

FAMED HILL OF TARA.

IT WAS HELD SACRED BY IRELAND'S ANCIENT NATIONS.

Here Assembled the Kings, Druids and Bards of Erin—To Draw a Weapon In Anger Was Punished by Death—How the King of Tara Came to Be High King.

Standish O'Grady contributes the following interesting article on the famous hill of Tara to the Dublin Express:

In the dim twilight of the beginning of Irish history one of the first things that we see clearly is the green hill of Tara, crowned with many buildings of wicker-work or jointed timber, with brightly painted, gleaming walls under their thatch of straw or rushes, and one of the first things that we understand is the peculiar and great meaning of that classic hill beside the darkly flowing waters of the Boyne. From of old it was a sacred hill endeared to the wild and warlike nations of Ireland by very ancient and sacred associations, the key to which it is now difficult to find. Famous kings and warriors, bards and druids were buried there, although it was not one of the great cemeteries; famous women, too—among them Tea, wife of great Heremon, son of Melesius.

Here, no doubt, were temples of the gods. Here on May day were kindled the sacred fires from which all hearts were lit. Here were great halls, as splendid with colored drapery, bright bronze and pillars of carved red yew as men could make them—halls in which the kings of Tara feasted their subkings. Thronged assemblies of all the notables were held here, rude parliaments of the kings and their free born kinsmen, and of bards, historians, harpers and druids. Every autumn as Halloween came round a vast fair was held here for many diverse purposes—for the making of new laws and the correction of old, the recitation of poems, for barter and exchange, too, and also for games, horse races, chariot races, foot races and many forms of contest, while the atmosphere of religion hallowed all the place. To draw a weapon in anger here was death. No fine or eric was accepted for that wrong.

By degrees the king of Tara came to be regarded as the high king of Ireland, the king over all others, and then the notion began to prevail that all other kings should not only respect but obey the lord of the sacred hill. No one was regarded as high king who was not king of Tara, and whoever was king of Tara was regarded as high king of Ireland. The little wars became great wars, and the great wars revolved round Tara. In the reign of Conn of the Hundred Battles, of his son, Art the Solitary, and of his grandson, Cormac the Magnificent, these notions grew and prevailed in the minds of the people.

Tara made another great step forward when, in the reign of Cromac's son, the powerful and warlike fraternity of the Fians were challenged, conquered and exterminated by the king of Tara. In the great battle of Gabra, Cormac's son, Cairbre of the Liffey, overthrew the Fians utterly. Not long afterward Tara gained again by the overthrow of the Red Branch and the consequent burning and desolation of its northern rival, Emain Macha. Finally, when Nial and Dathi and other kings of Tara were leading forth the warlike youth of Ireland for the conquest and plunder of the Roman empire, the fact that they held such high military commands, often for a long time, caused the kings of the sacred mount to become more and more powerful at home.

Finally, when the Christian revolution broke the power of the druids, the immediate effect was to release the kings of Ireland—that is to say, the kings of Tara—from a rival authority, which must have greatly shackled and hampered them as rulers of men. In Tara the Ard Ri ruled now without the Ard droid. So, not long after the Christian revolution we perceive in Ireland a certain condition of things which proves that the high king had become very powerful indeed, and that Ireland was fast growing to be a nation.

In primitive countries, divided among many small nations and their kings, in which there was much war, all wrongs and crimes could be atoned for by payments. The injurer secured pardon and peace by paying to the injured person gold or slaves or rich garments, cattle or

weapons, or, as in the days of Homer and his heroes, even brazen pots—tripods, as Homer poetically calls them. During the stormy time of the heptarchy, when the wise and valiant Saxons, little suspecting that that would be the issue of their fightings, were engaged in the creation of their own monarchy, but had not yet succeeded, the same laws or customs prevailed in Saxon land. It was not a foolish usage at all, but a very wise one. It prevented blood feuds, prevented families and tribes from exterminating each other by pursuing private vengeance to the bitter end. Now, a real king governing a whole people would not suffer such atonement to be made for crime. He would not consider a murder justly atoned for by the payment of cows or swords. As supreme king he would regard all crimes as an insult and wrong to himself and to the majesty of his office.

All over Europe, when the kings of the nations came up, ascending grandly in their strength and glory and power, out of the storms and tempests of the fratricidal wars, they put down the system of the eric, or wehr-geld, as the Saxons called it, and themselves sternly punished transgressors. But kings had to be very strong indeed before they could do this. Now, in Ireland, after the Christian revolution and before the Comarbs of the monasteries became powerful, while they were yet true solitaries, we find crime, no matter where committed, punished by the king of Ireland, and those private atonements of crime by the payment of cattle and precious things put down. Crime, as an offense against the king's peace and against the king's majesty, was punished by him and could not be atoned for otherwise without his distinct permission.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Archbishop Catalbianca, of Milan, Italy, is dead.

Rev. Thomas O'Gorman has been elected dean of the Catholic University at Washington, D.C.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Ireland expended £12,725 in relieving 69,900 poor during the past year.

Cardinal Carlo Laurenzi is dead. He was born at Perugia on Jan. 12, 1821, and was created a cardinal on Dec. 13, 1880.

Four of the professors at St. Bernard's Ecclesiastical Seminary of the Diocese of Rochester, N. Y., are former pupils of Mgr. Satolli, the Apostolic Delegate.

The rapid growth of Catholicity in Washington, D.C., is practically illustrated by the number of churches already erected and those in contemplation.

Rev. Brother Abban, the newly-appointed visitor of the Brothers of the Christian schools, is making his first round through the houses of his province in India.

The Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris ordered a Te Deum to be sung on Sunday in all the churches of his diocese in honor of the Russo-French demonstrations of friendship.

The report of Secretary Legier, of the Milwaukee Public School Board, shows that nearly 13,000 children are being educated in the Catholic parochial schools of that city.

The learned Jesuit, Father Pierling, is engaged in making researches amongst the Vatican archives. The reverend gentleman is an authority on Russian religious and historical questions.

Pope Leo is about to issue an encyclical to the bishops of Sicily, appealing to the capitalists to respond to the just claims of the peasants and exhorting the latter to abstain from all lawlessness.

The Holy Father's interests in and commendation of good Catholic journalism were again recently manifested by his conferring the cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great on Mr. Leonz Niderberger, of Munchon-Glodbach, editor of two Catholic papers in Germany.

There is a Catholic hospital in Berlin, the Hospital of St. Hedwige, which is served by the Sisters of Charity. Its report for 1892, just issued, shows that during last year 5,640 persons were admitted to the hospital. The majority of these were non-Catholics, the exact number being 2,248 Catholics, 3,311 Protestants and 59 Jews.

The Carmelite Fathers recently celebrated the centenary of the establishment of their order in Dublin, whither

they fled from the terrible storm of 1793, which wrought such horror in France, but which proved in one sense a blessing to religion inasmuch as it has gained and strengthened through this order many souls in these islands.

Bishop O'Farrell has suggested that a tablet be made and inserted in the wall of St. Mary's Rectory, Trenton, to commemorate the fact that "Colonel Rall, the British commander, died in the house which stood on the spot December 27, 1776." A portion of the foundation wall of the old building still remains. Vicar-General McFaul will endeavor to appropriately execute the desire of the Bishop at an early date.

A general chapter of the Redemptorist Order has been called to meet in Rome on February 24, 1894. The delegation from the United States will be the Rev. Elias F. Schaner, the Rev. Joseph Henning, Annapolis, Md.; the Very Rev. Provincial F. A. Litz, *ex officio* for the Eastern province; the Rev. Thomas Brown, of St. Louis; the Very Rev. J. Kaucher, of Chicago, and the Very Rev. Provincial Schwartz, *ex officio* of the Western Province.

IRISH NEWS.

George Bull has been appointed Resident Magistrate for County Roscommon.

President Cleveland has appointed Newton B. Ashly, of Iowa, United States Consul of Dublin.

The renowned Polish pianist, Ignace Paderewski, is shortly to fulfil a professional engagement in Dublin.

Mrs. Ernest Hart's exhibit of canes carved in bog oak from Bantry received an award at the World's Fair.

Charles Browne, John McCrossen and Thomas McEhinney have been elected Poor Law Guardians of Strabane.

John Hannon, of Pitchfordstown, Kildare, has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for County Kildare.

T. J. Burke, of Sligo, has received the appointment of principal of the Fairmount (County Roscommon) National School.

Dr. Anthony Roche has been elected a representative governor of the Catholic University Medical School, Dublin, for three years.

Mr. O'Dell, the efficient station-master at Hollymount, has been transferred on promotion to the station of Castletown, near Mullingar.

The successful candidates in the Poor Law elections at Cookstown were W. H. Lewis, J. D. Anderson, William Smith and John Hanna.

The late Marshal MacMahon, of France, was the vice-president of the Dublin Society for the Preservation of the Irish language.

Barbour & Coombs, of Belfast, received an award at the World's Fair for their exhibition of manufactured flax, sisal, jute, raice and hemp.

Robert H. Doherty, David Connolly, Thomas Caulfield and Francis Keenan, Nationalists, have been elected Town Commissioners of Warrenpoint.

A man was found dead about a mile from Cloues on the Belfast line, on Oct. 27. He was John Wiggins, of the servant boy class and was about twenty-seven years of age.

Typhoid fever has been prevalent in Ennis for some time. It appears to be attributable to the drinking of bad well water, and to the unsanitary condition of portions of the town.

Stephen Matthews, Nationalist, Henry Freud, Dr. C. B. Stoney and H. M. Davis, Unionist, Patrick Cleary, Mark Quigley and Dr. Golden, neutrals, have been elected Town Commissioners of Birr.

James Mahony, Thomas Comerford and Daniel Meagher, Nationalist, have been re-elected Town Commissioners of Templemore, as was Jerome Cussen, Redmondite; and Michael Treacy, Nationalist, was elected.

Patrick Cuiquin, chairman of the Town Commissioners of Tuam, and Patrick Lyons, Nationalist, M. U. Shine and T. H. Egan, Redmondites, have been re-

-elected members of that body; and F. J. MacCormack, Nationalist, has been elected a member.

The Skibbereen Young Men's Society has chosen these officers: The Rev. M. Cunningham, Adm., president; Timothy O'Donovan, clerk of the Skibbereen Union, vice-president; J. Wholey, treasurer; D. O'Donovan and M. J. Hayes, secretaries. The four last-named were re-elected.

J. J. Dalton, who was admitted to the Dublin Bar in 1888, has been admitted to practise at the Bar of New South Wales. Mr. Dalton, who sat for a considerable period as one of the Members in the House of Commons, is understood to have given up politics.

John McCann, of Beamount Mills, Drogheda, has obtained a medal and diploma at the World's Fair, for his XX. oatmeal. This enterprising firm also received awards at the great exhibition in Hyde Park, London, 1851; at Dublin in 1853, at Philadelphia in 1876, and at Cork in 1883.

At the Boyle Quarter Sessions, on Oct. 23, the County Court Judge, O'Connor Morris, said he had pleasure in informing the grand jury that there was no business to go before them, which duty, he was happy to say, he had to perform the third or fourth time within the past two years.

Two novices received the black veil at the Convent of Mercy, Abbeyfeale, namely: Miss Hannah Connolly (in religion Sister Mary Alphonsus), daughter of Thomas Connolly, of Bohergeela, Bruff, and Miss Margaret Ryan (Sister Mary Angela), daughter of James Ryan, of Galbally, Tipperary.

Miss Mary Cussen, daughter of Edward Cussen, of Rock Abbey, Askeaten, received the white veil at the Presentation Convent, Limerick. She will be known in religion as Sister Mary Baptist. Sister Mary Cecilia made her solemn profession. She is known in the world as Miss Agnes Herbert, and is the youngest daughter of Peter Hebert, F.O.

At the Armagh Quarter Sessions before W. C. Kirby, County Court Judge, on Oct. 21, there were forty ejectments brought on the estates of these landlords: Henry Bruce Armsring, Anna Lucy, Countess of Charlemont, Rev. Richard J. Huston, Henry Verner, Maxwell O. Close, Elizabeth C. Montray, Francis Robert Cope, Dorothea Braithwaite and Col. Robert Simpson.

The Quarter Sessions for Galway City opened on Oct. 24 before the Recorder, T. Rice Henn, Q.C. He announced that he was glad to be able to inform the grand and petty jurors that there was not a single criminal case on the calendar. It spoke well for the orderly and peaceable condition of the city. He had, therefore, pleasure in releasing the jurors from further attendance.

Irish muscle proved victorious in the international tug-of-war contest at Glasgow on Oct. 21. The Dublin police team achieved another victory over the Glasgow men, whom they had previously beaten in Dublin, and won the final ties of the championship. The Dublin Metropolitan Police team was a representative one. The best Irish counties contributed of their pluck, endurance and strength to it.

Persons writing love poems will please make a note that "stupid" is the only word in the English language which rhymes with "Cupid."

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