

[Written for the TRUE WITNESS.]

SKETCHES OF IRELAND.

BY "TERRA-NÓGE."

ABBEY OF KELLS, KILKENNY.

"And now, half-lid from the heats of Summer,  
Here under the leaves of this maple tree,  
Alone we sit in our sadness thinking  
Of friends far over the distant sea;  
Of the hillside cot, and the sloping meadows,  
That once were ours with their beauties bland,  
While we, are two lonely, pilgrim wanderers,  
Wandering now in the stranger's land."

So sings Callan's fair-haired, blue-eyed dreamer, Locke. In his present home by the Hudson, where the pines overshadow the waters, and tint each ripple with a deep, deep green, he sings ever and often of the "old place" far away beyond leagues of ocean, where the meadows are ever fair, and the clustering shambrocks are laved by the Shannon, the Nore, and Lee. So let him sing, and may his numbers soon swell into lays of rejoicing, when standing near unto his southern Irish home, he may chant the anthem of a country which, having been purified by suffering, shall be crowned with prosperity. On the south side of the Avonright stand the ruins of the Abbey of Kells. This Abbey was founded towards the close of the twelfth century, by Sir Geoffrey Fitz Robert de Montamarsco, for monks of the order of St. Augustine. Phelim O'Duallany, Bishop of O-sory, confirmed the foundation, and Reginald de Acland, who had been transferred from the Monastery of Bodmin in Cornwall, was the first prior. Built in stormy times this Abbey or priory shared the fate and fortunes of the day. The extent of its ruins attests its original magnificent proportions. Ivy-clad towers crumbling away, riven pillars and broken arches, are all that remain of its former grandeur, but enough is left, to tell the traveller, that it was not the least amongst the institutions of Ireland in the olden time, when, despite of many a rude fray, the name of God was blessed in grand halls, and learning and piety were enshrined in stately magnificence. The space formerly occupied by this structure was a large oblong tract, surrounded by a strong wall, and divided by another into two courts. The southern court was called the Burgers'; it was about four hundred feet square. There are ruins of towers in each of the northern angles, and in the centre of the northern and western curtains. Through this court a branch of the Avonright was made to run, in conjunction with the high wall and tower, dividing it from the second court which contains the ruins of the church, the cloister and other monastic appurtenances. There was also a mill here for the use of the monks and the surrounding population. The church consisted of a choir, nave and north transept.—The transept, which is the least ruined portion of the church, exhibits traces of delicate and graceful architecture; but as the characteristics of the monastery were massive simplicity, it is quite devoid of ornamentation. It is evident from the many towers and posterns that the good monks sought to combine the features of a fortress with their monastery. Judging by the record we have of Kells such a course was necessary. No visitor would imagine that the place with its straggling collection of cabins was ever a strongly fortified, walled town for the possession of which Irish Chief and Norman Baron strove in fierce feud. William de Bermingham burned Kells in 1253. Of course it must have had the "Sunburst" waving over its battlemented towers then. In 1316, Edward Bruce of Scotland, sacked and plundered it, and again, in 1329, Bermingham re-entered it and left it in ashes. So this olden town of Kells must have been a place, one would think, better calculated to teach its residents the art of war than to learn them the felicities of peace. However, much as they fought, they still respected the servants of God, located in their midst, for the Abbey was always left unattacked. In 1391, Richard the Second confirmed all the grants made to the Monastery of Kells. It steadily progressed from that date in power and importance; a nursery of saints, and a blessing to the people. It requires no great stretch of imagination to conjure before us the devotion of the susceptible people to the monks. We can imagine, too, how the O'Glans, lords of the territory now called Callan, crowded the sacred edifice in humble adoration of that Holy Sacrifice which is offered "from the rising of the sun to the setting of the same," bringing with them also the first fruits of their fertile district, so praised by O'Heerin. Then again the O'Brennans of Idugh, and the Mac Breens of the territory of "Nut Groves;" the O'Keelys, O'Broders, O'Sheas and O'Covenys. Kilkenny can justly be proud of its past, for among the true and tried her sons were ever foremost. The O'Sheas of Kilkenny have since changed their name to Shee, to distinguish them from the O'Sheas of Cork, and we believe that Justice Shee of the Queen's Bench, England, the first Catholic Judge in England since the reign of James II., is a member of this ancient family. But the glory of Kells was not to last for ever. Its strong towers and walls were to fall and wear away, or perhaps form cairns for the men who had stood behind the moated strongholds, beneath hostile flags, shouting now "cromaloo," and then "St. George and Merrie England." It was to present in itself a picture of its country; to decline from a town to a mere village; to have its people cabined instead of housed; it was to become one of the still, yet speaking evidences of the wrath of the Apostate King, who in impious rebellion against Rome, poured the vials of his impiety upon the monastic houses, and with fire and blood swept away the homes of God, and the sanctuaries of peace in his own England, "once the Isle of Saints," and in Ireland, the sainted Isle. Henry VIII., the voluptuary, and "wife-killer," doomed the Abbey of Kells to share in the general destruction of the religious houses. To James Butler of Ormond, it and its wealth were surrendered and the crows now caw where the hymns of

thanksgiving were once entoned. Philip O'Hulachain was the last prior of Kells, but the spirits of the holy dead still hover around the ruins of their home. The cabined ones of Kells are Catholic. To them every stone of the ancient Abbey proclaims the sanctity of their Faith, and the heinousness of the King who spared no man in his anger, no woman in his lust.

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

POLITICS AND RELIGION.—Ireland, to-day, even after centuries of misrule and persecution, is still a nation of four millions of Catholics. What she might have been at this moment, what place of honour she might have held to-day among the nations of the earth, had she been allowed to develop her own institutions and resources in all freedom, both in accordance with her own Catholic interests and under the fostering care of the Church from which those interests have been derived, can only be known to the all seeing eye of Him who "sets the people in order, and to whom the nations are subject." But yet, although her temporal glory has been dimmed, and her national prosperity hampered and checked, Ireland is still a Catholic nation, and has still a Catholic work to do both for herself and for her sister nations in the great family of God. It is because we feel so strongly that Ireland has this double work to do, and that according to the measure of the faithfulness with which she carries out this work will be the measure of her future prosperity and glory, that we wish to impress upon the minds of the Irish people the danger of being led away from the glorious mission which lies before them; for although we do not believe for a moment that the Irish race can ever fall away from its allegiance to the principles of the Catholic Church, and although we cannot doubt, that its past fidelity will be rewarded by a brighter future; yet we know, by the example of other lands, how easily individual Catholics, especially the inexperienced and the young, may be led away by the specious arguments of a false patriotism and a nationalism opposed to Catholicity, and thus the goodly promise of the future may be blighted, or, at least, indefinitely retarded. For this reason, then, we wish the Irish people to remember that they form a Catholic nation, and that they cannot be anything but a Catholic nation—and that the principles upon which their future must be founded can only be Catholic principles. Let them never forget this themselves, and what is more, let them never allow others to forget it. It is because so many Catholic nations in Europe have been negligent in this respect, that at the present moment not only the head of the Church—the common Father of the faithful—is a prisoner in the Holy city, and Rome itself in the hands of an excommunicated Monarch; but even the very bonds of society have been weakened and loosened, and they themselves have become the prey of disorder, immorality, and licence. It is because the Catholic majority in these lands have been weak enough to allow themselves to be persuaded by the non-Catholic minority that politics have nothing to do with religion, and that men can act, and ought to act in their political capacity, without any reference whatever to the principles of their religious belief, that, at the present moment, in Italy and Spain, and even Austria, and until lately in Belgium, and still more lately in France, these truly Catholic-hearted people have been made to groan under the tyrannical oppression of an anti-Catholic system of Government which they loathe. For who can doubt that, if the Catholic nations of Europe had been true to their Catholic principles, the cause of Christian society would have been everywhere triumphant throughout the world? And, on the other hand, it is because the Catholic majority in Belgium have succeeded in freeing themselves, at least for a while, from the hateful yoke; and, because, throughout so many other Catholic nations the true religious spirit of our peoples is beginning to make itself felt; and above all, because in France the old loyalty of the French people to the Holy See and the Catholic Church is rising again in its full majesty and strength, that men begin to have a well founded hope that before long society will again strike its roots in religion, so as afterwards to spring up and shelter, instead of corrupting the nations of the earth. Let us, therefore, in Ireland, be wise in time. Our danger lies not so much in the principles of the non-Catholic minority in this country, as in those Catholics who, whether on the hustings or through the press, strain every nerve to "separate politics from religion," as if it were a matter of utter indifference to what religion a man belongs, and as if the future of a nation could be built up without resting upon the eternal foundations of the One Truth, which can alone save either nations or men. We wish Irishmen to open their eyes and see, before it be too late, that such men are preparing for Ireland a cruel and a bitter future, by sowing the seeds of a fatal indifference in matters of religion—by preparing the way for a total separation between society and the Church in a land where they have been always joined together—and by attempts to build up the prosperity of the nation upon principles which have no surer foundation than the drifting current of men's opinions, and the impractical utopias of visionaries and enthusiasts. Let Irishmen remember that these men would have Catholic Ireland forget her sad and bitter history, and the principles for which she has suffered so faithfully and so long, in order, with them, to look forward to a future which, if built upon the principles which they themselves advocate, can only end in the same social dissolution, as that which has worked such fearful havoc wherever men have forgotten their duties to God or loyalty to His Church.—*Dublin Evening Post.*

The Dublin Freeman of the 8th of July says:—We are mistaken if the promoters of the

Home Rule movement can be shown to have received more telling co-operation from any man, or set of men, in the United Kingdom than from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury. If "my Lords" had been associated for the express purpose of bringing home to the dull and most reluctant understandings how bad and how unpleasant a thing it is for the domestic concerns of Ireland to be administered beyond the water, it would be impossible for them to rise in practice with a more thoroughly responsive buoyancy to the height of their mission. In the present crisis, at all events, of the relations between Great Britain and Ireland, and with the popular demand for Home Rule growing momentarily more pronounced and peremptory, it would be the plain policy of Imperial Rule to show at its best; to exhibit itself intelligent of Irish wants and interests, sympathetic with Irish feelings; and leaning—if to lean in any direction were permissible—towards the side of liberality rather than of injustice. We do not wish to set down anything in malice. Apart from certain overruling, and, it may be, unconquerable influences, the eminent men at the head of the Government are honestly disposed, we honestly believe, to legislate remedially for Ireland, and to govern in the spirit of their legislation. The Irish Executive, although including two Englishmen, is as well composed, perhaps, as it is possible for an Irish Executive to be under the circumstances. Its members are well-intentioned, well-conditioned, high-minded, able, and laborious. They would control the system if they could, but the system is continually furnishing proof that it is too strong for them, and the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury are more successfully assiduous than any other department of the Administration in supplying the proofs. The civil servants of the Crown in Ireland take rank in all the elements of character with their fellow-servants in Great Britain. They undergo the same preliminary tests of capacity; they perform the identical duties; they discharge those duties with equal ability and zeal; the expense of living is equally high, to say the least, on both sides of the Channel, and the pay, nevertheless, of civil servants in Ireland is, in every department, upon a lower scale than that of the corresponding officers of Great Britain. This is not sentiment; this is not rhetoric; this is not amplification. It is fact; it is hard fact; it is indisputable fact. The civil servants of Ireland have presented time after time their humble petition and remonstrance to successive Chief Secretaries, and have been dismissed, in due course of a policy, with assurances of distinguished consideration. But their pay has not risen meanwhile a farthing per cent., as a result for all their petitions and remonstrances; nor is there the slightest indication upon the surface that it ever will. The system is paramount, and the Treasury which heads the system is labouring to establish from hour to hour, by an induction not less minute than comprehensive, that the vices of the system are congenial. We lay no blame at the door of the present Irish Executive or of any Irish Executive. The best could do no better, and the worst, probably, in immediate contact with the realities of the situation, would not be less civil-spoken than the best. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, according to the celebrated maxim of M. Thiers, "reigns but does not govern." The Treasury clerks take that burden from his Excellency's shoulders, and are not less pleased, perhaps, to counteract the influence of a Lord Lieutenant than to pare the cheese of a Post-office clerk. We really do not care to inquire whether the Tite Barnacles of Whitehall expect to economise any considerable reduction of the National Debt out of their imperial frauds upon the hire of the Civil Service labourers in Ireland. They are just as likely to do that, at any rate, as to cement the relations between the two islands of the United Kingdom.

THE NASTIEST FORM OF INTELLECTUAL DEBASEMENT.—It is a painful thing, in an age of boasted enlightenment, to observe the *Ulster Examiner*, to record the doings of the Orange fraternity. But, wild and reckless, and painful as are their actions, their words are even more disgusting and intolerable. They are continually harping upon "Popery" and "Popish intolerance;" and this not alone in the North, where they have some half-dozen of a majority, but also in the South and West of Ireland, where the minister is so often obliged to preach to empty walls. Now, let us give a hint to the most intolerant of all Bigots. In the South and West the Catholics are the people—the only people—of the land. In their midst live, and prosper, a Protestant few.—These Protestants are never insulted as Catholics are in the North. Their ministers meet on equal footing with the priest in the parish, and the children are not trained to insult the parson. They are trained, however, in Ulster, and especially in Belfast, to insult the Priest. Daily experience of the Protestant youth of Belfast proves this. The Protestants of the South and West have their places of worship, their cemeteries, and schools. How often do we hear of the violation of any of these? We challenge even bigotry itself if it could tell truth—how often have you to complain of the conduct of Catholics? You send even the most contemptible ignorants of the North into the midst of the Catholics of the other Provinces to insult them with the "enlightenment" of your dark bigotry and rank intolerance.—Your emissaries of discord, however, enjoys a peace which they do not permit their neighbors, Respectable Protestants—and there are many such both North and South—live without fear, and their religion is no hindrance to their advancement. But with us, in what was formerly called the "Protestant" North, but where the Catholics are now almost as numerous as the total of all the sects, matters are quite different. The unoffending Catholic can never be sure from attack. If he seek shelter under the

egis of the law, it crushes him, for it is administered by his enemies. The Church in which he worships must, in many cases, be guarded by the strong arm of the people, the priest must be conducted to and defended at the altar, whilst the graves of the dead must be nightly guarded from the sacrilegious hand of the intolerant Orangemen. These are reflections which we could wish were pondered over by the enemies of Catholicity. But they will not. Blinded by a narrow bigotry, which prompts them to hate and insult that which they can neither understand nor appreciate, the Orangemen of Ulster are fast undermining the fabric of Protestantism which they pretend to support, and are doing much for the cause of Catholic Truth by directing the minds of the well-intentioned to the consideration of its effects amongst our people. We condemn error, but we do not denounce those who differ from us! we expose the vagaries of heresy without insulting those who follow them; and this is the difference between us and the sectaries, that, whilst we warn them of the truth, they persecute us with the utmost rigor for its teachings.

THE MONAGHAN ELECTION.—Mr. John Madden, of Hilton Park, has opened the ball by exhuming a recent resolution of the County Monaghan Grand Jury. As it is very important I give you the document fully. It appears that Mr. Madden will not stand, but he will give his support to Mr. Leslie.

"We, the High Sheriff, Foreman, and Grand Jury of county Monaghan, assembled Lent Assizes 1782, thinking it now peculiarly necessary to declare our sentiments respecting the fundamental and undoubted rights of this nation, we do unanimously declare that we will in every situation in life, and with all the means in our power, assert and maintain the constitutional rights of this kingdom, to be governed by such laws only as are enacted by the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland; and that we will in every instance uniformly and strenuously oppose the execution of any statutes except such as derive authority from said Parliament, pledging ourselves to our country; and to each other, to support with our lives and fortunes this our solemn declaration; and, further, we bind ourselves that we will yearly renew this necessary vindication of our rights, until such time as they shall be explicitly acknowledged and firmly established.

THOMAS CORY, Sheriff.  
SAMUEL MADDEN, Foreman and Fellows."

The above is a true copy of the resolution of the Monaghan Grand Jury of 1782, taken from Vol. 2 of "Historic Memoirs of Ireland," by Sir Jonah Barrington. Thomas Cory, the Sheriff, was one of the Corrys of Rock-corry, and the Foreman was my grandfather, Samuel Madden, of Maddentown, now Hilton Park, in this county. To those who hold that the Grand Jury did not carry out their pledges, let me say I entirely deny it. The gentry and Grand Jurors of Monaghan, as a body, resisted the Union of 1800 to the last. Whose name appears in the list of members of the Irish Parliament as M.P. for Monaghan, and as voting against the Union and for Home Rule in 1799 and 1800? Charles Powell Leslie, of Glasslough, the grandfather of the present candidate for your suffrages, whose address is probably before you, and with that name appear a long list of names of men whose descendants are well known to us all—the Archdales, the Coles, the Hamiltons, and many others. These were the men who fought against the Union for Home Rule! Now, who sold the Irish nation in 1800? Whigs and Whiggery, and so-called "Liberals." Irishmen! they will be ready, I doubt not, to do so again as often as you give them the chance. The Conservatives, or Tories, on the contrary, opposed the Union as long as they were able, but when the Irish Parliament passed the Act of Union, they thought themselves bound by the decision of the country, and as long as the Union remained inviolate, in my opinion they did nothing but their duty. How loyal they have done I need not say. But now that the English Parliament has repealed a portion of the Act of Union, I for one solemnly repudiate the shreds that have been left behind.

JOHN MADDEN.  
Hilton Park, July 3rd, 1871.  
—*Irish Times Cor.*

THE DUBLIN CORPORATION AND HOME RULE.—The more ardent spirits among the advocates of Home Rule have complained bitterly of the reserve maintained on the subject by the Corporation of Dublin. While from every part of the country adhesions innumerable are being sent in to the principle of Legislative Independence, the greatest representative body in Ireland—the fathers of our ancient city—have, they say, made no sign. We confess we cannot agree with those who are disposed to blame the Corporation for their silence. It well befitted a body so dignified and important to make no rash and ill-judged step in a matter of the first importance to their country. It well befitted them to watch in silent sympathy the growth of the movement, and to decline to utter their verdict till the agitation had assumed national proportions and paramount importance. The hour for silence has passed away; the hour for speech has come.—In a few days in the noble City Hall the assembled Corporation are to hear eloquent advocates plead before them the cause of Ireland's native Parliament. The occasion will be an historic one. Upon the scene look down the statues of men differing in all else but this—that they were passionately devoted to Ireland's legislative independence. The tribunal before which the case will be argued is one which has never swerved from its allegiance to the good old cause. In '82 the Corporation was on the side of Grattan and the Volunteers; in 1799 it raised its voice in solemn protest against the great political crime which robbed Ireland of her Parliament. In later years it has on many memorable occasions testified that its faith in Ireland is unchanged, and its walls have rung

with the cheers which greeted O'Connell's impassioned pleading for the restitution of lost liberties. For another reason, too, the occasion will be historic; At the bar of the house a distinguished orator will in impassioned tones advocate the cause of Home Rule. Nearly a generation back from the same lips, within the same building, was heard perhaps the weightiest speech ever delivered against the self-same cause to which he to-day adheres. But even then, through all the prejudice of party, through all the sophistry begotten of a bad cause, the young orator's love of country shone forth so conspicuously that O'Connell predicted in memorable words that the hour would come when Isaac Butt would be a Repealer. The hour has come; the prediction has been realized. Of the character of the decision which the Dublin Corporation will arrive at we entertain no doubt whatever. It will not stultify itself by abandoning in its hour of approaching triumph those principles to which it remained devoted when all appeared to be lost. And a solemn expression of opinion arrived at by such a body could not fail to have a most serious effect on the progress of the national cause.—The Corporation of Dublin are not a body of hot-headed enthusiasts, ready to grasp at a chimera, and to pursue a shadow. They are a steady, a matter of fact, if you will, a prosaic body. The vast majority of their body are deeply immersed in mercantile affairs, and any revolutionary disturbance would mean for business men simple ruin. It is, therefore, quite out of the question that such a body would give in its adherence to any movement of a character calculated to disturb the peace, or excite the country. Their support will be given to Home Rule simply because they see that self-government is absolutely necessary for the happiness, peace and prosperity of Ireland; and we doubt that England can much longer afford to remain indifferent to the weight of such declarations.—*Evening Telegraph.*

HOME RULE AND THE DROGHEDA CORPORATION.—The usual monthly meeting of the Drogheda Corporation was held on Monday last in the Assembly Room, Tholsel. The Right Worshipful John Kelly, Mayor, took the chair. Twelve other members of the Council attended. In the unavoidable absence of the Town Clerk, the minutes were read by Mr. John Moore, corporation treasurer. Town Councillor John J. Gormley moved, pursuant to notice, for the appointment of a committee of the whole board—five to be a quorum—for the purpose of presenting a petition to her Majesty the Queen and the Imperial Parliament, praying for the restoration of the Irish Parliament and home rule. Town Councillor Lawrence Moore seconded the motion with great pleasure, and expressed himself as being a warm supporter of the home rule movement (applause). His Worship the Mayor then put the motion, which was declared unanimously carried. Mr. Patrick O'Donagan, a veteran Repealer, having been called upon, next rose, and delivered an animated speech in favor of home rule and native legislation. He hoped that at the next general election by means of the ballot, eighty or ninety Repealers like John Mathu would be returned throughout the kingdom (cheers). The speaker concluded by moving a resolution thanking Town Councillor Gormley for having brought the national question before the Corporation of Drogheda with so much ability (renewed cheers). Mr. Richard Cooney, boot and shoe manufacturer, warmly seconded the motion. This resolution was also carried by acclamation. The proceedings terminated with loud cheers for the Mayor and the patriotic members who had attended.—*Correspondent of Dublin Freeman.*

MAJOR HORSFALL AND HIS PARTY TENANCY.—It is with very deep regret that we have been apprised of grave complications between Major Horsfall and his tenantry of Toomrakahy. There are several causes of dispute: war or bog money, trespass, on the mountain, impounding; in fact, causes not dissimilar to those which rendered the relations between the late Lord Plunket and his tenantry so fearfully notorious—all except proselytism, which we know the gallant Major would not countenance for a moment.—*Major Examiner.*

MONAGHAN, July 11th.—There is considerable excitement here in reference to the coming election. Mr. McMahon, of the North-east Bar, who has been put forward by the Government, has issued an address in which he says:—"The legislation of the past few years, while tending to remove the dissension and discontent of the people, and to draw together all classes of society in Ireland, requires further development. The Land Act was a large and generous gift to the tenantry of Ireland, but it is capable of great improvement. I shall use my best endeavors to make it perfect and complete. With reference to education, I hold that every class of my countrymen has a right to whatever sort of education they think best for their children. The state of the franchise in Ireland is not satisfactory, and I shall struggle to secure for our country the same privileges that have been granted to England, and, in addition, the Ballot. The Grand Jury Laws, under which the people are taxed for local purposes, are unjust and oppressive, and require immediate reform. Upon the question of Home Rule my opinions have been long since formed and frequently expressed. I believe that it would conduce largely to the prosperity of Ireland if the Parliament were called annually in Dublin for the despatch of Irish business, which would give the country all the advantages of domestic legislation and vastly increase her annual income."

The following letter has been addressed by Captain King-Harman to an elector of Monaghan:—"18, Albion Road, Scarborough.  
"My dear Sir—Permit me, in the first place, to thank you and your friends for the high honour you have done me in requesting me to stand for your county. Had there been nobody else in the field to oppose a supporter of the English Whig ministry, I should have been proud to have strained a point to endeavour to teach Gladstone another lesson, and to have attained the privilege of speaking up for Home Rule in the name of the electors of Monaghan. It would, however, have been a matter of great difficulty for me under any circumstance to have stood a contest, my financial resources having been taxed to the utmost by my struggles last year in Longford and Dublin. Indeed, I publicly stated in Westmeath and Dublin that nothing would induce me to stand again. Had it, however, been a case of a single-hand contest against a supporter of the Ministry and an opponent of Home Rule, I would, as I have above stated, have gladly strained a point and done my utmost; but now that you have got a candidate professing the principle, which alone should carry the vote and aspirations of every Irishman, I conceive I should be doing a serious injury to the cause if I gave the opposite side even a momentary chance of stating that there was a split in our cause.  
"I look upon the contest in your county as the most important event that has occurred for many long years, and I watch it with the greatest anxiety. If the English Whig be allowed, whether through supineness or through intestine divisions among our party, to succeed, the cause of Home Rule will be seriously damaged and thrown back; but if the