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"ERIN GO BRAGH" IN 1865.

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&c. &c. &c.

THE FENIANS.

Our Special Correspondence.
ON BOARD THE STEAMSHIP CITY OF BOSTON, AT SEA, Dec. 4, 1865.

It took my departure from Queenstown on the 30th of November for the United States, leaving Ireland in a fervor of political excitement, produced by her determination and exertion to free herself from the grasp of England by means of the Fenian organization, which has not been equalled even in the days of the great Clare election which opened the doors of the British Parliament to O'Connell and the Catholics, nor during the agitation which prevailed at the time of the "monster meetings" held for the repeal of the Act of Union, nor even when O'Connell and his colaborers in that cause were arrested and held for trial in Dublin. England is also roused; and, as all the world knows, when she is roused by any undue degree of excitement, she is either deeply wounded or afraid. I leave her excited, wounded and afraid.

The escape of Stephens, the Fenian "Head Centre" in Ireland, from the massive walls of the Richmond prison, with the uncertainty which prevailed as to whether he had left the country or was still secreted in some part of the island, not only irritated the officials of the government but alarmed the Executive in London. These facts were made patent to me by the extraordinary vigilance of the English officers in searching every vessel leaving British ports, the very large reward offered for the recapture of Stephens, with the unusual terms—a free pardon for those who aided him—which are attached to it, as well as by the immense force of detectives, male and female, which had been spread over Ireland, and the great number of spies, informers and "secret service" men, of every class, who were daily despatched by the government to the United States.

There is not a man or woman, scarcely a child, now embarked on this steamship who was not carefully scrutinized, their luggage marks examined and their business to or in America ferreted out in some form or other before we left Liverpool or Cork. Not content with this, when we had got fairly out to sea, and when past off Cork harbor, the City of Boston was brought to by an English man-of-war and boarded by her officers in search of Stephens or matter relating to him. The vessel was detained about four hours. The naval officers did not have the male passengers paraded for identification, but they examined a great many papers, talked with the captain of our vessel, and, as I think, communicated with detectives who had been placed on board the Boston on account of their being acquainted with Stephens' person. Had the great "Head Centre" been in the vessel he would, when pointed out, have been at once arrested and transferred on board the man-of-war, where he would, perhaps, have been kept quite safe until a few days before his trial. I use the word "perhaps" before "kept safe" advisedly, for I know very well since the early part of the year that there are many hundreds of Fenians serving in the British navy at the present moment. As well as I could make out her name, it was the British frigate Liverpool which boarded us. If it was, just let the Admiral in command off Cork call a roll of her crew and find out how many Irishmen tread her decks. There is not a spot of land in Ireland of the same extent which contains as many stalwart men who detest English rule as applied to Ireland, and are as well informed as to its spirit and intent, as could be paraded on the main deck of the same frigate. Her commander is an Irishman, and an unpopular one at that; as he is considered a "time server" toward his country by the majority of his men. I met the frigate Liverpool last September, and know the fact.

Although Stephens is not in the City of Boston he is very well represented on board, as we carry out a strong delegation from the Irish Fenians to the Brotherhood in America. The members of it are, I think, destined for Chicago, Buffalo and St. Louis. One of them is first cousin to the Fenian prisoner Luby, who was on trial for treason in Dublin when I left that city, and will most probably be convicted. The gentleman (his relative) who travels on board is quite indifferent as to the issue of Luby's trial or his ultimate fate at the hands of the law officers, as he says he will be only happy to suffer in what he terms "a good, noble old cause."

Stephens' escape is really astounding, as an evidence of the hold which Fenianism has taken on the minds of the people of Ireland as well as of the consummate skill with which the organization is conducted here. The Richmond prison, in which he was confined, has not its superior, if its equal, for jail purposes on the American continent. It is situated on the south bank of the Grand Canal and in the immediate neighborhood of the Richmond Barracks and other military strongholds. When Daniel O'Connell, Tom. Steele, John O'Connell and Father Tierney were sentenced for the grand Repeal "conspiracy," some members of the Privy Council in Ireland expressed the opinion that they could not be kept in safe custody in that country during the term, and it was proposed to transfer them to England by royal warrant. After mature deliberation, both in London and Dublin, it was resolved to consign them to Richmond prison, and there they were detained until the reversal of the judgment against them by the British House of Lords. No man in Ireland would have then dreamed of getting O'Connell out of Richmond, and many a laugh did the Anglo-Irish politicians and placemen indulge in at the expense of the great Agitator on his reading the words "Cease to do evil, learn to do well," which are deeply cut in the huge stone lintel set above its main gate. Neither Stephens nor his friends took the warning, however, and the fact of his walking off "scot free," as they say, humbles England exceedingly. It shows that she is now either almost universally detested or utterly despised in Ireland; for Irish officials, who have been, as a general thing, her most faithful servants and minions, must have in this case assured Stephens of his liberation previous to his arrest. If she says they were purchased by money sent from America it is equally bad, for it is under her own rule that they have become so poor as to be demoralized.

Stephens must have dropped from the branches of a tree which grows near the jail wall, on the very edge of the canal. This feat was very dangerous in itself, as the canal is quite unprotected here, and many foot passengers have fallen into it, and, in almost every instance, perished. A man who maintained his footing on its edge after a fall from a height, under such circumstances, must possess a firm nerve and have a firm trust in his associates.

The general opinion in Dublin was to the effect that once on the banks of the Grand Canal Stephens was taken out to some part of the Wicklow coast and shipped in a fishing lugger for France, or else brought in a northwesterly direction, and then due west, to either Galway or Mayo, where he could easily find a thousand of the "dark fishermen of Connemara" ready and willing to go to sea with him for France at a moment's notice. They know the course well, both from tradition and actual travel, and have no fear of the ocean, with which they have struggled almost from their infancy.

It was almost conceded that the "Head Centre" was safe somewhere.

In what are called government, or "loyal," circles in Ireland a good deal of blame is attached to the government of the United States for its toleration of Fenianism. It is said to be a very "unfriendly" course towards England. In Fenian circles, and they are indeed extensive, I have been assured that the American government has no official knowledge of the existence of such a body in America, and that the Fenian leaders are solemnly pledged not to complicate our Cabinet in any manner. The Fenians in Ireland allege that England herself not only affords shelter to political exiles from other parts of Europe, but permits them to form themselves into compact bands of agitators—up to attempts to murder—against their former sovereigns, with whom she is at peace. As evidence of this the Fenian diplomats point to the fact that the Orsini bombs, destined for the murder of Louis Napoleon, were manufactured in Sheffield, as Napoleon proved, and that the plot for his murder was concocted in London—both facts, they say, being well known to the London detectives. Then again they ask you to look at the Stansfeld-Mazzini conspiracy, in which a member of the British Cabinet was in secret negotiation with Mazzini, under an alias, for an almost similar purpose—Mr. Stansfeld retiring from the Cabinet after its *exposé*.

The Fenians are shrewd and active, and note passing events with accuracy, and I entertain little doubt, judging from what I have seen in Ireland, that they will soon place the long contested case of Ireland versus England for final trial before a world-wide jury.

THE SOCIAL CONDITION.

Our Dublin Correspondence.
DUBLIN, Dec. 2, 1865.

THE "ERIN GO BRAGH" OF 1865.

Sydney Smith having heard a few warm hearted patriotic Irishmen repeat their national cry of "Erin go Bragh" in the streets of London, listened attentively, and turning to a companion, after one of his reflective pauses, quietly observed, "The day will come when the Irish will be forced by circumstances to give up and abandon the shout of Erin go Bragh as nonsense, and to substitute in its stead the motto 'Erin go bread and cheese, Erin go pantaloons without holes in them.'" A keen-sighted observer of the effects of government rule, either for their weal or woe, as a people, and being probably well informed as to the rigidly exhaustive system of political economy which the English government had resolved to uniformly pursue towards Ireland, Sydney Smith reasoned that at some future time its effect would be to so demoralize, degrade and even animalize her inhabitants as to cause them to prefer the every day comforts of a full stomach and a good suit of clothes to the happiness of enjoying a free and independent country.

Arriving in Ireland, after an absence of sixteen years from her soil, and having made a close observation of the present social condition of her people, conducted with all that unprejudiced calmness which results from my American mind training, I have come to the conclusion that the intentions of the British in this respect have reached very nearly to a fulfilment, and I am convinced that had England been operating with such a view by her favorite means on a race of men less simple and pure in their worldly desires than are the Irish, she would at the present moment rule over a population willing to endure in contentment all the abasement of being merely "hewers of wood and drawers of water" in the land of their birth, provided their palates were sufficiently tickled with bacon, cheese and beer, such as a leading London journal has just offered to substitute for the elective franchise among the masses in England.

I regard the present condition of the Irish in Ireland—their national and individual pauperism, their hopelessness of a happy future at home, their anxiety to get away from a soil to which they are passionately attached, their decreasing population, the obliteration of homesteads and villages, the imprisonment of thousands of young persons and adults, born on such fertile acres, in dreary poor-houses, the dissensions which prevail all over the land, and the attitude of distrust which the masses assume towards every measure emanating from England—as constituting one of the most extraordinary and interesting problems of social science at the present moment, and one not unworthy of engaging the attention of the most enlightened statesmen of the world, more particularly in the United States, with a view to its definite, equitable solution.

SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE YEARS OF ENGLISH RULE.

England's attempt to rule Ireland was, as you are aware, first made in the year 1172. She announced to Europe that her dominion over the island was complete in the year 1612. During the intervening four hundred and forty years the people were described, officially and legally, in all her acts of Parliament, proclamations and charters, as "Irish enemies;" and it is a very curious yet sad commentary on the sequence of her government during the succeeding centuries that at the present hour I find that the Irish bandy the designation back on herself, terming her the "English enemy," at the very moment when she is vigilantly directing her powerful means of repression in every direction in order to prevent them proclaiming her as such to the world.

Indeed, I can scarcely recognize the country, so much has it been reduced since I left it; nor can I easily select what features of its appearance and state to first present to your readers. The rapid yet continuous exhaustion produced on every side by emigration, particularly that which has gone on since the year 1848, has so depicted Ireland and so changed the ancient routine of business and living among the people which now remain that it may be truly said of almost all classes of the inhabitants that they merely exist from "hand to mouth," either on the poorest kind of food taken from the soil, the profits of a compulsory export of food to England, what they may purchase for hard cash sent over to them by relatives or friends in America, or the salaried wages attached to some little government office given them either by the Cabinet in London or the omnipotent folk who represent it in the Castle in this city. There are no manufactures or public works which are really carried on by active capital, nor have I seen any which were not dependent in some shape or other on government contracts, poor law contracts, emigration trade, or the traffic consequent upon the production and shipment of food for and to the markets of England.

THE COVE AND CITY OF CORK AS SEEN AFTER THE FOREIGN EXPERIMENT.

I found a large number of persons in and around Queenstown when I landed, and the following day I saw that the stores, or shops as they are called here in Cork were well filled with customers, and doing, apparently, a very good trade. An examination of its character soon convinced me that, so far from being good or solidly beneficial, it was in reality the most ruinous business which any city or country can be engaged in, being merely the money changing and bustle consequent on the preparation of some thousands of the industrial classes to leave the land, perhaps for ever. The money, too, which passed from hand to hand so freely was, as I soon learned, not money produced in Ireland, but cash earned almost wholly in the United States by the very same class of persons, but living under a different form of government, and remitted to Ireland to promote the emigration of others whom the more fortunate friends beyond the water knew could do as well as themselves if they only could get away. I placed the matter in this light before a few of the shopkeepers of Cork, who acknowledged the truth of my conclusions, observing at the same time that they were only too glad to do any kind of trade which would give themselves a chance of remaining at home. Sauntering through the broad and well paved leading thoroughfares of Cork, I found a good many very smart and well dressed persons promenading, but I am sorry to say that such streets and tourists are not very numerous in the city; in fact, a large portion of the town is made up of wretched lanes, in which stand rows of shaky, dirty houses, tenanted by a population existing in the very lowest state of destitution. One of the principal hotels in the city, which is patronized largely by Americans, is, from the fact of so many of our fellow citizens staying there, surrounded from early morning till a late hour of the night with a crowd of these poor people who solicit alms, either openly or in a piteous silence, from every one whom they recognize as an American. The first evening of my stay in the house I set out in company with a friend from Kentucky and another from the State of Michigan to seek a barber. There is no barber's shop attached to the hotel, and the hour being rather late we inquired of a poor man, who was standing at the main entrance, where such an artist could be found. The wretched fellow volunteered to show us, but I assure you we had not gone twenty paces when we were surrounded by about twenty others, each one poor as he, all anxious to share the speculative profits of the pilotage with our first acquaintance, and all clamorous for some little bounty from the "rich and charitable Americans." I am happy to say that we were able to exercise a little of the great virtue towards these miserable men, although painfully assured at the moment that their monetary classification was exceedingly faulty as applied to at least one of our party. Cork is, like most of the other cities of Ireland, a very nice place to look at, but I fear it is a very poor one to "make a living" in, as the term "living" is understood on our side of the Atlantic.

FROM CORK TO DUBLIN—SCENES BY THE WAY.

Journeying by railroad from Cork to Dublin, a distance of one hundred and thirty-seven miles, I was struck with the paucity of dwellings to be seen along the route. As the Irish railway passenger trains travel slowly, you can range the eye over the country in an extended sweep and with considerable accuracy. In some parts of the counties of Cork, Tipperary and Queens there is not a human habitation to be seen for miles on either side of the road. The clusters of small farm and cottier tenements with which the country was dotted some thirty years since have all disappeared; in fact, they have been completely swept away. Here and there I saw the gable end of what was once a good substantial stone dwelling still standing; a monument, it may be said, to the pertinacity with which the Irish landlords are carrying out the social revolution initiated by England, which has for its object the eviction and exile of men and women, and for the multiplication of fat cattle, sheep and green crops, in order that Ireland may become "healthy," as it is called, but underaken, as it appears to me, in truth, with the sole intention that the ill-paid artisan of Britain may be made certain of a home supply of cheap food. Tenements being scarce, I saw very few people indeed on the highways. I think I may safely say that I did not discern during my ride from Cork to Dublin forty persons jogging along the roads which feed or run parallel to the railroad. Twenty years since and I could have counted four or five hundred souls during the same extent of journey. There were a good many cattle and sheep, with some few good looking young horses in the fields, but the hardy population, which may have been so happy in the neighberhoods, are evidently either dead, or gone to America, or crowded, in the capacity of day laborerers or dock "lumpers," into the adjacent towns or cities. A feeling of positive loneliness crept over me on this trip from Cork to Dublin, and remained with me long after I entered the capital. Musing on the scene and on the subject, I frequently called to mind the lines in which the poet describes the effects of the raids of the Star Chamber officers of England in the times of the Covenanters of Scotland when he says:—

And Claverhouse had with him come,
And with him grim Dalzell,
And the smoking rooftrees testif
They done their errand well.

THEIR "FACE TO THE WEST."

I may add that I did not meet in Cork a single person, male or female, of the working classes, but was anxious to get to America. Some were waiting for remittances from the other side, and the remainder hoping and calculating if they would, and how they could, make or save as much money as would pay their passage. The great ambition of the male servants in the hotels is to be able to get placed in one, of our first class city hotels or restaurants, of which they have heard glowing accounts, or in a good private family. Many of these men are really fine, intelligent fellows, such as would be an acquisition to the houses in which they so much desire to serve.

DUBLIN—BRITISH BENEFITS TO THE METROPOLIS.

In this ancient and very beautiful city there is not, I believe, one of the once magnificent public buildings raised for national uses, or a dozen of the fine private mansions so well tenanted twenty-five or thirty years ago, that have not been converted into English government offices, either military or civil, or in connection with the poor law, police or revenue departments. The splendid and spacious Custom House, erected on the banks of the Liffey with funds voted by an Irish Parliament and raised by Irish hands, is occupied to a very great extent by the Poor Law Commissioners, with their immense staff of inspectors, assistant inspectors, auditors and clerks—a manifest and unerring evidence of the decay of Irish trade and the steady advance of Irish pauperism since the year 1800, when the union between Ireland and England was consummated. The readers of the HERALD will bear in mind that previous to that event Ireland had no Poor law—in reality needed none—as her inhabitants were well able to relieve their more distressed fellows by the exercise of a voluntary charity, which never wearied nor ever had its lustre dimmed by a denial of alms. Now, if it so happened in New York, after a government rule of sixty-five years, that instead of our present magnificent municipal proportions the Commissioners of Charities and Correction had to move, in order to get more space, from their present location in Bond street and take up their quarters in the Custom House, would not the citizens think there was something either very wrong or very rotten in the system of government as applied to their case, and be very apt to demand a radical change of it? Indeed, I think I may safely say that neither the very gentlemanly and urbane bearing nor the exceedingly good humored face of the present Chief Clerk of the Commissioners could reconcile us to such a stern necessity, or wheedle us into the belief that it was "all right," and that we were living under a "paternal" and "civilizing" executive. But this is exactly the sort of result which the union with England has induced in Dublin. I am sorry to have to add that I find many weak-headed and faint-hearted young men about town here who go so far as to assert that such a state of affairs is excellent. I have learned, however, that the majority of these are dependent for their means of living on the pay attached to small government employments; in fact, they are the "bread and cheese" and "pantaloons without holes in them" Irishmen, foretold by Sydney Smith, and their existence as a class to-day teaches me that his prophecy is not to be despised.

THE CITY TRADE AND DUBLIN TRADESMEN.

On every side of me here I see spacious barracks for soldiers, barracks for the headquarters of a country police force, barracks for a seventy police, a great penitentiary for convict females, the Richmond prison just opened, by the way, by the Irish-American Fenians, a county jail, two spacious poorhouses, the Castle and its dependent offices; but nowhere do I find any extensive mart of Irish manufacture or Irish home trade. There is no opportunity for the exercise of a home productive industry, and the city is consequently flooded with the goods which overflow in the warehouses of England at the time of taking stock. They are sold cheap, so the poor people are satisfied and seem to make no inquiry as to why Ireland does not at present produce the fabrics by native labor.

The tradesmen of Dublin are, as a class, very poor, and the effect of this poverty is to cramp, by its very coldness, their naturally fine intellect, and prevent the cultivation of taste among a body of men who would, I believe, be very ingenious and neat if they had encouragement. Indeed, the handicraft callings may be said to be fast dying out in the ranks of the middle and lower classes. There are, I find, a few art and scientific associations in existence in the city, but they are for the most part societies of the "Mutual Admiration Order;" the rigid distinction of caste which causes the railway trains to be made up with three separate classes of carriages prevailing to such an extent that not one operative living on weekly wages ever attends the meetings; nor do I think does the operative body ever receive an apprentice or workman from the families of the men who do attend.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE ARTISANS.

An enterprising and highly respectable firm of Irish Quakers has, in mercy to the men and their children, drawn from their wretched and ill ventilated tenements in the quarter known as the Liberty as many of the weavers of Irish poplin and Irish tabinet as they can find employment for in their rooms in South George's street, and set them to work; and I may with great safety say that it is only here you can see the remnant of the once famous handicraftsmen of Dublin in receipt of fair wages.

Inquiring as to the position of the Irish hatters, who were to be found at Temple Bar when I last resided in Dublin, and for the Irish glovers and hosiers who were in the Liberty, I was informed by an official that every one of the hatters who remained were in the workhouses, that many of that class had died there, and that the men skilled in the other two branches had shared pretty much the same fate, or having been reduced to absolute want had died or were assisted to go to America.

THE EXISTING SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT.

The late Lord Palmerston and the Duke of Devonshire, and a few Irish capitalists, have built and are putting up a good many houses in the suburbs of the city, on property either inherited or purchased by them; and this, with the extension of the railway system, and the consolidation of railroad termini in the metropolis, gives employment to a good many mechanics and laborers.

The English express companies have established their forwarding agency lines in Ireland, and, the chief offices being in Dublin, there are quite a large number of men and horses kept at work by them.

At the railroad termini you find a number of intelligent, active men discharging the duties of railroad police and railroad porters. These men have very laborious work, but yet they work on, as they themselves express it, in the hope of "making both ends meet," and "keeping the wolf from the door."

A great many laborers and forwarders find employment along the docks either in loading the many steamers which carry the exports of Irish produce to England, or in taking charge of the cattle and other live stock placed on their decks. Many of these men take over, perhaps, a couple of sheep, a cow, or a few middle class or inferior horses—when able to purchase them or obtain them on credit—and endeavor to realize a couple of pounds sterling by their sale in Liverpool or some other English town.

Some of the good old Irish traders who remember Dublin "when it was a city" are still alive and engaged in business; many of them still personally active, and others assisted by members of their own family. Industrious, frugal, temperate in their manner of living, and thoroughly sympathizing with the poor, these men do a good trade in breadstuffs, provisions, and so forth. I am acquainted with one or two of them engaged in the corn trade, who are a credit to any mercantile community. These men pay considerable sums of money in wages, and the cash, being given with regularity and a good heart, appears to do the recipients good. Indeed, the men who are permanently employed by the parties to whom I refer may be said, all things considered, to be as well off as if they were in America; but, unhappily for Dublin, this excellent body of employes is very small in number.

A considerable number of the more humble citizens of Dublin make some money as proprietors and drivers of city cabs and "outside cars" plying for hire within the municipal limits. It is, however, hard work; and when such a man has his license paid, and his horse and car kept in strength and order, he has very little left to live on. Indeed, if he attempted to live and keep his family and rooms in anything like the comfort and style in which the drivers of the omnibuses and city railroad cars in New York do, and to take the same amount of personal comfort and amusement, his earnings for six months would not cover his expenditure in one.

I believe that I have here enumerated all the sources of employment at present existing in Dublin with the exception of that found by young men and women in the dry goods, boot and shoe and millinery stores, in government situations, in the learned professions or in literary life.

THE RATE OF WAGES.

The wages of all are very small in comparison to the remuneration found for such services in the United States. I think I am accurate in saying that the average weekly wages of a Dublin mechanic in full employment is eighteen shillings sterling, one week with the other, or say from six to six and a half dollars. The railway police receive fifteen shillings a week, and laborers in steady work, either at railroads or house building, from eight shillings to nine and sixpence sterling. I have rarely met any of them who earn nine or ten dollars a week with regularity either by trades or labor.

Compositors engaged on the daily newspapers earn from fifteen to twenty shillings a week. Their average wages is also about eighteen shillings; so, as seven dollars and about forty-four cents (in greenbacks) was worth twenty shillings sterling in New York when I left the city, the printers engaged on the HERALD and other large American dailies may easily figure out how much money a Dublin compositor takes home on Saturday night after having had his "bitters" duly for the six days.

During the hay harvest a good many men receive from two shillings and sixpence to three shillings a day in "cricking" hay for dairymen who keep a number of cows in the suburbs of Dublin. This description of employment continues only for a few weeks, and the poor fellows, who have a sort of craft, perfected by practice in "cricking," are frequently idle for months afterwards.

The wages of the clerks in the stores are so varied, according to circumstances, that I cannot state them with any degree of accuracy. The government clerks in the Post Office and other departments, with bank clerks and Custom House officials, get from fifty to one hundred and twenty pounds sterling a year. The classes last referred to are, outside the capitalists and aristocracy, the only really well dressed and apparently comfortable persons you meet.

SEWING GIRLS AT SIXPENCE A DAY.

The largest number of the girls who go out to sew in stores and warerooms are paid at the rate of sixpence sterling a day, or three shillings sterling for the working days of a week.

HOW THE PEOPLE LIVE.

From such incomes you must infer that tradesmen and laborers live very poorly, and that their families enjoy very little of the comforts of life. Such is, unfortunately, the case. These people have to hire rooms, the rents of which range from two and sixpence (unfurnished) to five shillings (furnished) for two rooms. These rooms are, of course, uncarpeted, are not supplied with water, and have very wretched outdoor accommodation in the way of water closets, &c. The fires in the rooms are lighted with peat fuel, which article is mostly used for burning. It is sometimes mixed with coal, but it is very rarely that a Dublin tradesman can now afford to burn coal all through the year. In the winter season their condition is very uncomfortable; miserable, if they are out of work. With them it is, for the most part, a continuous life of toil, unrelieved by any distinct—I might say any worldly hope of enjoyment, wealth or happiness for their children. The Dublin tradesman rarely sees his wife and children clad well and neatly, is scarcely ever able to find any avenue of advancement open to his children in any part of his native land, and is forced to keep them in miserable tenements, shoeless and ill clad. He must see his wife a daily drudge; perhaps engaged in feeding, positively attending on, a pig or two, by the sale of which they may hope to realize a few pounds to supply the deficit of wages which should have been had to enable him to live as he ought, and as he deserves to. The tradesmen of Dublin are very intelligent men, and sound politicians also, but they cannot really remedy themselves by "legal" (English definition) means. They are a very religious body of men, and I really believe that it is from the practice of their religion they draw their only comfort, and also that it is to this practice of their religion that England is indebted for the opportunities which she has had, and so piteously profited by, of working their worldly ruin.

THEIR FOOD AND BEVERAGE—PRICES OF PROVISIONS.

Not having as yet realized the "bread and cheese" foretold by Sydney Smith, the food of the regular Dublin tradesman is of a very inferior description, more particularly at the present moment, as the price of every description of flesh meat rules very high in consequence of the heavy exports of food to England—exports which are more necessary to the English now than at any former period, owing to the loss of live stock caused in their own country by the cattle plague. Beefsteak sells today in Dublin at from thirteen to fourteen pence sterling (twelvepence is worth thirty cents) per pound; mutton at from nine to twelve pence, butter at from fourteen to sixteen pence, bacon at ten pence, and bread at from five to sixpence per loaf, weighing a little over two pounds.

The late reduction of the duty on tea and coffee by the government of England has had the effect of cheapening the prices of these two articles very much, and their consumption by the families of the working classes is vastly increased, and with, I am happy to say, the most excellent effects on their health and morals. The free use of tea has removed, to a great extent, the wish, or necessity, which formerly existed among them of having recourse to the whiskey shop for a ready, cheap and stimulating beverage. Whiskey drinking has, in consequence, diminished greatly. The article has also been taxed more heavily, so that—a gill costing seven pence sterling—it is not at all so generally taken as it has been by the workingmen. The excellent porter which is brewed in Dublin is also cheap, and is more in use as a beverage. A pint of it can be had for twopence sterling, so that in respect to family drinks the condition of the men has improved to a very pleasing extent.

A DIET OF CABBAGES AND TURNIPS—BUTTERMILK AS A DRINK.

I am sorry to say that the Irish tradesman does not buy very much beefsteak, or mutton chop, or bacon, at any price; but is forced to supply their place with a diet made mostly of potatoes, cabbages, turnips, an egg or two and some buttermilk. The immense breadth of land thrown under cultivation for green crops renders this sort of food cheap. Six heads of good cabbages can be had for a penny, quite a number of turnips for the same amount, and fourteen pounds weight of potatoes are had for sixpence sterling. Green crops are of very little value just now in Ireland. Having got rid of as many of the population of the country as possible within a dozen of years past, the Irish landlords set themselves assiduously to work to raise green crops in order to feed the cattle with which they replaced their fellow men; but the cattle plague—sent as if in the order of God's Providence to show them how futile are human calculations of that sort—has either swept away the oxen or necessitated their sale. The cattle gone, the green crops are of scarcely any value; so they are really now forced on the people remaining here for human food

EFFECTS OF THE NEW DIET.

The continuous use of this diet enfeebles the frame and impoverishes the blood so that fevers, consumption, ophthalmia, granulated eyelids and other diseases which spring from such causes are very prevalent among the Dublin tradesmen and their families. Not being in a condition to fee a medical man he is forced to seek relief either inside the workhouse or dispensaries, which are supported from the Poor Law tax.

THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS.

The pecuniary condition to which the tradesmen have been brought has completely altered the condition of the medical profession, and leaves a great many of its members entirely dependent for a living on their having sufficient interest to get appointed to the superintendence of one of these establishments.

There are a great many lawyers and law clerks in Dublin, and the courts are in full blast at almost all seasons of the year. Entertaining the same opinion as was held by Peter the Great of Russia with regard to the multiplication of the legal fraternity, I regard the existence of a great many lawyers in a poor country like Ireland as an evidence of its decay and the entanglement of its social relations.

THE CLERGY AND CHURCHES.

Of the clergy, the Catholic people support theirs by voluntary contributions; but I observe that many of their rural pastors and curates are a good deal straitened in cirumstances by the emigration of so many members of their congregations to America and Australia. The clergy of the Established and Presbyterian churches are supported by State donations, the Presbyterians receiving some aid from their flocks in addition to the pittance voted them by the London Parliament. The latest report with regard to the Protestant Church establishment "question" is that Earls Clarendon and Russell are about to propose a bill to Parliament having for its object the alienation of its revenues and the application of the money to the support of the Poor Law in Ireland. This would be very popular here. It is said that the measure is to be undertaken at the recommendation of the late Mr Senior, an Englishman, just deceased, who was Chief Commissioner of Poor Laws and set the poor relief measure to work in Ireland. Mr. Senior was regarded a very high authority on subjects relating to political economy. It is thought here that the bill will be undertaken as the first of a series of Cabinet "sops" which are to be offered to the Irish and American Fenians. As the church establishment drains five hundred and sixty thousand pounds sterling every year from the soil of Ireland, and as the Poor Law tax is very heavy on both landlord and tenant, the bill will be supported almost universally. Its passage by an English parliament, and sanction by the Queen, the head of the church, will go far to dissipate the religious dissensions which prevail in Ireland, by convincing the people that England's rule among them is one of expediency only.

THE IRISH NEWSPAPER PRESS.

Of the newspaper press of Dublin I may say that I think all the journals in the city combined do not pay out half so much money for news and in wages and salaries as the NEW YORK HERALD. The most of the printing for the provincial journals is done here, the paper being bought and stamped, and then filled, say, on three of its pages, with a summary of the latest news received in Dublin. It is then forwarded by rail to the proprietors, who have their advertisements inserted on the blanks, and then issue them. You will see that by this plan the news in them is all the same as if stereotyped. The country editors pay the city press for the service.

THE RAILROADS AND THEIR INFLUENCE.

The introduction of railroads and their extension in Ireland have completely revolutionized all the old modes of travel, besides obliterating many once thriving towns, of from five to six thousand inhabitants, near to which the "iron horse" holds his way. The joyous rides in the pleasant old stage coaches are enjoyed no more, and post cars and country posting houses are almost entirely done away with. Ireland is too small for the extent of railway which has been built on her soil. Its existence only serves to lock up steadily any little capital remaining in the country, to throw thousands of men out of employment, and thus make more and more space for cattle and green crops. This, again, takes away the means of living from thousands of country tailors, shoemakers, needle women and others, as nearly all the articles which they formerly made are at present supplied by "emporiums" of English goods which have been opened in the large towns. These goods are sold at cheap rates, and forwarded to the buyers by the railroads.

EXPORTING FOOD WHILE ILL FED.

The ports of the southern and southwestern coasts of Ireland are fringed with steamboats carrying off the produce of the country to England. Everything salable is sent; cows, calves, horses, sheep, pigs, fowl, butter, bacon, pork, hams, eggs, porter, ale, whiskey, and even cabbages and turnips. I could in some towns walk many yards surface on the top of a heap of cabbages two yards in height, lying on the docks awaiting transportation to England and Scotland. The English mechanics are thus fed by Irish produce. The money received for it does not, however, remain in Ireland, but having been just looked at by the producer is immediately returned to England, either in the shape of rent to an absentee landlord or in the form of government taxes. This is the main cause of Ireland's impoverishment, so that as yet I see very little of the "Erin go bread and cheese."

HOUSE RENTS.

As very little building improvements have been undertaken of late years house rents have advanced; a house which could be formerly had for thirty pounds sterling a year renting now as high as even seventy. Another cause for this is to be found in the dwelling of thousands of country cabins and farmhouses, forcing the laborers and tradesmen, which they once sheltered, to go to the cities and large towns for lodging and board, pretty much on the American plan.

A large number of females are also obliged to go into the towns to seek employment in flax mills, hoop skirt factories and military clothing establishments. In former years they would be living at home in the houses or cabins of their parents in the country. These having been thrown down to make room for cattle and sheep, the young folk are exposed to all the vices of the cities, while their presence advances the scale of rents.

SIGNS OF NATIONAL ANIMATION.

What is true of the city of Dublin holds good with regard to all the other cities of Ireland, with the exception of Belfast and Londonderry, in the north, in and around both of which there exists a pretty healthy system of manufacture in linens, muslins, gloves, &c., and a heavy trade with England and Scotland. Leaving out the wages paid to factory hands, I doubt, however, if the condition of mechanics and laborers in the north is much better than it is in Dublin.

EMIGRATION AS A CURE.

To the mind of the Irish people the only real cure for all this social degeneracy is to be found in emigration to the United States. The landlords and great railroad companies do not find it palatable, and I am aware of many instances in which incorporated companies have "warned" the men in their employ not to go under our flag; but if they must go, to sail for Canada. Papers are distributed over some estates depicting, in glowing colors, the superior condition of Canada to the United States, and predicting its great future. These productions make little impression, however, as their effect is neutralized by the reception by every mail of letters containing money orders from friends in the Union, and the most encouraging accounts of their advancing fortunes. The roads are even now crowded with emigrant bands wending their way to Cork or Liverpool to embark for the United States, and the steamships plying between Queenstown and New York have had all their berths engaged for weeks in advance during the summer. There are now a great many persons (thousands a couple of months since) in Queenstown awaiting transportation to New York, and the scenes witnessed daily at the parting of families are very affecting. But go they must—going, as the London *Times* vindicatively but unwittingly termed it, "within vengeance," having all the "Erin go bread and cheese" and "Erin go pantaloons without holes in them" in prospect, while they leave plenty of Fenians behind them.

THE FENIANS.

The Senate and Senators Yesterday—Further Manifestations on Both Sides.

The Fenian Senate met at ten o'clock yesterday morning. None of its doings will be given to the public. The two newly arrived members, Messrs. Daily and O'Sullivan, having heard the Senate side of the story, proceeded yesterday afternoon to the Union square establishment to hear the other side from Messrs. O'Mahony, Killian & Co. The result has not yet been made public. In to-morrow's HERALD we will probably be able to give an authentic declaration of principles from both these noble Romans.

Nothing of striking importance transpired at either headquarters yesterday. Reports from the country were received—the tenor being, as a general thing, much the same as those we have been publishing. The Connecticut Fenians manifest a disposition to give each party its due, and heal up the muss—the Southington Circle leading in the Christian work. The McManus Circle, of this city, pronounce for O'Mahony.

A full regular session of the Senate will open at nine A. M. to-morrow. Important documents are being prepared for issue. During the next week, and indeed all the time until Mr. O'Mahony's convocation comes off, the central officers of both systems will be driving their respective interests with unflagging energy. The military department having gone with "the constitutional war policy of the Senate," it is understood that Mr. O'Mahony is looking around for materials to build up that department of his establishment again. The discussions among the people are not so fierce; still all Fenia is engrossed and will continue to be until some ray lights up the way of escape from the present surroundings. Another (the thirteenth) Senator is expected to-day.

The Knights of St. Patrick and the Fenian Trouble.

At an adjourned meeting of the Knights of St. Patrick, held at the Astor House last Thursday evening, for the transaction of private business, the subject of the present O'Mahony-Roberts Fenian rumpus turned up, and created quite a little excitement among the members. At a previous meeting a resolution laudatory of Colonel Roberts as an Irish nationalist had been adopted, and some designing parties had turned this into an endorsement of that gentleman's course in his dispute with Colonel O'Mahony. This fact brought up the discussion, and a resolution was offered in favor of expunging the complimentary resolution from the minute book of the society. This proposition was rejected. A resolution was then offered by Mr. Connery, and carried, with only one dissenting voice, declaring that the society disclaimed any intention of involving itself in the Fenian excitement; that it had not committed itself to any partisanship in the dispute; and that all publications to the contrary were false and unwarranted, arising in error or wilful misrepresentation, for which the association must not be held responsible.

President Roberts was not present; but the chair was occupied by Vice President Barnett, and Mr. Martin Brown officiated as secretary.

The President of the Canadian Fenians in Trouble.

TORONTO, Dec. 16, 1865.

The publication of the list containing the name of M. Murphy, President of the Hibernian Society, as a contributor to the Fenian fund, has created much comment here where he resides. The papers call for his arrest, but government will hardly do it, for it would probably cause a Fenian outbreak.

Fenian Scare in New Brunswick.

[From the Toronto Leader, Dec. 15.]

The telegraph some days since informed us that there was a good deal of excitement in St. John and throughout the province of New Brunswick in consequence of an attack which it was believed would be made on the frontier by Fenians from the United States. We learn from the St. John Telegraph of the 7th that on the 5th a message in cypher was received by Lieutenant Governor Gordon from Sir Frederick Bruce at Washington, informing him that a body of Fenians had left the States to make a raid into New Brunswick. The Lieutenant Governor took prompt measures to meet the emergency. He telegraphed for Mr. Smith, the Premier, who was at Dorchester, and at once started for St. Stephen, on the frontier, leaving a letter for Mr. Smith containing all the information he had received, and requesting Mr. Smith to follow him. The Premier reached St. John late that evening, and without delay proceeded by express to the frontier, reaching St. Stephen early on the morning of the 6th. On that day the Lieutenant Governor called a meeting of magistrates to consult about organizing a volunteer force for defence in case of a Fenian raid, which, we are told, "from information in his possession he had reason to fear. The information did not seem to point to St. Stephen only, but to the frontier towns of New Brunswick." In St. John the most active measures were taken to meet an attack. Colonel Otterson, commandant of the garrison, telegraphed to Halifax for aid, and the Pleiades, carrying twenty-one guns, was at once despatched from that port to protect the harbor; the