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VOL. XIII., No. 18

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1905

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

Some Irish-American Lore From John Hurley—The Washingtons Claimed to be of Irish Origin—Jefferson Wanted to Read Ossian's Poems in Gaelic—Irish Place Names in America and England—Henry Hudson, the Navigator, Claimed to Have Been Irish—The Jamestown Settlement—When Mr. Teefy's Father Came to this Province in 1824 He was Required to Take the Oath of Allegiance.

Mr. John Hurley, of Litchfield, Conn., is a great Irish scholar, who is making Irish-American history and achievement a special study and sometimes surprises me with his discoveries. One of his latest claims is that the Washington and Jefferson families, of Virginia, were of Irish origin. Another of his claims is that Virgil, the Latin poet, was an Irishman. He has recently sent me a bundle of correspondence, which I have condensed and incorporated here-with.

To sustain his claim with reference to the Washington family being of Irish origin, I copy the following extract from a late issue of the Dublin "Freeman's Journal":

"An Irish connecting link with the illustrious George Washington, the first President of the United States, has recently been severed by the death in Drumcondra, in this city, of Mrs. Ellen Kelly, at the age of seventy-five years. Mrs. Kelly's maternal grandfather, Thomas George Washington, who died in 1838, at the age of 105 years, had in his possession documents to prove his relationship with the 'Father of his Country.' These documents were sold to the British Museum in 1864 by Mr. Washington's son. It will be remembered that some time since, great doubts were cast as to General Washington's strict English descent in view of the large emigration that existed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries from Youghal, County Cork, and other places in Ireland wherein the name of Washington was well known. The death of Mrs. Ellen Kelly, a Washington on the maternal side, now seems to throw light on the claim."

With regard to Jefferson, it is a fact in American literary history that in McPherson's version of Ossian's Gaelic poems appeared in the eighteenth century, he wrote to Scotland for a copy of them; also for a Gaelic dictionary and grammar, in order to learn to read them in the original tongue, remarking that they contained many beautiful ideas that were more precious than diamonds. My authority for this is an American magazine of a few years back, I think the "Century."

Following are some of Mr. Hurley's contributions to my budget for this week:

I will take great pleasure in writing genealogical or early history in this country for the "Register." This branch of Irish-American literary endeavor has been altogether neglected and needs writing up. There are also the many place names that have been overlooked. There are about one hundred cities in the United States and Canada that have Gaelic names. Nearly all the shires in England, Scotland and Wales are of Gaelic origin. There were about forty lords in the Irish Parliament who took place names for their titles. Those names are now all over the United States, besides names of generals, governors, etc., who left their titles. There are many other lines of work that ought to be attended to before it is too late for the preservation of their Irish antecedents.

"Sels-car-eac"—Cheshire, Shire, Chester, etc.—meaning "as much land as six horses could plough in one year. This is the origin of all shires in England. As the English language is claimed as an Anglo-Saxon language it is only fair for the Celtic people to claim for the Gaelic language what belongs to it. I will de-

scribe how some of those shires originated. Many were called, after different clans: some Irish, some Scotch, some Welsh, and many after Irish saints, as Eriegenia, Colechester, Cole, or St. Gall, the latter a disciple of St. Columbanus, a saint whose sanctified work was largely performed on the European continent. Not only England, but the whole of western Europe was closely bound up with Celtic civilization from the very earliest times. It may be that all languages are equally old, but none have kept the original form like the Gaelic. The Gaelic must have had a written language and literature one thousand years before Rome was built, so that it is insufferably silly to look for roots of words in Greek or Latin or even Sanscrit, which is itself Gaelic and was written in a new form of letters like the Welsh.

The Irish and French made early history in America, but their enemies, the descendants of the colonial tores, have given all the credit to England, and Englishmen. Ireland, (with the Stewarts), was the prominent power in the early colonial days, because the Irish were more loyal than even the Scots to the reigning dynasty, and had then a flag, king, parliament, lords, and common, of their own.

The London Company, who had the power of forming colonies, appointing governors, etc., was composed mostly of Irish and Scotch gentlemen, headed by the King, the Duke of York, etc. The Earl of Clarendon, who owned all the southern colonies, and the Duke of Lenox, the first Governor of New England, were appointed before the Puritans landed.

Lord Baltimore, Lord of Avalon and of Maryland, was first a governor of Virginia, A.D. 1632. He and Henry Washington were great friends in Ireland. Henry Washington had seven sons. It is claimed that one of these was the ancestor of George Washington. They all had important positions under the Stewarts, and were their loyal supporters. One of those Washingtons was collector of the port of Limerick, appointed by James I. Not being loyal to the new dynasty, he escaped from Ireland and turned up in Virginia, after having spent some time in Bermuda.

The first Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert, was born in Ireland. The name is a form of Giolla-bearta, sometimes spelled Galvert, a name on the O'Shaughnessy or Chauncey pedigree. Lord Thomas Fairfax was a Kerby, which in Irish is rendered O'Kierme, sometimes Kerwick and Berwick. Fairfax is in Scotland, but Thomas appeared to be born in England. He was Irish or Scotch, as the name clearly proves. Hudson was originally MacAidheon, and is the same name as Hutchin and Hutchinson. The O'Keefes intermarried with this family, hence they were called Hudson-O'Keefes. There was a bishop in Ireland about that time whose name was Hutson. Some of the early Christian names were Michael, James, Christopher, John, etc. We also have the names of the sailors on one of Henry Hudson's voyages. They must have been largely Irish or Scotch, judging by their Gaelic names. Hudson discovered the New York river which bears his name, for the Dutch in 1610. He had no love for the English, as they had him in prison several times under various pretences.

Capt. Harley made a settlement opposite Plymouth in Martha's Vineyard, six years before the Puritans landed, but the colonists were driven off and the captain was wounded by the savages.

I am getting ready to "show up" the great English settlement at Jamestown. The following are some of the founders of the colony: King James VI, of Scotland, who became James I, of England, and the Kingdom of Ireland, etc., related to Edward Bruce, the last King crowned in Ireland, and brother of Robert, King of Scotland, and related to the O'Nials. The King was Scotch, his brother, the Earl of Clarendon, was Irish (born in Dublin); his first governor was James Moore, born in Drogheda. The first grant was made to Sir Walter Raleigh (O'Rahilly) of Rawleystown, Co. Cork. He planted the first potatoes and tobacco on his estate at Youghal, Co. Cork. William Shanley (O'Sean-Laech) of Droonard, was "Sovereign" of Jamestown. He represented that borough in the Parliament of 1688. He and his three brothers were loyal adherents of King James. All four brothers held commissions in the army, as did also Michael Shanley, of Carquinis, County of Leitrim. William Shanley, who was M.P. for Jamestown, was chief of his clan and a captain in O'Garra's regiment. His son, Godfrith, was chief of the clan Jeffrey or McJeffrey, before Cromwell's time. It may be possible that was the original of the Jefferson fam-

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ly, and not the Fitz Jeffreys of Galway.

The following names include the celebrated Canadian coalition ministry, formed previous to the Dominion Government in 1867, and which consisted of all the talents. It was organized in 1865, when Viscount Monk, of Ballytramont, County of Wexford, Ireland, was Governor-General: Hon. Sir Etienne Pascal Tache, Receiver-General, Minister of Militia and Premier. Hon. John Alexander Macdonald, Attorney-General West. Hon. Geo. Etienne Cartier, Attorney-General East. Hon. Alex. Tilloch Galt, Minister of Finance. Hon. Alex. Campbell, Commissioner of Crown Lands. Hon. Thos. D'Arcy McGee, Minister of Agriculture and Statistics. Hon. Jean Charles Chapais, Commissioner of Public Works. Hon. George Brown, President Executive Council. Hon. William McDougall, Provincial Secretary.

Hon. William Pearce Howland, Postmaster-General. Hon. Hector Lewis Langevin, Solicitor-General East. Hon. James Cockburn, Solicitor-General West.

It is a little singular that all those gentlemen should have passed away excepting two that hailed from Toronto. Those were Hon. William McDougall and Hon. W. P. Howland. Mr. McDougall resides at Ottawa, and Mr. Howland here. It is said, however, that Mr. McDougall has lost his mind.

In my interview with Mr. Teefy, he told me that when his father came to this province from Ireland, in the year 1824, he had to take an oath of allegiance, the following being the form of same:

Province of Upper Canada—I certify that John Teefy, a native of Ireland, hath taken and subscribed the oath of allegiance required by law before me in York, in the Home District, this 24th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four.—Grant Powell, Commissioner.

Grant Powell was an Englishman by birth, by profession a physician, and son of Chief Justice Dunmore Powell. The family were here during the war of 1812-13, and Grant Powell was provided with several Government positions at different times. He had charge of the building of the old hospital which was located at the northwest corner of King and John streets. When the Houses of Parliament were destroyed by fire in 1824, the year this certificate was made, the Legislature assembled afterwards for several sessions in the old hospital building.

Mr. Teefy writes me as follows: "There is a mistake in Old Timer of 20th of April. Mr. Geo. Gurnett was editor and publisher of the 'Courier' newspaper. The 'Palladium' was published and edited by Mr. Chas. Fothergill, in the year 1838. He was prior to 'the King's most Excellent Majesty' in 1822, as announced in 'The York Almanac and Royal Calendar of Upper Canada, for the year 1823,' a copy of which I have in my collection."

WILLIAM HALLEY.

How They Treat Protestants in Quebec

The Montreal Daily Witness, the organ of the Protestant minority, says: "The opening of the Quebec Parliament was marked by two very interesting events—the election of an English-speaking Protestant to the Speakership and the delivery of the budget speech. In a very gracious way Mr. Gouin, the Prime Minister, made the motion to confer this honor upon Mr. Weir. It was a new departure, he said, as the Speaker hitherto had been always chosen from the French-speaking and Catholic members, but he considered the time had come when the majority might gracefully waive its claim to the important office as a proof of its good will towards English-speaking and Protestant fellow-countrymen. Mr. Gouin and the Quebec House are to be congratulated upon this proof of their hearty

friendship and good will towards the minority in language and religion. It must be admitted that the time was well chosen for this expression of generosity as it cannot fail to be found splendid debating material for orators at Ottawa whose task is to repel accusations of intolerance and narrowness on the part of their co-religionists. Like Pope's wounded snake, the Autonomy debate still drags out its slow length. Everything that can be said for and against has been said, and it is worse than useless to prolong the agony. The Opposition leaders feel that in failing to contest Edmonton and in the enthusiastic support given there to Mr. Oliver their plea for giving the new provinces a voice on the education question has lost its force. The opening of the Edmonton constituency was the very occasion to test the feeling of the Northwest both upon the separate schools and upon the provincial rights involved in the school question. The election of Mr. Oliver by acclamation has practically given the separate school debate at Ottawa its coup de grace.

Religious Freedom in Russia

New York, April 30.—The Sun publishes the following cable from St. Petersburg:—The Czar's Easter ukase, which is addressed to the Imperial Senate, launches the programme of ridding the peasantry of the autocracy, which the Imperial party under the Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch has adopted as the Emperor's shield against the reform agitation.

The ukase which will be issued to the nation to-morrow provides for the annulment of the peasants' indebtedness to the Government for advances in the recent insolvent conditions of village communes. It also orders that all Christian sects be permitted to exist without penalty. Adherents of the Old Faith, whose altars were sealed up by M. Pobiedonostzeff, Procurator-General of the Holy Synod, twenty years ago, and now number 17,000,000, will have their altars opened to worship on the Russian Sunday undisturbed. The ukase provides further that converts from the Orthodox faith to other Christian creeds shall not be punished. This decree makes lawful changes in faith for which hundreds of thousands of families have been stripped of their property and exiled to Siberia.

The ukase further decrees that the Mohammedan and other non-Christian subjects of the Emperor, except the Jews, shall have equal rights, and shall no longer be styled pagans. Nothing is conceded to the Jews. The ukase names Baron Nolde, Secretary of the Council of Ministers, who recently drew up the proposals of the Grand Duke Alexander's party, as successor to M. Vorontzoff-Dashoff as Governor of the Caucasus.

"Race Suicide" in Ontario

London, April 29.—The Tablet says: When the results of the last Canadian census were published some surprise was expressed at the fact that in spite of all the immigration from Protestant countries the percentage of Catholics in the Dominion had not increased. The explanation was not far to seek. The birth rate is dwindling in the Protestant provinces and is extraordinarily high among the Catholic population. In Ontario, for instance, what President Roosevelt recently denounced as "race suicide" is evidently a constant habit.

Death of Sarah Margaret Lellis

The death of little Sarah Margaret (Sadie) Lellis, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mrs. W. J. Lellis, of the Eagle House, Weston, has called forth much sympathy for her mother, who within a short time has lost both husband and child. The young girl had been ill for a long time, during which everything was done to bring about her recovery, but in vain. The funeral took place from the residence of her grandfather, Mr. Thomas Kennedy, of 204 Spadina avenue, on Friday, 28th April, to St. Mary's Church, thence to Mount Hope Cemetery. Besides the mother and grandparents, one little brother is left to mourn her loss.—R.I.P.

IRISH UNIVERSITY QUESTION

The British Conservative Leader Throws Down the Catholic Claim

Mr. Balfour said:—The hon. member spoke quite accurately when he stated that there is nothing I can say to-day which will add either to the argumentative or the rhetorical weight of any appeal which I have before made to the House, and through the House to the country, and whether I was responsible for plans that were made this particular cause has made no progress either in the House or in the country. I find it impossible as an honest man to say that in my judgment he is wrong. I think that while the hon. gentleman has done me justice, and more than justice, in that part of his speech, he has done me something less than justice in the later remarks which he made. He has asked me whether I was aware of the negotiations which he said were going on in Ireland, and whether I was responsible for plans that he seems to think have emanated from the Cabinet or from me in connection with University education in that country. He is entirely mistaken. I have done my best to persuade the House and my countrymen at large that the question of higher education in Ireland was one urgently deserving of their sympathetic attention, and I have never mixed myself in any way, and, indeed, was not aware of the transactions to which the hon. member referred in the latter part of his remarks. If he only refers to the argumentative basis of the speeches which have been made it would puzzle an auditor who for the first time became acquainted with the controversy to see where the insuperable difficulty is in settling the question of higher education in Ireland. My hon. and learned friend the member for South Londonderry made an able speech against the amendment and

HE LAID DOWN CERTAIN PROPOSITIONS

which, he said, ought to govern any dealings with education, whether primary, secondary, or University, in Ireland, conditions which if granted would make him and the hon. gentleman opposite fellow-workers, with the same educational object. I cannot make out how the principles laid down by my learned friend are repudiated by the hon. member opposite. He seemed to think that any system of education was satisfactory, which being established by this House provided that there were to be no tests and provided that there was not to be anything in the nature of public funds to be devoted to denominational purposes. In any scheme, which I have always endeavored to advocate, I have never suggested that there should be denominational tests applied to a new college or a new university, or that the funds which this House might give to such college or university should in any part be devoted to what might be properly described as denominational purposes. Therefore my learned friend and I ought to have no difficulty in coming to an agreement on this matter. I listened to the speeches made by hon. gentlemen opposite, speeches of great ability and in some cases of great eloquence, and I did not make out that they complained that the principles on which I and my learned friend are agreed would be transgressed by them if they had their way and were able to obtain the educational advantages which are urgently required in the interest of higher education in Ireland. (Hear, hear.) My hon. and learned friend on that last point seemed to hold a view with which I frankly admit I cannot agree, but I do agree with him as to the undenominational character of any new university that we ought to set up. But where I differ from him is as to the need of setting up such an establishment. My learned friend seems to think that Ireland is amply provided for. He took advantage of certain

STATISTICS PUT BEFORE THE HOUSE

by Mr. Haldane, who pointed out that the number of students at the Queen's Colleges had diminished in the course of the last few years, to say that if that be the condition of higher education in Ireland, if that be the true measure of the regard which the Irish people had for higher education, what was the object of spending money in establishing a new institution when the old institutions are evidently in excess of the demand? I cannot agree with that view of my learned friend. It is a melancholy fact that Trinity College has somewhat diminished in the number of its students, but I take it that is due principally to the great agricultural revolution through which Ireland has passed since 1881, which has gradually diminished the resources, and perhaps not inconsiderably diminished the numbers of the classes which used to

send their sons to Trinity College. It is impossible that you would expect the numbers to be kept up. The only indication that gives of the need for higher education in Ireland is to show that one of the classes, at all events, which greatly desire that education is less prosperous than it was. With regard to Queen's College, Belfast, situated as it is in the midst of a wealthy, thriving, progressive, and energetic community, one would have supposed it should have increased. I conceive that the diminution in the numbers may have more than one cause, but the principal cause is due to the sinister effects which, I think, the Royal University is having on the interests of higher education in Ireland. (Hear, hear.) I believe the Royal University does a great deal of very excellent work, but one thing it does do and must do by the very nature of its constitution, which is not at all excellent. By substituting openly and avowedly a system of examination for a system of University education it enables the student who has gone through nothing in the nature of University discipline, but who has studied through a coach or crammer with an assiduity sufficient to enable him to pass a degree, to go forth to the world as an M.A. or a B.A., or as a man qualified by his training to rank with those who have attended the great Universities of England and Scotland. Let us thrust away the fallacy from us. Let us not give in to the narrow and shallow view that can possibly be taken of University education, education by examination, as if that was the one thing that gave University training any value. Therefore.

THE SYSTEM OF EXAMINATION

that prevails now be right or wrong, not one of those who are in favor of it will dare in these days to advocate the heresy that it is an examination, or success in an examination, which gives the true measure of what education in a university can give to the youth of the country, and the Royal University in Ireland, whatever services it may have done to Ireland, has certainly done bad service in so far as it has spread abroad the idea that all a university can give may be readily, cheaply, and expeditiously obtained by success in some examination. I think that accounts, partially at all events, for the diminution of the number of the students in the great colleges. Another reason is that I fear that the Queen's College is in some important respects without the friends which would enable it to rank as a fully-equipped University. It lacks means. (Hear, hear.) It may be said that Belfast should provide them. I do not ask that. One thing is certain, this House cannot provide the means. It is impossible for any Government, any Chief Secretary, to come to this House and ask for additional funds for Queen's College, Belfast, if while they are bringing that great institution up to the highest educational level, they are leaving wholly untouched the grievances which have been brought before us by the amendment. (Cheers.) One most unhappy result of leaving this question unsettled is that it not merely injures the higher education which otherwise the population of Ireland might enjoy, but it stunts and sterilizes the means of education which are already at the disposal of the Protestants in the North. Therefore, while I am in hearty sympathy with those who desire to see the question settled, I ought not to let the debate end without saying that there is in the method by which we are asked to assist in this matter a certain tone which I think Englishmen naturally resent. Mr. Dillon said—"You refuse to do that, and that you refuse to give us the class of education we desire." In one sense it is true. In one sense this House has not given the money to carry out a complete scheme of higher education in Ireland, but this Government has never given the money for that purpose in England or Scotland. I am one of those who believe that

THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF IRELAND JUSTIFY SPECIAL PROVISION

by the Parliament of the United Kingdom; but I do not think Irish members further their cause when they say to Englishmen and Scotchmen—"It is your plain and obvious duty to give us that which you do not give to the English and Scotch Universities." Even the additional grant which it is proposed to give to the English Universities this year will not raise the amount to be given by this House, for higher education in England up to the level per head of population that Ireland already possesses. Hon. gentlemen may say the money is ill-used in Ireland and that

(Continued on Page Five.)

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