THE FENIAN EXCITEMENT.

Arrival of the Escaped Captain O'Brien in Paris—A Letter from Him—His Reflections Upon Minister Adams.

Our English and Irish papers, by the Persia, are full of the details of the Fenian excitement growing out of the (then) prospective execution of the Manchester men. The Manchester *Guardian* of the 16th says:—

"The convicts are daily attended by a Roman Catholic clergyman. We are informed they receive the spiritual consolation that is offered to them with readiness and gratitude; but the conduct of more than one of the convicts seems to arise from an impression that the extreme penalty of the law will not be carried out. The guard of the 57th Regiment, which was stationed within the prison, has been doubled since the men were condemned. The wife, mother, sister-in-law and four children of the convict Larkin had a long interview with him yesterday. The youngest child is not more than four years of age."

Letter from Captain O'Brien.

To the Editor of the Irishman.

PARIS Nov. 11.—Mr. Editor:—Permit me to trespass on your columns to announce to my friends and sympathizers in Ireland and America my safe arrival in Paris after a very pleasant and uninterrupted journey from Clonmel jail. There are some facts in connection with my imprisonment of a nature to lead me to believe their publication may be instructive. I was arrested on the 16th of last February in the city of Cashel, and because I did not choose to tell my private affairs on demand, I was thrown into a narrow, dismal cell, where I was left to lie for eleven days. No arms, no paper, nothing criminal or even suspicious were found upon me. None was permitted to see me but officials; how welcome their visits were I leave you to guess. Their object, one and all, was to get me by force or guile or threat to say something which would criminate somebody, or perhaps myself; but, thank God and my name, I was neither to be coaxed nor intimidated. A warrant from Dublin relieved me from the slow torture of Cashel. I was removed handcuffed and under escort to Clonmel on the 28th of February. During my stay there I received several touching and disinterested marks of kindness from the Governor, Deputy Governor, and their families. Poor souls! their hearts must have bled at the inhumanity they were obliged to witness. Some day I trust it shall be mine to show them my gratitude. I was confined for the crime of having lived in America: I was walked round for visitors like a piebald horse, I was introduced, without my permission, to every grade of informer, I was inspected by Head-constable Talbot, ushered in by the Hon. J. M. French, R. M. Myself and ten other political prisoners were placed in line, I was on the right flank. "That," said the magistrate, pointing to me, "is Osborne at the end of the rank." His worship then came to me and addressed me a low tone. "Sir," I said, "there is nothing that you can tell me that I would not wish my comrades here present to know." He gave an absolved smile, and shortly after *exeunt* his worship and detective. Two weeks passed, and Talbot swore an information against me, every word of which was false. He swore I attended Fenian meetings in Carrick-on-Suir and in Clonmel in January, 1866. On my honor as a soldier and a gentleman, I have not been in Carrick-on-Suir since 1862, and so far from having been in the county Tipperary at all in January, 1866, I was living quietly in the city. In August the informer Corydon came to Clonmel, and nine political prisoners were paraded before him. He said he knew seven of the nine. "If you know us, what are our names?" we demanded. "Oh! I will find a name for you all d—n soon," was his answer. He singled me out as a prominent Fenian and swore a lying information against me, refreshing his memory occasionally from the leading questions put to him by the magistrate. I saw my case was hopeless and took my resolution accordingly. The resolution, with the help of Providence, a couple of Sheffield files, a stout heart within, and true friends without, I carried into effect on the morning of the 19th of September, 1867. On the whole, I consider that the above-mentioned auxiliaries are more reliable in adversity than Mr. Charles Francis Adams. Subsequent to my escape I noticed a statement that I had been a member of the police force. I beg to decline the honor. The uniform of the royal Irish is not of the peculiar tint of green I admire. The only flag I ever served under, the flag to which I swore allegiance, and for which I freely risked my life, is the starry banner of the United States. There is but one other flag for which I am ever ready to offer the same sacrifices. Enough to say it is not the Union Jack.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,
LAURENCE O'BRIEN,
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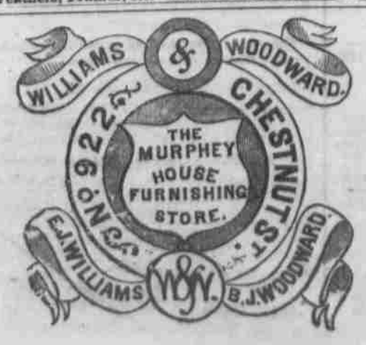

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