King himself was anxious to go. His views on the question of Home Rule are not unfriendly to the Irish people, and he was perfectly confident that his reception would not have been a hostile one.

A GOLDEN JUBILEE.—The celebration on St. Patrick's Day, of the golden jubilee of the Very Rev. Patrick O'Keane, P. P., of Down, was an event which awakened the greatest enthusiasm in that district.

During the lengthened period which the venerable jubilarian has been amongst the people, they have been enriched indeed in their spiritual requirements. The fruits of his assiduous attention to the great responsibilities of his holy office abound in plenitude throughout the parish, and in order to show that his labors were appreciated his grateful parishioners marked the attainment of his jubilee in a manner that speaks so well for their loyalty to the priesthood.

DEATH OF A NATIONALIST.—On St. Patrick's Day the funeral took place, to the cemetery at Errigal-Kieran, of Mr. Peter Keenan, Tirnaska. The deceased was one of the most popular and sterling Nationalists in this part of the county. It was mainly through his successful work in organizing the party in South Tyrone that Mr. William O'Brien was returned for the constituency.

MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank will be held at its Head Office, 176 St. James Street, on TUESDAY, 6th MAY NEXT. At 12 o'clock noon. For the reception of the Annual Reports and Statements, and the election of Directors. By order of the Board, A. P. LESPERANCE, Manager. Montreal, March 31st, 1902.

The greater the love, the greater the capacity for grief. There is nothing deeper than the wounds of a friend. When those we love doubt us, it breaks our hearts. True blessedness consisteth in a good life and a happy death.—Solon.