



IRISH EVICTION SCENES.

By WILLIAM ELLISON.

Of all sad sights, perhaps the saddest is an Irish eviction scene. For apart from the pain of witnessing the sorrow of the poor evicted tenant, and his helpless family, the spectator is brought face to face with the spectacle of man's inhumanity to man, and in the inhuman act he sees performed before his eyes, he is forced to distrust the doctrine of the pretended brotherhood of man and the so-called "milk of human kindness."

The absolute cruelty involved in a typical Irish eviction scene cannot be rightly gauged except by a clear understanding of the attachment an Irish peasant bred on the hillsides of Connemara or Donegal, has for his humble cottage home, wherein his ancestors were born, and around which his early joys and sorrows are entwined. It is a fact in nature that the peasant is more attached to his hut than is the prince to his palace. And again it is historically known that the Irish Celt's love for his home and fatherland amounts to a fervent passion, whereas in the colder-natured branches of the human family it is a mere sentiment.

This undying feeling is also strongly marked in the pure Celtic race in their devotion to the faith of their fathers, and it is but rational that it should be so, because the more one has to suffer for an inheritance the deeper becomes his passionate regard for it, and this fact explains the unflinching love of the true Catholic Irishman for his religion and his country.

Giving full scope to this established truth, it will be readily conceived what anguish of heart a poor helpless Irish tenant suffers, when he sees his humble cottage levelled to the ground by a heartless sheriff and his "crowbar brigade," at the instance of some rack-renting landlord, who has no sympathy in common with his tenant slaves. Who, in a word, cares nothing for their piteous appeals for mercy as long as he can live riotously in London or a foreign capital, on the money forced out of their blood and sweat by agents and bailiffs at home. The dwellers on the barren mountain slopes of Connaught can recall many such heart-rending scenes, as can those of Glenveigh, and other districts of County Donegal remember the fatal days when the "Crowbar Brigade" came to do its inhuman work among the lonely glens and villages at the demand of such men as the late John George Adair, and the late unfortunate Lord Leitrim.

The gallant memories left behind by the cruelty of the scenes enacted will not die out with one generation, for fathers will relate to their offspring what outrages they endured at the hands of merciless landlords, and the tale of woe will be handed down to posterity as a living example of the wrongs and patient endurance of the hardy toilers who lost home and everything they possessed, to satisfy the greed and vengeance of tyrannical owners, who viewed the scene of desolation without a shudder. Many of these who were dispersed from their native land may be found to-day in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and other cities throughout the United States, as well as in Montreal and other Canadian centres, working out their destinies as best they can. Some coming to the front in spite of all obstacles, and others toiling wearily upward and onward, but all of them, in their various efforts, conforming to the designs of Providence, in their strivings to uphold the good name of the Old Land and to plant more firmly in this New World the undying faith of St. Patrick.

Happily the awful spectacle of evictions and wanton destruction of humble homes in Ireland, is less common now-a-days, thanks to the remedial laws passed by the late Mr. Gladstone, and the heroic efforts of the late Mr. Parnell and his devoted band of brothers, and to the present day labors of such men as John Dillon, Edward Blake, Justin McCarthy, and the loyal Irish Nationalists who are fighting the battle of the tenant-farmers, in the British Parliament.

Landlordism is still present in Ireland in its dread form, and, while it has lost some of its fatal fangs, it is yet the dominant power in the land, and will have to be forced by legislation to an attitude of justice to-

ward the tenantry, for the alien aristocracy, who own the land of Ireland, having nothing in the shape of sympathetic interest to bind them to their tenants, therefore, whatever improvements may be made in the relations between them will have to be wrung out of the landed gentry by sheer force of the law. In strict justice it must be remembered that Ireland has some good landlords, liberal minded men of humane feelings, who acted generously towards their needy tenants from motives of justice and humanity, and these latter must not be classed with the tribe of unfeeling aristocrats of foreign instinct, who never relented even in the dreadful days of famine and scourge, but kept on their work of extermination and outrage, and complacently saw their victims flee from Ireland in fever-stricken ships, many of whom never reached the other shore, or else go down to dishonored graves in their own native soil, from the ravages of hunger and disease. This is a black record of indictment to prefer against landlordism, but it is all too true, as the vital statistics of Castle Garden, Grosse Isle, Quebec, Montreal and Point St. Charles and other ports and cemeteries in Canada and America can testify.

To the student of Irish history who keeps track of events, it is pleasing to note the altered condition of the struggling farmers from the very inception of the Land League. From the day of its inauguration, landlords, agents, etc., had to content themselves with a scantier need of forced obedience and respect from the occupiers of the soil. The hardy peasantry and dependent farmers seemed to pluck up new life and spirit, and were not afraid to assert their manhood, even in the presence of those landlord Magnates, who formerly expected the most servile homage from a race they were accustomed to regard as little better than slaves. Under the operations of the Plan of Campaign and the Land League, men that were helpless before took new courage to defend their rights, and in the contest they happened to lose their dwellings they saw the prospect of another shelter raised by League funds, by the highway. And, thus encouraged, they could talk in sturdy tones of manhood and self-respect in fighting the battle of right and justice with the best of the landed aristocrats.

The change was galling to the proud gentry, who had been used to the dictating of their own terms to dependent people, who had no choice but to accept the harsh conditions were humiliated, did they not deserve it?

It was a turning of the tables no doubt, and in it there were something of the law of retribution, for it was making the haughty dictators taste of the bitter cup which they had so often forced to the lips of others. Another class of men, solely of the favored and ascendant sort—the Grand Jurors and Magistrates—have been taught lessons of humility in recent years, for good honest men of Celtic blood, were appointed to sit side by side with them on the bench, and to have their say in the administration of justice. And under the provisions of the New Local Government Bill, the former select few who practically ruled the districts, will be shorn of their arbitrary powers, and the common people will have a chance to say a word in the management of their own affairs.

It is Home Rule in a restricted sense, but it will give the body of the people a good taste of the genuine article, and it will stimulate them to work harder and more unitedly for the full measure for which the nation has been struggling so long.

RECENT EUROPEAN EVENTS.

The amount of money left in wills in the United Kingdom last year for charitable, religious, or educational purposes was larger than usual, being almost \$4,000,000.

Divorces are on the increase both in England and France. From the list of cases down for hearing at the opening of the law courts it appears that 221 cases are in the Probate Di-

vision, while last year only 124 husbands and 71 wives sought divorce outright. Besides these 45 divorce cases are left standing over from last session. In France recently, 300 cases of divorce it is said were adjudicated upon in one week.

The resignation of M. de Beaurepaire, president of the civil branch of the Superior Court of France, because the President of the Criminal branch, M. Leov, and other judges had shown a bias in favor of Dreyfus, is an event the full import of which has not yet been realized. It has brought into disrepute the only institution in France, which was thought to be stable and beyond the reach of corruption; and only a searching and public investigation can rehabilitate it in popular favor. It has done more. It has brought France another step towards a dynastic coup d'etat which may be followed by peace or bloodshed.

Outside of politics Ritualism in the established Church of England is still the topic of the hour. So great has been the tumult raised by a portion of the laity, headed by Sir William Harcourt and Mr. John Kensit, that the Protestant Bishops have felt themselves called upon to make a joint declaration on the subject. At the beginning of the revolt, the Archbishop of York, himself a ritualist, plainly told those Episcopalians who objected to Ritualism in their churches to betake themselves elsewhere. Now, as a result of Kensit's shouting out his protests in church, and Harcourt's protests in the columns of the London Times, the Archbishop, and his brother of Canterbury, and the other members of the Protestant episcopacy have issued a rescript forbidding most of the "Roman" practices complained of. But will the Ritualistic clergymen and laymen obey the bishops? As each claims to be about as good a judge of doctrines as the bishops are, they will hardly give up their peculiar religious ceremonials and beliefs. What will follow will probably be the establishment of a new sect or a conversion to the Catholic Church.

AMERICAN TERRITORIAL EXPANSION.

Neither the terms of the peace commission nor proclamations by the president appear to have yet determined the question of what our national policy may be. If this nation is to become an imperial power, ruling distant colonies by the strong arm of the army and navy, it will not be because better counsel has not been presented to the people of the country. The clamor of the hour has perhaps attained its highest note. Sonorous and glittering but shallow generalities have tickled the ears and appealed to the imagination of a class, always large in a time of great excitement, which mistakes passing dramatic effects for permanent realities. This is not because these people do not possess judgment, but because for the time being they find the exercise of it less fascinating than this emotional indulgence.

But the leaders of public thought and political movements are now improving their opportunities, and foremost in line, considering his present condition and the strain upon his party loyalty that it must be to oppose a policy having the support of the Administration, is the address of Senator Hoar, the beginning of which will be found on another page. This means more to him and more to Massachusetts than anything he has ever done as a senator from this State. It is not too much to call it the crowning achievement of his brilliant service up to date. It is not an effort called out by definite views of expediency, of a minor question of domestic policy, but one inspired by a crisis.

The letter of ex-Senator Edmunds of Vermont is a timely reinforcement of the position taken by Mr. Hoar. With the former it is not a question of sentiment, as he argues the case, though it cannot be doubted that his feeling is as deep as his judgment is strong; but it is a calm, strong, inflexible and unanswerable presentation of the case from the viewpoint of a brilliant lawyer and statesman. Among the many objections to the proposition to annex the Philippines, which he states in logical sequence, is that of the difficulty of keeping our troops in those unhealthy islands, with respect to which he says, "The

English in India happily have the Himalayan hills within comparatively short distances, to which their troops are sent at frequent intervals to escape the exhaustion of the tropical sea-coast. But our troops in the Philippines must be transported by sea 4000 or 5000 miles to reach the salubrious shores of California and Oregon. To accomplish all this the annual and continuous expenditure of millions upon millions of the earnings of our people must go on indefinitely."

Nor can we afford to ignore the epigrammatic utterances of Mr. William J. Bryan at the Jackson Day banquet in Cincinnati. Whatever may be thought of his soundness of view on certain questions, it must be remembered that he is the political representative of millions in this country, and he seems to have given utterance to certain truths that, independently of their source, are not easily impeached. "The real question," he said, "is whether we can in one hemisphere develop the theory that governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed, and at the same time inaugurate, support and defend in the other hemisphere a government which derives its authority entirely from superior force." This will bear analysis, and invites reflection, whether said by Mr. Bryan or Thomas Jefferson, as will also the further statement that "there is an old saying that it is not profitable to buy a lawsuit. Our nation may learn by experience that it is not wise to purchase the right to conquer a people." It is justifiable criticism also, to declare that the imperialists have "mixed the beatitudes" and pin their faith to one which is, according to their reading, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall inherit the earth."

These utterances of Mr. Bryan will certainly bear comparison with that of Mr. Richard Croker, the latest champion of imperialism, who says, "I say by all means hold on to all that rightfully belongs to us. If the great country west of the Rocky Mountains was filled with wild Indians at the present moment, how long would it take us to suppress them and make them respect our laws and constitution? The same thing applies to the Philippines and any other country that may fall in our hands by the province of peace or war." This is sufficiently brutal and coarse to be worthy of its author and of the cause to which he attaches himself. He would inaugurate a policy of "blood and iron" to make a distant people respect our constitution, which the imperialists themselves no longer respect, but which they say, "must bend to new conditions." It is but another illustration of the inconsistency of the whole movement.—Boston Transcript.

ST. VINCENT'S HOME FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN.

A most pleasing event took place on Christmas Day at the home for Immigrant Children, No. 11 St. Thomas Street. As the festive season drew near, the little ones became very doubtful and made up their minds that they would go and ask Blessed Gerard to send them something for their stockings, as they had heard the remark that there was no money to spend for Christmas presents. Their prayer was heard and they were delighted on Christmas morning by the sight of a Christmas tree upon which hung everything the heart of a little child delights in. We cannot doubt but it was the good Saint who had suggested the idea of a collection from the girls and boys employed in the city, to Miss Mary Scanlan. Starting it herself with a donation of \$2.25, she soon had the neat little sum of \$13.00 collected. The names of the girls and boys who contributed are:

Jamie Rattagan, Christian Walker, Lizzie Davis, Lizzie Busted, Mary Kerry, Katie McBride, Lizzie Jakes, Robert Ford, Philip Monaghan and John Cowan. John Cowan sent his \$2.00 all the way from Ottawa. Donations were also received from Mrs. K. Sullivan, of City Councilors Street, and Mrs. Tait of Chatham St., who sent turkeys, and Mrs. Ward of Palace St., who sent a plum pudding, and a basket of candy coming from Mrs. McDougall of Chambly Canton.

If the prayers of those little ones are heard (and we dare not doubt it) God will in a special manner bless those who remembered the poor little strangers in a strange land, but He

who said "Suffer little children to come unto Me," will not forget them in their hour of need.

The work of the Home is not a parish charity. The revenue for its maintenance comes with children from England. It increases or decreases according to the number of children sent out. We could not supply demand for girls alone last year, the applications being about 250. We only received in all, boys and girls, 65 children, who were all placed in a few days, leaving only three little boys of 6, 7, and 8 years in the home.

Last year Mr. John P. Curran and Miss Nellie McAndrew, two devoted workers in behalf of the home, kindly organized a very successful concert. This year they have been kind enough to undertake the same task, and as a result have fixed upon Monday evening next, the 23rd inst. for the entertainment.

The Karm Hall, on St. Catherine St. has been secured for the purpose and some of Montreal's leading musical performers will take part in the programme.

This is an opportunity to help the work which we are doing on behalf of the children at the Home.

We are very grateful to Mr. Curran and Miss McAndrew for their kind efforts which we hope will be crowned with success.

MISS A. BRENNAN, Superintendent.

THE IRISH CONVENTION.

One of our readers recently showed us a handsomely-bound volume giving a full account of the great Irish Convention which was held in Dublin in 1896, at the suggestion of the late Archbishop Walsh, of Toronto. It contains a sketch of the events which led up to the holding of the Convention, verbatim reports of the speeches delivered at it, portraits and biographical sketches of the delegates, numerous illustrations of Irish public buildings and historical edifices and localities, together with articles reviewing the work of the convention, written by well known clergymen, nationalist members of parliament and other prominent public men. It is a valuable souvenir of the historic convention of Irishmen from all parts of the world. The compiler is Daniel F. M'Leae, and the publishers are Seely, Bryers, and Walker, Dublin.

MR. AUSTIN ADAMS TO VISIT MONTREAL.

By special invitation Mr. Henry Austin Adams, will once more visit Montreal, and give in St. Mary's Academic Hall, 146 Bleury street, his newest, as it is one of his most successful lectures on "The History of Lying." This will be good news to all who have already heard Mr. Adams. They know his rare charm of manner, his eloquent speech, his genial and captivating personality. They are aware of the great sacrifices he has made in entering the Catholic Church, and of the years of struggle which he accepted in place of the brilliant prospects held out to him in the Anglican communion. Mr. Adams delights his hearers by his earnestness, his enthusiasm, his broad-minded charity, his sparkling humor. He is undoubtedly the foremost Catholic orator of the United States, to-day. The lecture will take place on Friday, February 3rd, at 8 o'clock, and at the usual popular prices, which enable all to be present.

CATHOLICITY IN BOSTON.

The latest Catholic church in Boston is the just opened Church of Syro-Maronite rite called "Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon." Catholicity in that city up to perhaps 20 years ago, was almost entirely identified with the fact of Irish birth or ancestry. To-day, its Catholic population includes French, Germans, Italians, Portuguese, Poles, Lithuanians, and Syrians, all bidding fair to assimilate as thoroughly in due time with the English-speaking population as the earlier Catholic immigrants have done, and all bringing good material for citizenship! There are also very many converts to the Faith from the old New England stock, and the cry is "Still they come." Boston Catholics of every race-line are glad to see a new church in which the Apostolic rites of the venerable East are preserved, with the unity of the faith. The founder of this first Syro-Maronite church in Boston, the Rev. Joseph Yazbek, has the respect and esteem of all Catholics, and has had their aid in building a spiritual home for his widely scattered people.—Boston Pilot.

RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AT THE MISERICORDE.

On January 17th, there took place in the Convent de la Misericorde, Dorchester St., a religious profession presided over by Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal. Rev. Father A. Lacombe, O.M.I., who assisted at the foundation of the Convent fifty-one years ago, celebrated Mass. A very eloquent sermon was preached by his Grace. The nave of the chapel and the surrounding galleries were crowded with parents and friends.

Following are the names of the young ladies who made profession:

Entered the Noviciate—Mlle. Eugene Champagne of Drummondville; Emelie Moisan, of St. Theodore de Chertsey, and Corinne Nadeau of St. Cesaire.

Received the Holy Habit—Mlle. Helen Legault, in religion, Sr. Mary of Good Counsel, Ottawa; Melle. Delia Chabot, in religion, Sr. Mary of Jesus, of St. Magdalen; Melle. Rosa Anne Brodeur, in religion, Sr. Mary of Mercy, St. Cesaire; Melle. Melina Lauzon, in religion, Sr. Mary of the Visitation, St. Lazare; Melle. Helene Poitras, in religion, Sr. M. de l'Ange Garden, St. Ephrem d'Upton; Melle. Emma Poisy, in religion, Sr. St. Albert, Woonsocket, R. I.; Melle. Marie-Louise Aubrey, in religion, Sr. St. Paul of the Cross, Montreal.

Pronounced their Vows—Sr. St. Gabriel Archangel, nee Cecelia Fitz-Gerard, Clayton, N. Y.; Sr. Mary of the Annunciation, nee Georgette LeFebvre, Pontina, N. Dakota, U. S.; Sr. St. Ephrem, nee Corinne Poitras, St. Ephrem d'Upton.

The following priests were present: Canon Leclerc, Superior of the Community; Rev. J. Ducharme, Rev. M. L. Charpentier, Cure of Point aux Trembles; A. Desnoyers, of the Providence Asylum; Rev. T. Gervais, almoner of the Mother-house at Providence; Rev. P. S. Garand, Cure of Clayton, N. Y.; the Bishop of Salem, Mass.; Rev. Father Cadot, S.J.; Rev. J. A. Desnoyers, of the Archbishop's Palace and Rev. Father Chany.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

National Secretary Daniel Colwell recently issued the following statement concerning the financial condition of the order, of which there is a council in Montreal:

Number of members (insured) 21,277
Number of members (associate) 19,159
Total 40,436

ASSETS.
Mortgage loan \$25,000.00
Cash in office 264.14
Cash in bank 204,530.66
Interest accrued 333.33
Ledger balances 28,505.61
Total \$258,633.74

LIABILITIES.
Losses due and unpaid \$133.65
Losses not due 20,000.00
Losses reported 5,000.00
Losses resisted 2,000.00
All other debts 1,000.00
Total \$28,133.65
This leaves a total net surplus of \$230,500.09. The average mortality for the past four years has been six per thousand.

POINTERS TO PARISHIONERS.

The following paragraphs are taken from the Western Watchman:

A good church supporter is not one who puts his back against the walls and pillars of the church on Sunday.

Give ten cents to every one that comes to Mass on Sunday and your churches will be crammed. Charge them ten cents and they will be empty.

A Catholic father who does not provide seats for his children in the parish church need not be surprised to see them on the street corners on Sunday when they ought to be at Mass.

Dime wise and dollar foolish is the honest Catholic father of eight grown children who pays one dollar a Sunday for single seats for his family when he could get a whole pew a year for one-third the amount.

When Sunday morning comes the Catholic father of a family does not call his children together and give each ten cents to purchase a seat in the church. Not a bit of it. If they sit they must pay for their seat out of their pocket money. Rather, than part with their little allowance they stay away from Mass.