

## THE BATTLE OF GLENCOE.

### An Irish Soldier's Letter From the Seat of War

The "Kilkenny Journal" publishes the following well-written and particularly interesting letter from the seat of war in South Africa, sent some by one of the Irish Fusiliers to his mother in Kilkenny:

"Wynberg, Capetown, November 15, 1899.

"Dearest Mother— I will try and give you an account of all that I went through since I left Egypt. We sailed from Alexandria on the 24th of September and called into Port Said, Sueztown, and Aden, and after a splendid voyage of eight days we landed at Port Natal on the 12th of October, about 9.30 a.m. We disembarked, and about 3 p.m. we embarked on what a train!—for Ladysmith. The carriages were in two open coal trucks with seats in them, each carriage to hold thirty-six men. We got a splendid feed of bread from the people, women throwing bread and fruit into the carriages. All went well for about an hour, when rain started to come down with a vengeance. On we went till eight o'clock, when we stopped at a place called Pietermaritzburg, a large town. Here we got bread, butter, and tea from the ladies, and a blanket each. From thence we went to Ladysmith after having been in the train for fifteen hours in heavy rain and wet through and through. From Ladysmith we marched to camp, about four miles, and got a good breakfast, which we badly wanted. We remained in Ladysmith for two days and started for Dundee, by train, and arrived there on the 15th of October. It was here I met Jim Franklin, as the Dublin Fusiliers were stationed here, together with two more regiments. For the first couple of days we had not much to do, only watch for the Boers. Well, on Friday morning we got up at 4 p.m., and were not expecting any attack, but about 5.30 we were surprised to hear a loud report, and a shell burst in the midst of the camp, quickly followed by three more. The greatest excitement prevailed, everyone rushed for his rifle, and in about two minutes we were all formed up ready for action. The Boers were in a splendid position on a hill about two miles from our camp, so our artillery opened fire on them while we advanced towards the hill. We had to cross an open plain for about a mile, but the Boers kept shelling the camp until we got within a mile of them, when they started with their rifles. We managed to get to the foot of the hill, but the worst was before us—we had to get to the top. The rain began to come down, and there was a thick mist on the top of the hill, which was over a mile high. We could hardly see the top, but after eight hours' fighting we took the hill. The Boers were between six and seven thousand strong, and we only four thousand. We killed over six hundred Boers, and took a lot of prisoners. I don't know how many we lost on our side. In my regiment we had two officers and fourteen men killed, and thirty-five wounded. I had some narrow escapes. My rifle and helmet got pierced with bullets. We were proud of our victory, but felt lonely for the chaps that got killed on Talana Hill, Glencoe.

"This country is all mountains and rocks. It is behind the rocks we have to fight, the same as the Boers. On the next day we had to leave camp, as the Boers were advancing on us from different directions, about 17,000 strong. They began to shell our camp about three o'clock. The next day they did the same, trying to drive us from the hills, but we hung on till Sunday, when we started to retire to Ladysmith, as the Boers were too strong for us. About 11 o'clock at night we passed within a quarter of a mile of the Boers safely, and without their knowing it. It was a terrible march, raining

and very dark, in so much that we had to hold one another's hands to keep together, but, thank God, after marching night and day from 9 o'clock a.m. on Sunday until Thursday night, 10 hours 30 minutes, with only a couple of hours' rest at a time, we were glad to get back once more. We had nothing only the clothes on our backs, as we had to leave everything behind, even our big coats and blankets. We got a couple of days rest after, until the 29th, when we started about 11 o'clock to take up a position about eight miles from here (Ladysmith). As we went well within a mile of the position, as we were climbing a very steep hill a couple of large rocks came rolling down on us together with some firing. The ladies in front, carrying the ammunition and six guns, took fright and broke away, running over the country. We fixed bayonets and waited for half an hour. Again we proceeded and found ourselves on a hill, about a mile away. Here we began to work to try and make shelter for ourselves, and about 8 o'clock the battle opened by a few shots at intervals. We had not a big gun of any description to assist us, all had gone with the mules. We were all laughing and jingling, thinking it would not last long, but about 9 o'clock the Boers got reinforced, and every one soon changed his tune as groans began to be heard. The Gloucestershire regiment was with us. About 12 o'clock I got wounded in the left shoulder. I thought I was no more; but anyhow the Boers kept advancing and as our ammunition was run out the Captain of the Gloucestershire Regiment surrendered at 1.30 p.m., and we had all to give in as we could do no more. We were completely surrounded by the Boers, who were 15,000 strong, while we had only 1,000—six companies of the Fusiliers and five of the Gloucestershires.

"The Boers cared us well, carried all the wounded under a tree and gave us water to drink. It was a Boer doctor that dressed my wound. They sent word to our general about us, took all the rest prisoners and marched them on to Pretoria. We had to remain on the hill all night, as the ambulance did not come until morning when we were carried to Ladysmith. We had about 60 killed and 150 wounded. The bullet passed through and through my shoulder. No bones were broken, but I feel it still a bit stiff. We were sent from Ladysmith to Pietermaritzburg, and two days after were conveyed here by steamer from Durban, which is three days' sail from Cape town. Wynberg, which is about seven miles from Cape town, is a beautiful place. We got everything we want as the ladies are constantly sending us tobacco, cigarettes, etc. I fear I will not be able to take part in any more fighting. Don't fret about me as I could be worse off. We expect this war to be over about Christmas, and then home, but the Boers say they will beat us. One of the Boers that was wounded at Dundee turned out to be a Catholic man. I was speaking to him, and he said he was fighting for independence. I hope I won't fret you, as there is no pain from my wound whatsoever, thank God. I don't know how I escaped so well. I am sure I must have some of my prayers, especially yours. You can tell all friends that I am in the best of spirits, and that I hope to be home shortly. We are not downhearted after our defeat. I hope I have not worried you with this long letter, but it is all truth. I will now say good-bye, but not forever, by sending you my best wishes and love.—I remain, your loving son, until death."

"MICHAEL."

er throughout the chief places of the state. "The Angel Gabriel," who was an illiterate Scotchman, was going about tooting his trumpet as a prelude to the delivery of a vile anti-Catholic harangue; and "Ned Buntline," whose real name was Judson, had his office in the heart of the city, whence he emerged occasionally to carry the American flag in procession through the streets in the hope that some would insult it. "The Angel Gabriel" endeavored to incite his hearers to attack some suburban churches—out Lynn and Chelsea way—but the resident priests, with their people were on the watch for this mob and himself; and after a while the fellow became such a nuisance and a menace that his followers deserted him, and the city authorities gave him a hint that he would do well to betake himself elsewhere, which he did, going, I believe down to the West Indies, where he died "unwept, unburied and unsung" years ago.

"The disarming of an Irish-American company was the most offensive act, perhaps, of Governor Gardner's administration, though every petty persecution that malice or bigotry could invent, was leveled against the Catholics of Massachusetts during his term of office. There were men then hard and glove with the Know Nothings who afterwards avowed their shame at the thought of their connection with the bigots. Hy. Wilson, who became vice president of the United States—and lived in Massachusetts then—Nathaniel P. Banks, afterwards general in the civil war and governor of the Bay State—and several others, were, in 1854-5, all tainted with Know Nothingism. Wilson afterwards declared that he would give almost

anything he possessed, health, reputation, position, could he fling out from his career the shameful record of those years; and Governor Banks hung his head in very shame when reminded of his 'native-Americanism.' Singularly enough too, it was those two men who were destined to drive Gardner and the Know Nothings out of place and power in Massachusetts. The Republican party put its first gubernatorial candidate in the field there in 1855, when it nominated Rockwell, who was beaten by Gardner."

"The next year was a presidential one. Gardner went to the national convention at Philadelphia, and dickered with the Republicans so that they supported him for governor for a third term. In 1857 he tried for a fourth term, secured the nomination of the Know Nothings, but was beaten by N. P. Banks, who polled in round figures, 60,000 votes to Gardner's 37,000; and the man also who contributed perhaps more than any other individual to the success of Banks who was a coalition candidate was Henry Wilson. Gardner and the Know Nothings never recovered from the defeat which they sustained at the hands of Wilson and Banks. They lingered, it is true, like poison in the blood, to beget the A. P. Aism of later years; but as a political force in the state they disappeared forty years ago. Gardner, whose name, like that of the odious 'smelling committee' appointed by one of his legislators to invade Catholic institutions, has ever since been an offence in the public nostrils, went to New York, to seek oblivion in the greatness of Gotham; and it is only a few years ago that he died there."

## OUR YOUNG MEN AND PUBLIC LIFE.

Not once, but a hundred times, has the "True Witness" preached the training of our young men in the science and knowledge of our public affairs. It is known to all that the boys of to-day must be the men of a few years hence. Especially in the important civic issues, the great municipal questions, upon the solution of which so much depends for the future, should our young men be educated. They should be induced, even forced, if necessary, to take an active interest in all public matters. They are too prone to allow themselves to drift with the tide and leave to the older men, all the care, anxiety and activity incident to a proper attention to our collective interests. We have frequently said that we rejoice whenever we find, from some foreign source, a strong corroboration of our views and a support of our principles. In a recent number of the New York Evening Post, Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, has a lengthy contribution, deeply interesting in all its parts, on the subject of the "Irish-American City." Amongst other things that Mr. Harrison advances, we find a paragraph concerning the young men, and we reproduce it for the benefit of our readers, and, at the same time, as evidence that others think as we do on this subject. Mr. Harrison says:

"I have said it before and I wish to repeat it now, that it is a duty of every political party in this country to work actively for the education of the young men. The next hundred years, if it is not to witness the destruction of all democratic principles to which we are sworn, will witness the advent of the young man as a political factor—the young man who commences to get in public life as soon as he has attained his majority. Not that I would disparage the counsels of the elders; but it is the young man who is primed with hope, enthusiasm, first courage, the needs to-day but intelligence as to public affairs to be able to lead public opinion along safe lines. He is unsafe to-day because he is ignorant. "The time is near at hand when he will understand primary laws and attend primaries; when he will know the spirit of election laws and practice with his knowledge. He will have grasped the purpose of the Constitution and its amendments. He will have studied to effect all the vital questions relating to standing armies, a greater navy, the currency, the tariff, internal improvements, colonial policy, and, guided by reason, he will join his vim and dash to the wisdom and balance of the elders—and rule. When this comes about it will be impossible for combinations of corrupt men to last, let alone spring into existence. Corruption in public life fears nothing so much as the light of intelligence, and I may say that the public battles fought and won in Chicago during the last two years had their foundation of victory laid in the educational campaigns waged in their favor.

"Timidity in approaching public issues will cease when with intelligence the citizen realizes that thinking well is of little value so long as action does not take place with it. It is the man who thinks and then acts for the right that counts in public service. That man is growing more and more common each year. In a quarter of a century he and his fellows should be a majority in municipal affairs."

As further evidence of how serious this subject is being considered, in all sections of the American Republic, we will take an extract from an elaborate article on "The Rejuvenation of our Cities," by Clinton Rodgers' Woodruff, of New York, in referring to the awakening, in general, of the people, to the dangers of a certain lethargy on the part of young men, he says:

"For instance, along educational lines we find a growing realization that there should be some preparation during schooldays for the arduous duties of the citizenship of adult years; and further, greater efforts are making to protect the children from adverse influences. The George Junior Republic, the Gill School City, the increasing instruction in what has come to be known in these latter days as civics, are illustrations of the former class; the vacation school and the playground, of the latter.

"Mr. Wilson L. Gill, of New York City, President of the American Patriotic League of America, conceived the idea of teaching the duties of future American citizenship through the aid of a miniature municipality—hence the Gill School City. During the past winter, at the Hollingsworth Public School in Philadelphia, such a school was successfully conducted. The boys filled the various offices from policeman to Mayor. The following are some of the ordinances enacted by the Council:

"No profanity nor using bad words, no writing on the walls. "Cleanliness is to be observed when in the yard and in the schoolroom, and citizens must be clean. "No yelling, fire, playing or sitting on the fire escapes or in the sidewalk. No spitting, or throwing water or throwing snowballs. No slingshots. "No boy will be allowed to look in the jail windows. If he is seen doing so he will be arrested by the police. "The Mayor and his appointees serve one term. Policemen serve two weeks. "Can any one doubt the good effect of this early preliminary training in local self-government? If he does, Mr. Gill's experience will fully answer him. Of course, the present generation will not feel the full force and effect of this, but those to come will, and we must work for the future as well as for the present. "Without further comment—beyond referring those interested to our columns during the past few years—we leave this subject for the careful study of our young men."

**MORE FINNS COMING.**—A despatch from Chicago says: It was learned to-day that the Elder-Dempster Company, an emigration agency of Liverpool, Eng., had contracted to land 55,000 able-bodied Finns on American soil during the coming summer. The men are to be employed on the railroads of Canada and the United States, the managers of which now find it almost impossible to get men for construction and track repair work. Italians, Greeks and Hungarians are in plenty, but they

have not the physical hardihood to make them valuable during the spring and fall in the North and West or in the British provinces on railroad work. The influx is expected in March, and will continue at the rate of 10,000 a month till the last lot agreed upon by the Liverpool agency are landed. In order to avoid the Alien Contract Labor Law of the United States the entire lot will be brought in through Canadian ports, and across the United States border in such a way as appears most feasible at the moment.

## Notes of Irish News.

FROM OUR EXCHANGES.

**THE UNITY CONFERENCE.**—Mr. Edward Blake, M.P., has addressed the following letter to the chairman of the Committee in connection with the Unity Conference. He writes: "I have to-day received your letter of 20th inst., reminding me that I appeared in the Press reports of the Conference of 20th November. I was appointed to be one of a committee to consult, in the name of those represented at the Conference, on the question of Unity, with any persons that Mr. Redmond would appoint. You also tell me that you hope, very soon after Mr. Redmond's return, to send me particulars as to the time and place suggested for consultation."

"Permit me to remind you that as appeared in the Press reports of the (time) I had, months before the first Conference, declared that I entertained but faint hopes of the success of the Unity movement, through the efforts of Parliamentary leaders; and trusted mainly to the people."

"Nor did I believe that in the temper of those leaders, a small committee, consulting in private, would make the best of the faint chances of success."

"But I was convinced that if, after all, an attempt were to be made on those lines, it would be essential that Mr. Dillon, Mr. Redmond, and Mr. Healy, should be of the consultation."

"It was thus with great reluctance that at the first Conference I yielded objection to my nomination on such a committee. And so soon as Mr. Healy, notwithstanding the earnest requests of myself and others, declined to serve, I necessarily on that ground withdrew my provisional consent."

"May I further remind you that, as appeared in the Press, I stated, in July and again in October last, that, considering what had occurred, I had lost all hope of the accomplishment of Unity through the efforts of Parliamentary leaders; and that I now looked solely, as I had before looked mainly, to the union of the people for a solution."

"But I have never ceased to think that it would be quite absurd to attempt Parliamentary reunion through a committee of members, save with the co-operation of the three gentlemen I have named."

"These being my declared opinions, I would yet have attended the Unity conference in order to restate and apply them, but that I had every reason to believe that you were about to receive a communication, the nature of which would show the uselessness of such attendance."

"You speak of my acting 'in the name of those represented at the Conference.' But I must say that in the circumstances of the case, I do not feel that I could derive from those present authority to act in the name of those absent."

"You speak of a consultation with any persons that Mr. Redmond would appoint." This conveys no assurance of the inclusion of Mr. Redmond as a consultant. But, assuming Mr. Redmond's attendance, I observe in the Press a letter to you from Mr. Dillon, definitely declining to join in the consultation."

"You will gather from what I have said that, under existing conditions, I can see no probable advantage from the consultation, in which accordingly I am unable to participate."

**THE NEW MOVEMENT.**—At a recent special meeting of the Westford County Council, Sir Thomas Esmond, in answering some of the objections made to his recent proposal in regard to the new movement in connection with the County Councils, by which he expected to bring about unity, said:

"It was desirable to emphasize the point that the issue was raised on the initiative of the Navan District Council, which raised issues of considerable magnitude. It had been stated, gentlemen, that in moving in this matter, he had been guilty, of impudence or impudence towards the country. It had been stated further that he was acting in this matter as the cat's paw of Mr. T. M. Healy; and, finally, that he had moved in it with a view to leadership. In a civilized community, every man has a right in public matters to speak and act as he pleased, provided he acted in a rational manner, and provided he expressed his opinion in a gentlemanly fashion and without giving intentional offence to those who disagreed with him. He had therefore yet to learn that there was anything impudent or impertinent in his claiming and acting upon the elementary right of a citizen in moving in a question such as this, in which he took a deep concern. In view of his undertaking, the other day at the general council of the Irish County Councils he felt himself bound in honor to move in this matter at the earliest opportunity. He had never acted as the cat's paw of Mr. Healy or of anybody else in any matter. In this question, nor inquired as to his views. Whatever information Mr. Healy had upon it he might share it with the public at large. Directly or indirectly, he had no communication with Mr. Healy in this matter, nor Mr. Healy with him. With reference to the charge that he was aiming at leadership, the idea of becoming leader he had never entertained, and he was not disposed to entertain it."

ambition in the domain of politics, and that was to see an Irish Parliament established.

Sir Thomas Esmond moved the following resolution which was carried:

"That we appoint a delegation of four members of this council to meet in Dublin a similar delegation from each of the County Councils and County Borough Councils of Ireland, with the view to the formation of a National Assembly, whose duties it shall be to formulate the policy of the Nationalists of Ireland, the conduct of Parliamentary elections, and the consideration of such other political questions affecting the National welfare of the County Councils, Urban Councils, and District Councils shall direct by resolution from time to time. That we respectfully invite the assistance and representation of our clergy in this National Assembly, leaving the form of their representation to their own decision. That we invite the Nationalist members of these County Councils, District and Urban Councils, where the Nationalists are in the minority, to send a delegation similar to that of the other County Councils and Urban and District Councils throughout the country, to send each a delegation of two of their members to the said assembly. And that copies of this resolution be sent to the Bishop of each diocese and to the chairman of each County Council, District and Urban Council in Ireland."

**IRISH CATHOLIC CLAIMS.**—An important pastoral letter from His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, was read on Sunday, two weeks ago, in all the Catholic churches. His Grace says: "Within the past hundred years the troubles of Ireland, and more especially the calamities of Ireland, who, for hundreds of years have been sorely tried in all their temporal affairs. Our country has been visited by famine and pestilence; its people have been more than decimated. They had to endure many evils that can be directly traced to the misgovernment of their country by unsystematic rulers, and to the operation of a code of laws, the gradual amendment of which in their interest is a plain confession by their rulers of how sadly that amendment was needed. They have suffered too from the more saddening and, in a sense, more disastrous evils that have been bred amongst them by that spirit of discord which would seem to be a fatal inheritance of our race. Much, no doubt, has been done for the alleviation, if not for the removal, of many of those evils; the redress of which it is competent for legislation to effect. But we still have good ground to complain of the neglect with which many of our claims—for instance in equality to the matter of Catholic education—are treated, moderate and reasonable though these claims unquestionably are, moderate and reasonable as they have ever and over again been recognized to be by public men foremost amongst the leading statesmen of the two great parties in the State."

**STIRRING SCENES AGAIN.**—A special meeting of the Sligo Borough Branch of the United Irish League was held in the Town Hall recently. The sole announcement of the meeting was that conveyed in a paragraph in Wednesday's issue of the "Champion." As the members of the League were quietly weaving their way to the Town Hall, they were rather surprised to see about forty policemen drawn up before the entrance, while inside were County-Inspector Jones, District-Inspector O'Don, and a body-guard of policemen. The meeting was announced to take place at eight o'clock, but the president of the Branch, Mr. P. A. McHugh, M.P., who was attending the Leave-day Exhibition at the hotel, did not arrive until some time after the hour named. On his arrival at the Town Hall, Mr. McHugh, was approached by the County-Inspector, who said, "I understand you are about to hold a meeting of the United Irish League."

Mr. McHugh—We are County Inspector—Have you any objection to our entering? Mr. McHugh—Certainly, you are not a member, and I know of no reason why you should intrude. County Inspector—Do I understand then that you object to our entering? Mr. McHugh—Certainly; and while I have no intention to resist your entrance, I must consider it an unwarrantable intrusion. County Inspector—Well, I shall enter in any case. The County and District Inspectors then stood inside the door, and with them were two police reporters.

There was a large number of members present, amongst whom were—Alderman McHugh, M.P., president; Alderman Costello, Alderman McFarlick; Messrs. M. Minnow, T. C. D. McLynn, C. C. T. Killeather, T. C. J. McDermott, J. Jinks, T. Hanney, T. C. M. Keighron, P. L. G. F. Gallagher, P. Kerins, J. Mulligan, J. Banks, T. Flanagan, T. C. J. Mulligan, J. Dunleavy, M. Collins, senior, M. Collins, junior, M. Flynn, Mr. Bray, J. Loughlin, John Deacy, John Curran, J. Costello, P. Hanney, J. Tierney, T. Kelly, etc.

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## KNOW-NOTHINGISM.

It is possible that many Catholics in this country and especially of the present generation, have scarcely ever heard of the Know Nothingism that flourished for about a quarter of a century in the New England States. We know a good deal about A. P. Aism; but the parent of the monster of intolerance was Know Nothingism. Dr. William D. Kelly has an admirable letter, giving the history of the Know Nothingism movement, which appears in the "Catholic Citizen." After tracing the spirit of the organization back to the colonial times, when the persecution of Catholics was an understood thing, he says:

"As a political party, the Know Nothings may be said to have attained their greatest strength and influence in 1854, when Henry J. Gardner took his seat on Beacon Hill as the first governor chosen by the men who openly avowed their purpose."

how severely persecuted have been the Catholics of the United States. He tells us that twenty years before 1854:

"A Know Nothing mob, on the night of August 11, 1834, sacked and burned the Ursuline convent on Mt. Benedict, in Charlestown, then a separate town from Boston. The story of that infamous deed, for which Massachusetts must always hang her head in shame, is so well known that it need not be retold. I may, however, be stated here that everyone of the chief actors in the affair, with perhaps a single exception, died shamefully soon after its occurrence."

Then comes an account of the late T. D. McGee's fight with the Know Nothings when he was editor of "The Pilot," and called them "cowards and the sons of cowards." The remaining paragraphs of the letter are so interesting that we give them in full. Mr. Kelly says:

"Forward another ten years, and we have Gov. Gardner on Beacon Hill, and the Know Nothings in power."