

A Tragedy of the Dublin Rebellion

PLUNKETT MARRIED ON THE EVE OF HIS DEATH

Grace Gifford, Bride of Prisoner at Midnight, a Widow at Dawn—Her Sister a Widow of MacDonagh, Another of the Rebels—Few Scenes in this Great Futile Tragedy Can Have so Wrung the Hearts of Those Who Witnessed it as Did this Hurried Joining Together in the Silent Watches of the Night of Two Young Lives so Soon to be Severed by the Exorable Decree of Human Justice

DUBLIN, May 13.—One of the most poignant of the many tragedies in the grim, sordid drama which the last ten days have seen enacted in Ireland is revealed by the announcement in the "Births, Marriages and Deaths" column of the Irish Times of the marriage of Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford. Behind the announcement lies the story of a well-known and honored Dublin family brought to sorrow and tribulation by the crime of the Sinn Fein, and of two refined, artistic, girls, well-known in Dublin society, whose lives have been wrecked by the insane folly of two men. Behind all looms the strange, mysterious figure of Countess Markievicz, who played so prominent a part in the tragic events, and who has flitted through all the dark pages of Irish discontent and treason of recent years.

Joseph Plunkett was a rebel leader, one of the seven signatories to the proclamation of the republic, who was shot last Thursday morning. His bride, Grace Gifford, is a daughter of Frederick Gifford, a prominent Dublin solicitor, who lives at Palmerston Park. In the gloomy precincts of Richmond Barracks, where the rebel leaders have been imprisoned, the marriage ceremony was performed on Wednesday at midnight.

Few scenes in this great, futile tragedy can have so wrung the hearts of those who witnessed it as did this

"You should not cry when you are going to be married," he observed. For a moment his visitor hesitated with the tears running down her cheeks. Then she revealed the whole tragedy, saying she was Plunkett's fiancée, and that he was to be shot next morning and that she was to be married to him that night.

"For a moment I was thunder-struck," said Mr. Stoker, "and did not know what to say or do. Somehow or other I managed to express my sympathy with her terrible position and she thanked me very quietly. Then she selected one of the most expensive rings, paid for it in bank notes, and left the shop."

"Further light was cast upon the tragedy by Miss Gifford's mother at her home in Palmerston Park. Her father has been confined to his bed for some time as the result of a stroke. Mrs. Gifford naturally was very much upset over the disaster in which her daughters' lives had become involved.

"I did not know of my daughter's marriage to Plunkett until Friday," she told me. "I did not even know definitely that they were engaged, although I had heard it stated. I did not ask Grace and she did not tell me, because she knew I disapproved of the whole thing. I had put it to her that she would be doing a very foolish thing, since the man's actions and associations all along had put him in a peculiarly delicate position, but she apparently did not think so. She was always a very headstrong, self-willed girl, and latterly had lived more or less an independent life.

Blames Countess Markievicz. "Countess Markievicz," continued Mrs. Gifford bitterly, "is responsible for dragging my daughters into this affair. They got to know her several years ago, and have been largely under her influence. We knew nothing of what was going on, however, and no one was more surprised than we were when the revolt broke out.

I first heard of her marriage to Grace herself. I went to see her sister, Mrs. MacDonagh, and while I was there, Grace came into the room. She walked right across to me and held out her left hand, on the third finger of which was a wedding ring. Then she told us she had been called out of bed Wednesday night and had been taken to Plunkett to marry him."

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ROME, May 13.—News leaks out mysteriously from Turkey and strangely enough reaches Rome. The sources of information available here are numerous and naturally it would be unsafe to enumerate them. As a rule the convenient expression "neutral diplomatic sources" is used by the initiated to cover both real diplomats, or rather two diplomatic corps, that accredited to the Holy See, and other channels of information, ecclesiastical, political military and private. The same expression has been used to explain the origin of the following information, belated but substantially accurate, from Turkey.

According to information from "neutral diplomatic sources" now available here the German headquarters staff at Constantinople is ominously silent about operations in Armenia. The fall of Erzerum was not officially announced, but it was known all the same at Constantinople, where fugitives from the territories occupied after Erzerum had fallen. Those fugitives say that the Turkish troops in Armenia are so demoralized that in most cases they offer no resistance, but retire before coming in contact with the Russians.

Each Blames The Other.

The Turks openly blame the Germans for the Russian successes in Armenia. The Germans, on the other hand, blame the Turks, especially the generals who disobeyed Marshals von der Goltz and von Sanders and refused to follow their plans, but acted independently, with disastrous results. The Germans are now compelled to enforce their orders, and they are striving to raise the morale of the Turkish troops by shooting officers and men at the slightest provocation. The salutary effects of such methods are doubtful since the Turks often retaliate by murdering German officers in isolated places.

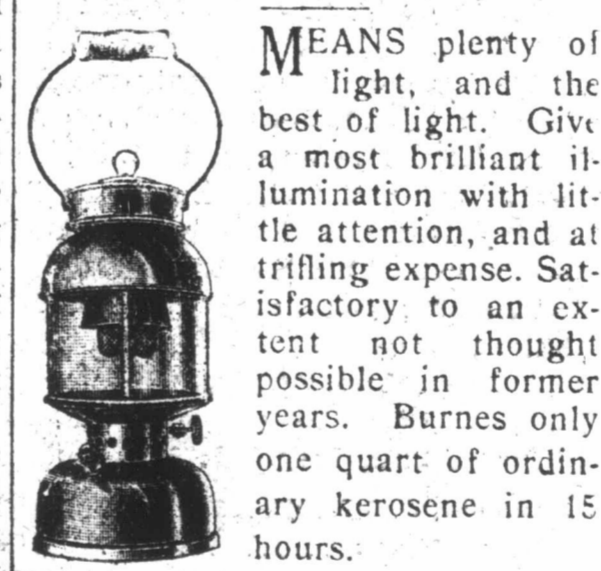
All available Turkish troops are now being sent by rail to Angora and Konia, whence two columns are marching eastward to meet the armies retreating from Armenia. As the Turks in their retreat are burning cities, towns and villages, destroying bridges and roads and ravaging the country generally, all the inhabitants are abandoning the region and thousands of refugees are arriving at Denizli, Aidin and Smyrna. All Christians, the Greeks especially, have been ordered to evacuate the regions likely to be occupied by the Russians and they have been sent to Asia Minor, where the Moslems are treating them practically as slaves.

Enver Pasha has just returned to Constantinople from Syria, where he was sent for the purpose of distributing decorations and money among the Arab chiefs, whose loyalty is very doubtful. Together with German officers the Minister of War inspected the lines of defence and field fortifications between Angora and Konia, where the Turks are organizing their chief defences against an eventual Russian advance toward the west.

Meanwhile the Germans continue their systematic depletion of the country. They are exporting regularly from Asia Minor not only live stock and wheat, but also cotton wool, which is urgently needed by the army medical corps in Germany and Austria. The Germans encourage the exodus of the inhabitants from towns and villages which are not immediately threatened by the Russians in order to collect all the foodstuffs and cattle left behind by the inhabitants in their hasty flight.

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"I am of the old school," he exclaimed, "the school of Mowat and of Blake, the parent school of Provincial Rights. By that doctrine I stand to-day. THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO ALONE WILL AND SHALL DETERMINE FOR HERSELF THE DECISION. Yet is it forbidden by the code of the new converts to the doctrine of Provincial Rights that I stand at the bar before my fellow-countrymen of Ontario and make my plea?"

"Oh, Why did I ever marry you?" "Because I didn't know any better."

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