



## The Man From Kerry.



 long time ago, a young Irishman of the County Kerry enlisted in the English army and was sent with his regiment to the Crimean war. He was a hot-headed fellow, warm-hearted, devoted to his country; in fact, wildly enthusiastic when Ireland was even mentioned—and brave to a fault.

On one occasion at a game of cards, a party of pirates of whom he was one, became noisy and got into trouble. They were put into irons for the night, and when morning came, Cormac and his comrades were brought before their colonel, fined, and dismissed with the stern reprimand military obedience demanded when army rules were broken.

After their punishment they were sent to their barracks, but first they were ordered to cheer for their Queen. Cormac foolishly refused, and for this second misdemeanor was flogged for contempt.

He did not utter a word, but took his medicine like a man! When he was released, he went back to his company burning with indignation, and shame, and with a bitter heart determined to leave the army forever as soon as his time was up. This he did, returning to Ireland, and although he loved his native sod, the memory of what he considered an outrage on his manhood rankled so deep, that he set out for America—the land of the free—as soon as he could get together the money for his passage.

His soldier-life had loosened his hold on practical religion, but not on his faith, for he always said he was a Catholic. When he arrived in America, he devoted his whole energy to accumulate a fortune and build up a home. Early and late he worked, giving no time to God, or to the needs of his immortal soul; but he prospered, was successful as the world goes, and looked about for a wife. By God's mercy he married a good Catholic girl, and gathered a family about him, who were all baptized and reared Catholics, while their father never went to church. This was a source of