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A. O. H.

The Great Order Holds Its National Convention in Historic Trenton.

A Very Large Attendance and Past Differences Adjusted.

Great Enthusiasm Prevails. Monster Parade and Illuminations.

MOST IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS.

The first session of the great national convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was held Monday afternoon in Taylor Opera-house at Trenton, N. J., when addresses were delivered by Bishop McFaul and Mayor Sickel. It was an open meeting.

Delegates from all States in the Union were in attendance, and it was the most largely attended meeting in the history of the order. There was the greatest enthusiasm displayed on [illegible] parade, [illegible] and each night there was a general electrical illumination of the city, many of the designs being unique and novel. A very handsome one was the large arch at the corner of State and Warren streets. On each column supporting the arch were electric lights, formed into the letters "A. O. H." The top was occupied by a band of music, and underneath was the word "Welcome."

Our advices are that the session of Tuesday was in the nature of a love feast between the united branches, which makes the Ancient Order now one of the richest and most powerful bodies in this country.

Everything was harmonious, and no traces of the past differences were to be discerned. The busines of the convention being of the greatest importance to all Irishmen, we will wait until our next issue to furnish the detailed proceedings, preferring to have the official reports, in order that what we publish will be authentic.

THE ORDER IN THE PAST.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded several hundred years ago. It [illegible] its beginning during these times when persecution for conscience sake was rife in Ireland. Every one knows how in those early times there were so many pounds sterling put [illegible] of each priest saying mass [illegible] for teaching school, etc. [illegible] O. H. sprang into existence [illegible] time for the protection of [illegible] The A. O. of H. were [illegible] ed to stand guard while [illegible] vices were going on, and [illegible] signs and signals notifi[illegible] were in attendance w[illegible] by was approaching. [illegible] ervices in this way bec[illegible] sary they formed what is [illegible] as the A. O. H. with the [illegible] riendship, Unity and Tr[illegible] Charity." After a while the order became very extensive, and finally by emigration found its way into this country, having outside the objects of its motto the protection of Irish emigrants and particularly of the young women. This was about eighty years ago, and from this small beginning it has grown until now it extends its influence throughout this great Republic, numbering over 100,000 members.

The A. O. H. was first introduced into Kentucky about the year 1868, in the city of Covington, under the leadership of one Mr. Callahan, as State President. The order did not spread so rapidly as some other societies, and consequently is not of mushroom growth. But that it has come to stay, from its present very large membership, there can be no doubt. Finally it reached Louisville about the year 1874, and from that day to this it has [illegible] own until it now numbe[illegible] o in this city and 10,000 [illegible] The order is indebted [illegible] any very hard-working pi[illegible] s for the success which [illegible] chieved. Among these [illegible] ion (without preju[illegible] Mr. O. Callahan, Ju[illegible] J. Barrett, James [illegible] ley, R. E. Heffernan [illegible] Jas. Howard, Owe[illegible] mas Camfield, Willia[illegible] artin Cusick, Thomas [illegible] ames Coleman and [illegible] ounty President, James [illegible] ese gentlemen have [illegible] and out of season f[illegible] of the cause, inculcati[illegible] es of the noble order. [illegible] may be asked, does i[illegible] nnish-ness and make a[illegible] erican on account of b[illegible] society of this kind? [illegible] Any society which te[illegible] bers to cultivate friendship, unity and true Christain charity, and to make use of these in daily life is not only not injuring, but is making better citizens of its members. It is an old saying "that blood is thicker than water," and we believe that, being of the same blood, makes us all feel a little more interested in our neighbor of the same race, no matter what that race may be. Again this organization prevents a great deal of distress by paying sick and death benefits, thereby saving the family and friends a great deal of the mortification which they would naturally feel had the State or city to take charge of their unfortunates. It will never be known outside of the order how much good is done, for the Hibernians never tell any one of their charitable deeds. They go about them quietly and unostenaciously, and the outsider would never suspect that they are the harbingers of so much charity.

BISHOP M'FAUL'S ADDRESS.

Bishop McFaul delivered the opening address to the convention. As the very reverend prelate walked onto the stage he was greeted with enthusiastic applause. The delegates arose in their places and gave several very hearty cheers. After the applause had subsided the Bishop stepped to the front of the stage and delivered the following address, which was interrupted many times by the applauding:

"This enthusiastic greeting," he said, "renders it impossible to restrain the feelings awakened in my breast by the sight of this convention, composed of delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada, for the purpose of lastingly cementing the union so happily accomplished during this memorable year of '98.

"As a man whose pride is to have first seen the light of day beneath the genial sky of the ever faithful isle, as the chief pastor of the diocese of Trenton, as Bishop of the Catholic church, I bid you a thousand welcomes, and pray God to bless your deliberations. Questions momentous to the integrity, the progress, the prosperity of your noble order—questions whose significance and importance are far reaching, not limited to merely the interests of your own organization, but co-extensive with the welfare of the Irish race—will engage your attention. Wherever an Irishman, yea, wherever there dwells an Irish heart in which pulsates Irish blood—and what land visited by the sun in his majestic course around the world does not cherish the sons and daughters of Erin?—the principles of friendship, unity and Christian charity here proclaimed by a reunited Ancient order of Hibernians will meet a generous welcome and encourage the sea-divided Gael to unite for securing the strength and the influence which, joined to that indomitable courage which has never deserted us during long ages of oppression and tyranny, will place dear old Ireland forever in possession of her long sought liberty.

"Here I may be permitted to remind you that the poet, dwelling in the bitterness of his soul upon the miseries of his native land, has announced their cause in tones which must find an echo in every Irish heart.

"'Let Erin remember the days of old,
E'er her faithless sons betrayed her:
When Malachy wore the collar of gold
Which he won from the proud invader.'

"Ah, yes, let us remember the days of our glory and our sorrow, and let no thoughtless word or act mar the magnificent future of the Irish nation and the Irish race. Looking out into that future, I see the star of freedom rising on the horizon; I behold it approaching the zenith whence it will bathe with generous beam the hills and the vales of the 'Emerald Gem of the Western World.'

"Disunion," the reverend speaker said, had rendered it possible for the poet to describe the woes of an Irishman in a foreign land, as it had been done in the "Exile of Erin." The bishop then ably recited this pretty poem of Moore's, and it provoked much applause.

Continuing he said: "Union among Irishmen also enabled our fathers to stand shoulder to shoulder with other nationalities while they laid deeply and firmly the foundations of free institutions in this fair land. For does not history proclaim that one-half of the American Revolution was composed of Irish Catholics and Irish Presbyterians? Here they fought and bled and died for liberty. A memorable example is found in this city of Trenton, where the names of McKonkey, the Irish Presbyterian, and Patrick Colvin, the Irish Catholic, have been rendered glorious by the assistance they gave to Washington and his army at the battle of Trenton.

"This same spirit made conspicuous the labors of Irishmen and their sons as officers in the army and navy, and even in our legislative halls—for we number nine signers of the Declaration of Independence and six framers of the Constitution.

"These deeds prove that the Irish when united are invincible. Shall we not, then, stand together for race and fatherland? Yes; disunion shall not weaken our efforts. We have and we shall be generous enough to make sacrifices for union that Ireland may rejoice in the garlans of liberty, prosperity and peace.

"Then, O Irishmen, with union at home and union abroad, with fair Columbia extending assistance, Erin shall arise in her might, and, shaking off the oppression, take her place among the nations of the earth.

"Let, therefore, these deliberations be conducted in the spirit of your great fundamental principles: 'Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity;' let all personal ambition, old jealousies and contentions be cast aside, and this will be the grandest convention known in the history of your organization and productive of most important results to the Irish race throughout the world."

When the applause that followed the close of the address had subsided, Bishop McFaul then introduced Mayor Welling G. Sickel. "I take great pleasure, gentlemen," said the Bishop, "in introducing a gentleman, who is an American of the Americans; whose patriotism is co-extensive with the United States; whose love is manifested irrespective of creed or nationality; a man who has at heart, I believe, before all other men in this city, the interests of the city of Trenton, who is giving to us an energetic, business-like administration, and I believe if it continues as it begun it will not be long until we get Trenton out [illegible]

The Mayor was given an ovation that lasted several minutes. He made a brief speech, and was given many hearty rounds of applause. He spoke as follows:

"It affords me great pleasure to extend to you the freedom of the city. I feel, as Mayor of the city of Trenton, that you have paid us a great compliment by holding your convention in our city.

"On the very ground on which this building is erected was fought one of the decisive battles of the Revolutionary War. And, as you well know, that was the war that brought about the independence of this glorious country and caused the Stars and Stripes, which mean 'Liberty, Prosperty, Peace and Good Will to all Men,' to float o'er our land.

"I had the pleasure a short time ago of visiting the country where, no doubt, some of you were born—Ireland. Many times did I wish for her the happy solution of her ills. While the people seem willing to accept their lot, yet such a result would mean prosperity to Ireland.

"I congratnlate you upon having united and come together as one great body, for, as you know, 'In union there is strength.' I feel that Bishop McFaul, as arbitrator, has performed an important and manly duty in bringing you together, and I sincerely hope that the deliberations of your body during your session here will prove a benefit to your order, as all beneficial orders are a benefit to mankind.

"While you are in this city we want to make you comfortable, and extend to you true Jersey hospitality. I want to say, on behalf of the Citizens' Committee, that every member stands ready to do anything in his power to help you and make your visit pleasant while you are here.

"As Mayor of the city it is particularly gratifying to me to be able to throw the doors of welcome wide open to you, that you may partake of the hospitality that we are able to extend to you.

CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.

Kentucky Delegates to the Hib[illegible] Convention Held at Trenton.

JAMES COLEMAN.

Delegate James Coleman was born in Manchester, England, forty years ago. He attended school until arriving at the age of fourteen, when he came to this country. Mr. Coleman became a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians fifteen years ago, and from the first has been actively identified with every movement undertaken by the order in this city and State. He has been honored with all the offices of his local division. Mr. Coleman held the office of State Secretary for twelve years, and has been an ardent worker in promoting the growth of the order. The [illegible] be congratulat[illegible] as a representa[illegible] convention, as [illegible] deeper thinke[illegible] talkers. With such men taking part the deliberations can not be otherwise than beneficial. Mr. Coleman is married and a popular resident of the West End. He is connected with Cotner & Gage, wholesale grocers.

MART[illegible]

State Delega[illegible] Cusick was born in [illegible]sville in the year 18[illegible] of Irish parents, who [illegible] children never to forget [illegible] her sons and daught[illegible] Cusick received his ea[illegible] at St. Patrick's paroch[illegible] ter several years there [illegible] the public schools. Up[illegible] school Mr. Cusick learn[illegible] ing trade, and was in a [illegible] ognized as one of the be[illegible] ness. Mr. Cusick alwa[illegible] nterest in Irish affairs. [illegible] enty years of age he bec[illegible] of Divi[illegible] gift of the Kentucky members of the A. O. H., and last April was elected State Delegate. This puts him at the head of the order in Kentucky. He will take a prominent part in the national convention at Trenton.

JOHN A. MURPHY.

Mr. John A. Murphy, one of the five delegates representing Kentucky at the national convention of the A. O. H. at Trenton, N. J., was born at Long Island, N. Y., and is now thirty-nine years old. He received his primary education in the Catholic schools. After leaving school he continued his studies at home until he acquired a fund of knowledge that is practical and valuable. Mr. Murphy removed to Louisville in 1885, joining Division No. 4 fourteen years ago. Because of his marked ability and popularity Division No. 4 has elected Mr. Murphy to all the offices within its [illegible] of years been a valued employe of the Turner, Day & Woolworth Company. Upon the completion of the business of the convention Mr. Murphy will visit New York city and the scenes of his boyhood days.