

hoped, on the side of Erin's foes. Thus, from the very beginning there was disunion amongst those who should have been united, and thence arose many heartrending scenes of failure and bloodshed, the only things regrettable in the Irish Rebellion of '98.

It is not our intention, nor would it be in keeping with the space at our disposal, to go into the details of that terrible struggle. Whole volumes have been written about its failures and its successes, its sorrows and its joys. Notwithstanding this, the subject still seems unexhausted. Although the informer's treacherous tongue had deprived the movement of its boldest leaders just when they were most in need, still heroic stands against fearful odds were made in many places. The stalwart and determined men of Wexford, Wicklow, Kildare, Antrim, Down, and Mayo ably defended, for a time, the shamrock and crownless harp. In the end however, despite many a golden deed of heroism on the part of those who fought for faith and natal fireside, the combined and well armed British forces triumphed. Many of the most distinguished United Irishmen were captured, tried by court-martial, and executed; others, having escaped the vigilance of Government spies, ended their lives in exile. Other brave and generous hearts were cast into gloomy dungeons where the light of day was debarred an entrance, and where, in dismal tomb-like silence, they eked out for years the most trying of all earthly existances.

Although a detailed description of the insurrection cannot be attempted in our present paper, still there is a part of it which, as it has peculiarities of its own, demands something more than a mere cursory mention. We refer

to the gallant stand made by the heroic men of Wexford. This Wexford struggle was not at all controlled by the United Irishmen; hence it may justly be considered as a separate outbreak. It was simply the unanimous rush to arms of a frenzied and bleeding peasantry, when the swinish excesses of soldiery and yeomanry had passed the limits of all human endurance. The people of Wexford were peaceable, contented and law-abiding; moreover, very few of them had enlisted under the standard of the United Irishmen. Still, notwithstanding this absence of provocation on their part, they were made the victims of the grossest insult, injustice and cruelty. Their smiling fields were laid waste, the sanctity of their family circles was basely violated, their homes were levelled, their churches were destroyed. "Atrocities that sicken the heart in their contemplation," writes Mr. A. M. Sullivan, "filled with terror the homes of that peaceful and inoffensive people. The midnight skies were reddened with the flames of burning cottages, and the glens resounded with shrieks of agony, vengeance and despair. Homes desolated, female virtue made the victim of crimes that cannot be named, the gibbet and the triangle erected in every hamlet, and finally, the temples of God desecrated and given to the torch, left manhood in Wexford no choice but that which to its eternal honor it made." The undisciplined and poorly armed peasantry of Wexford taught tyranny and cruelty a lesson not to be soon forgotten. "Theirs was no treacherous assassination, theirs no stupid riot, theirs no pale mutiny." Here is how the Wexford insurrection started.

On Whitsunday, May 27th, 1798,