

26, 1905.

NOTICE

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Coats.

accumulate. Among new garments in they occupy. This coats—the most far this season.

Coats

\$6.85

AND MISSES' effect, pleated Collar, cuffs and d to Half \$6.85

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S in this group. Over Cloth, in a others elegantly irtly cut and of to \$9.00.

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Reduced Prices

the year's sup- mens, Bed linens, d for their snowy

CASES

ollow Cases, hem- use, Regular ice, each, 11 1-2

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Bleached Sheet- ide, worth er yard, 16 1-2

LENGTHS

And, now, with Ireland's cry of dis- tress ringing in the ears of the civil- ized world, I will set down the con- ditions that surround those who are uttering the cry—conditions that have helped to make famine a possi- bility, conditions that embrace a de- gree of existence lower even than that of mere poverty.

It is a record that is a revelation of the true meaning of famine in a land where hunger gnaws at human vitals the year round.

My recent journey was one of a week through "darkest" Ireland—the poorest, unhappiest country in the whole world. As my trip through- out was far from the beaten paths, mostly in carts, I saw and heard those things which the tourists miss. The names of most of the places I visited are carefully kept out of the guide-books by the railroads, which depend for their right of way upon a parliament in London whose members simply will not visit Ireland and see for themselves the conditions there.

No investigator could be anything but horrified by the awful scenes I have witnessed—scenes of utmost po- verty and suffering, of oppression and desolation. Neither the people of Finland nor of Poland, under the Russian Government, are as sorely distressed as the Irish people in the places I have been—only a night's journey from the seat of government of these poor people's "enlightened" but blindfolded "conquerors."

Ireland is the only country on earth that shows a steady decrease of population all during the last half century. Ireland has two mil- lion less inhabitants to-day than it had fifty years ago. (Ireland has four million less inhabitants now than she had fifty years ago.—Ed.) Ire- land has half a million less inhabi- tants than it had ten years ago. Ire- land, as big as Maine or Indiana, had a population at one time equal to that of New York State; to-day this beautiful island has only as many people as Missouri. At the present rate of diminution of families in Ireland the island will be depopu- lated. The people who thus made these facts abandoned the isle of their birth, emigrated to other coun- tries. And the vast majority of these people and their offspring are in the United States of America. The result is that the biggest Irish city in the world is New York. That city has an Irish population exceeding that of the two biggest cities in Ire- land—Dublin and Belfast—taken to- gether, namely, 725,000. And the total number of Irish people in the United States—5,000,000—exceeds by 1,000,000 the total number of Irish people in all Ireland. And the reason for this I can only suggest, by telling exactly what happened while I was looking and listening in the land from which came the Irish in America.

The Irishmen themselves are not to blame for this condition. This is proven by the known fact that once they reach America they display re-

# The True Witness



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## IN "DARKEST" IRELAND.

(By Gilson Willets, Special Correspondent for Leslie's Weekly.)

The gaunt spectre of famine now stalks abroad in County Mayo and County Galway, and other counties in the West of Ireland, where I recently made a tour of investigation of conditions among the poor people of the tenant class. The potato crop this year proved a failure; the potatoes rotted in the ground and were not even worth digging up. Add starvation to the pitiable conditions of the wretched cotters—conditions described in this article—and the total of distress is appalling to contemplate. Even conservative Irish leaders like John Dillon, Michael Davitt, and John O'Donnell have made public statements declaring that the famine in Ireland is real, and that "without adequate and speedy relief there is nothing for my people but death."

In short, the past season was the worst the people of the counties men- tioned have known since the great plague year, 1879. The result is that unless the government provides immediate relief the mortality this winter will approximate that of the plague year.

And, now, with Ireland's cry of dis- tress ringing in the ears of the civil- ized world, I will set down the con- ditions that surround those who are uttering the cry—conditions that have helped to make famine a possi- bility, conditions that embrace a de- gree of existence lower even than that of mere poverty.

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No investigator could be anything but horrified by the awful scenes I have witnessed—scenes of utmost po- verty and suffering, of oppression and desolation. Neither the people of Finland nor of Poland, under the Russian Government, are as sorely distressed as the Irish people in the places I have been—only a night's journey from the seat of government of these poor people's "enlightened" but blindfolded "conquerors."

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There they stood in the pouring

rain, the children standing barefoot in the mud, all their household goods lying exposed like nobody's prop- erty, absolutely homeless and penniless. Friends they had among the assem- bled neighbors, but what can one expect from friends who are as des- perately in want as one's self?

I was driving along one day when I passed a lonely cabin. It was a curious cabin, in that over its thatched roof, at intervals, were straw ropes, at the end of each of which was attached a big stone. The driver told me that the stone weights were to hold the roof on during the winds of winter. "Sure, a rich man lives there."

I asked what he meant by "rich," and he replied:

"Sure, he has potatoes enough to keep himself and his family."

"But," said I, "do you mean to say that he lives entirely on pota- toes?"

"Right you are."

I bade him drive back to the "rich" man's house. I wanted to see for myself a family that subsisted en- tirely on potatoes. Only the women of the family were at home, and to them I said: "Have you a bit of bread, or salt fish, or food of some kind that I can buy?"

"Potatoes we have, sir, but that's all. Yer welcome to them—many as ye can eat, sir."

"How long since you have had any- thing but potatoes?"

"All summer, sir—ever since we ate the last wee bit of bacon left over from last winter's stores."

"But are there no fish in all these lakes?" I asked, pointing to two beautiful sheets of water that could be seen from where we stood.

"There do be many a meal o' fish there, sir, but the tinants do not be allowed to catch 'em. Sure, didn't me own man get in prison for fishin', and didn't he die there?"

County Donegal is in the extreme north of Ireland. Yet in this coun- ty, in the villages off the railways, I saw poverty as abject as that in the southern counties, where the con- ditions are supposed to be at the worst. In the middle of this county I noticed almost a total absence of cattle. "Why are there no cattle in the fields here?" I asked. "Because," was the reply, "every man in this part of the county who can afford cattle is behind with the 'king's rates.' The tenants know that their cattle would be seized by the 'king's men.' We all have to drive miles to Donegal station when milk is wanted for the babies."

In this supposedly prosperous coun- ty not only were the cabins just as wretched as those in the south, not only were some of them living en- tirely on potatoes, but, besides, I found here more almshouses and more poorhouses, these places having more inmates than in the south.

The largest building in all this part of Ireland was a workhouse. In this place I was told that the in- mates numbered, in winter, some- times fully a thousand, and that now there were six hundred inmates. Most of these six hundred inmates had no worse fault than that of extreme po- verty caused by paying so much for "crown taxes" that no money was left to pay their rent.

The master of this big workhouse invited me to visit one of the wards. We entered a long room where per- haps a hundred men and boys were sitting on rope cots that served as beds. They were all in rags. "At- tention!" shouted the master, and forthwith every man and boy rose to his feet and remained standing in humble silence while we passed down the line. I came to one able-bodied man, better dressed than his fel- lows. "Why are you here?" I asked him. "Sure, sir, the 'king's men' took me money for rates. I had not a silver bit left to pay me rent. Then the 'king's men' they came and kicked me out. Me wife and me lit- tle girl do be in the other ward, and here I be with my little b'y," point- ing to an urchin that stood near.

"But what do you expect to do now?"

"Sure, sir, I mane to get out o' this and git money to git to Amer- icky—for don't I hear that I can git there now for two pounds (ten dol- lars)?"

By the Standing Committee of the Archbishops and Bishops of Ire- land, the following resolutions have been unanimously adopted:

I.

RESOLVED: That in view of the insidious attempts now being made by the authorities of Trinity College and some of its Protestant support- ers to induce by pecuniary bribes the youth of our Catholic schools to en- ter that institution so often "con- demned by their priests, we feel it our urgent duty to warn our flocks against the danger of accepting these educational bribes.

The present attempt in no way differs from the attempts made by Trinity College for the past 300 years to wean away the Catholic youth of Ireland from their allegi- ance to their faith and their coun- try. It is, in spirit, an offering of pecuniary bribes, in no way differing from those so often offered to Cath- olic boys to induce them to frequent proselytising schools in the West of Ireland and elsewhere.

Trinity College, unsectarian in theory, is Protestant in its govern- ment, its teaching, and its atmos- phere. Numbers of its most dis- tinguished men have recently boast- ed that the College is Protestant, and hope it will always remain so. It is no place for loyal Catholics. They cannot frequent its halls with- out the gravest danger of detriment to their faith, which is their highest blessing and greatest treasure.

As their pastors, we call upon them in the most earnest manner to spurn this new bribe, as their fathers spurned similar bribes in the past. No true Irish Catholic will accept the proffered scholarships, and those who may be weak enough to do so may rest assured that their fellow- countrymen will never forget their recreancy in this crisis of our struggle for educational equality.

In vain have the Bishops appealed year after year to the government to do justice to the Catholics of Ireland in the matter of University education. In vain have Ministers responsible at various times for Irish administra- tion acknowledged the reasonableness of the Catholic claim. In vain have our members of Parliament, re- presenting alike the views of the laity and of the clergy, made an un- answerable case in the House of Commons for a University suited to the wants of the Irish people. At the dictation of an intolerant mi- nority, the Government has abdicated its functions, and nothing is to be done unless it pleases intolerance to say when, and where, and how.

In such circumstances it is our duty to tell our people, whose vital interests are at stake, that they are fully justified in taking up the ques- tion in a way that will teach intoler- ance a lesson it badly needs.

Trinity College and the Queen's Colleges are no places for the intel- lectually gifted youth of a race that, through all the centuries since we received the faith, has prized religion as its most precious inheritance. It is intolerable that these institutions should hold their endowments, as if to serve the Irish people, when the small sections of the population which they do serve, mercilessly bar out the bulk of the people from Uni- versity education in any form accept- able to the nation at large. A monopoly so oppressive is already doomed, once public opinion is en- lightened by a full discussion of the subject, and the eye of the na- tion fixed on the blighting influence of this degrading form of class priv- ilege.

The device of trying to allure dis- tinguished intermediate students of Catholic schools into Trinity College by Scholarship bribes is quite in- keeping with the history of that in- stitution from the start. But it will only help to build up the determina- tion of our people to have at long last, in a way that suits them, for higher education, their proper share of the income which Trinity College

draws from eighteen Irish counties without showing any high example in its dealings with its estates.

If there is an objection against a fresh grant to provide a University for Irish Catholics as restitution for the plunder of the past, or out of moneys drawn from Ireland in ruin- ous over-taxation, then the Irish Bishops, the Irish representatives, and the Irish people, are bound to take all legitimate means to secure that the endowments of Trinity Col- lege and the moneys annually voted to the Queen's Colleges are made available for University education in a way the nation will endorse. There is only one Irish nation; but if there were two or more, as has recently been suggested by a distinguished authority, the revenues of those in- stitutions can scarcely be said to go to the right one.

As the Government has shown that reason has no weight with them in the matter of educational justice—if the old ascendancy chooses to object, it only remains for the Irish people to say that this ascendancy must altogether cease.

The whole country should rally round our Parliamentary representa- tives, and give them the whole strength of the nation's support in their endeavor to secure ordinary civic rights for Irish Catholics in educational and other matters.

We request the clergy to read this statement in the churches on Sun- day, the 5th of February.

II.

RESOLVED: That it would be sin- gularly inadvisable from an educa- tional point of view to diminish the organizing staff for music, domestic economy, experimental science, and manual instruction, in connection with the system of Primary educa- tion in this country, at a time when everyone interested in Primary edu- cation is disposed to help in de- veloping those useful branches of it, and many managers have incurred no inconsiderable expenditure in provid- ing the necessary equipment for the work.

III.

RESOLVED: That until duly qual- ified persons have been secured in sufficient numbers for organizing and developing the practical side of Pri- mary education, and until money is forthcoming, as it ought to be with- out delay to provide adequate sala- ries for the teachers, it is premature to arrange for even a suitable grade of higher elementary education in the National Schools, above the Sixth Standard.

Michael Cardinal Logue,  
Chairman.

Richard Alphonsus, Bishop of Water- ford and Lismore.

Henry, Bishop of Down and Connor,  
Secretaries to the Meeting.

A RESOURCEFUL MILKMAN.

"You'll find," said the proprietor of a dairy to a new milkman who was taking over the "walk," "that the lady at 73 is inclined to find fault. You must soothe her down, and not be rude to her; she is a pretty good customer."

"Leave that to me, sir," answered the milkman.

"Those eggs you left here yester- day were stale," grumbled the wo- man at No. 73, on the milkman's second visit.

"Them hegge was laid 'alf an hour afore you 'ad 'em by special quick- layin' birds imported from the Mooly womme Island, ma'am, and they come down to this very 'ouse by Marconigraph, so as ye should get 'em fresh. A bit of twangy flavor they may 'ave, madam, but you can lay odds they won't stale."

The fault-finding lady gasped.

"The milk didn't seem so good as usual yesterday, either," she ventur- ed.

"The gov'nor will be cut hup when he 'ears tha' 'm," continued the milkman. "E sent down to Halder- ney a-purpos for a cow what'll eat nothing but peaches and pineapples. 'Never mind the heppense,' he says. 'This ere cow we keeps a-purpos for the lady at 73, and mind it sleeps on a feather-bed at nights,' 'e says, 'and don't forget the heiderdown quilt.' Was there anything wrong with the butter, ma'am?"

But the lady shook her head; she had been effectually appeased.—Lon- don Tit-Bits.

IRISH HIERARCHY AND TRINITY COLLEGE.

Protest Against the Educational Bribes of the Protestant Institution.

(Continued on Page 8.)

WON'T BANISH WOMEN SINGERS.

The Rev. Dr. Brann of St. Agnes' Explains the Pope's Letter on Church Music.

From the New York Sun, Jan 22.

A mixed choir will sing Palae- strina's Papae Marcelli Mass next Sunday at the thirty-second anniver- sary of the patron saint of St. Ag- nes's Church in East Forty-third street. Speaking of this, the rector, Rev. Dr. Henry A. Brann, said to a Sun reporter yesterday:

"The Pope never intended to ex- clude women from the organ loft, especially as we have it in this coun- try. If he did, all the little girls who are twelve years old and up- ward would be incapable of singing in the church services. According to canon law, a girl of twelve years is a woman and eligible for marriage and all the responsibilities attached thereto. The consequence of this interpretation of the Pope's letter on music would be the destruction of all the church choirs in the poorer churches, and especially in the coun- try districts, for such choirs are almost entirely made up of the young girls ranging from twelve to twenty."

"It is as important to know what may be sung as to know what should not be sung at high mass or vespers, according to the letter of Pius X. Much more latitude is given to the music which may be sung at low masses or at non-liturgical services when hymns in English are often sung.

"Sacred music is not an essential part, but only a complementary part of the solemn liturgy," says the Papal letter; and if we in this coun- try have been at times using impro- per church music, the fault lies at the door of our foreign brethren who have been importing to us the masses of Mercadante, Rossini and Verdi and the florid compositions of Capocci from Italy; the masses of Lambillotte, Selle, La Hache, Silas, Guilment, Dubois and Gounod from France; Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Von Weber and Schubert from Ger- many; Liszt from Hungary, Ponia- towski from Poland and scores of others, great and small, tolerated and sanctioned by priests, bishops and Popes across the Atlantic.

"Evidently Pius X. struck at the abuses near home first, for reform, like charity, begins at home. The letter has been misinterpreted by many who imagine that it condemns modern music. It does not. It con- demns the abuse of music. It con- demns only what every man of reli- gious sentiment must condemn. All that offends the decorum and the sanctity of the sacred functions and is thus unworthy of the house of prayer and of the majesty of God."

Asked if he was going to disband his mixed choir, Dr. Brann answer- ed: "Certainly not." He said fur- ther that everybody went off "half cocked" immediately on receipt of the Pope's letter and the central idea which dominated everyone was "get rid of the women."

"Now, many of the churches which did get rid of the women," said Dr. Brann, "are sorry for it."

Dr. Brann is one of the members of the committee appointed by Arch- bishop Farley to investigate the church music here.

A RECREATION-MAD GENERATION.

We live in a generation that has gone recreation mad. Outdoor sports and indoor sports fill up our leisure moments, in some cases all our moments. Athletics, golf, tennis, games of all manness, and lacking manners, rise, flourish and decay. The race horse, the bicycle and the automobile pursue each other across the stage of action. We play at being intellectual, we play at being religious, we play at being "tough," and all three are merged and included in being men and women "of the world." The instru- ment of an occasional hilarity has an unfortunate tendency to develop into the minister to a quenchless thirst.—Mrs. Martha Baker Dunt, in Atlantic.

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