

the woods, and thence out on the plateau behind. A general engagement then ensued, and it was almost impossible to distinguish anything, with the screams, shouts, cheers, firing of musketry, and dense smoke which prevailed all over the field. The English flags were captured with shouts of triumph, and the entire British army surrendered as prisoners of war, when Manahan gave the signal to cease firing. The maneuvers were perfect, as nearly every man on both sides engaged had served in the war of the Rebellion. The engagement of the two skirmish-lines was beautifully executed, and reflected credit on the officers and men. The defeat and capture of the English army were hailed with joy by the multitude in the woods. There was no drunkenness or disturbance during the day, and everything passed off with good order and quietness. After the sham battle, a person from California and others made addresses to the assembly, when dancing was resumed, and continued until a late hour.

#### Reorganization of the F. B. in Indiana.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA, Sept. 11, 1867.

To the Editors of The Irish Republic.

GENTLEMEN: I have the pleasure of adding the following names to your list of subscribers:

James Downes, Greencastle, Putnam county, Indiana; John Sullivan, Reesville, Putnam county, Indiana; John Carey, Terre Haute, Vigo county, Indiana; Terrence C. McSweeney, do. The result of one hour and a half's work in favor of the good cause by our excellent countryman and true Fenian, Terrence McSweeney, of this city.

Our Circle here is now perfectly reorganized, and bids fair to become one of the most earnest and efficient organizations in the Hoosier State. And, in this connection, allow me through your columns to return my heartfelt thanks to the Brotherhood of Terre Haute, for the distinguished, although unsought, honor conferred upon me in my election as Center of the Emmet Circle. While I can but admit the superiority of many others, in regard to the qualities necessary for an efficient officer in that arduous and sometimes difficult position, I hope I will not be accused of self-praise or vanity, when I assert that no heart beats within the Irish breast more earnestly for the welfare and liberty of green Erin than mine, and while I represent equally with all the frailty of the human composition, yet my best endeavors shall prove, if possible, when the time of action comes, that my friends were not disappointed in their selection.

I remain, gentlemen, respectfully,

PHILIP B. O'REILLY.

N. B. Mr. John Tobin, from St. Louis, was the acting spirit in the reorganization of the Emmet Circle, and Mr. T. McSweeney should receive thanks unlimited for efforts that he has made in his endeavors to circulate that *friend of Ireland*, THE IRISH REPUBLIC of Chicago. P. B. O'R.

#### The McMahon Appeal.

[We willingly publish the following letter from Colonel Mullen, whom we consider one of the very best Irish nationalists in America. We are quite at one with him in believing that the case of Father McMahon is one deserving of earnest sympathy and support. And we take this opportunity of expressing our deep regret that the originators of this movement did not include the other Fenian victims of British vengeance, who are now suffering the torture of prolonged death in the "kingdom of Canada." It is time that this favoritism, whether for spiritual or any other reasons, was at an end. We should only know men, whether lay or clerical, as true Irish nationalists, willing to struggle or suffer for their country's liberty.—Eds. I. R.]

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 12, 1867.

To the Editors of The Irish Republic.

GENTLEMEN: The appeal to the friends of Father McMahon published in your issue of the 7th instant, for money to be used in effecting his release from the Kingston Penitentiary, deserves, and I trust it will receive the earnest support of every friend to Irish liberty. I regret exceedingly that the committee thought fit to reiterate the assertion "that his connection with the invasion was accidental and compulsory." The evidence on the trial did not show conclusively that he was compelled to go with, or to remain with, the Fenian forces in Canada; though I believe, there was a plea made by the defense to that effect. But the reverse would have been exactly the truth. Father McMahon left his home in Anderson, Indiana, on hearing that our men were moving through that State to the frontier. He arrived in Buffalo on the morning of the invasion, and immediately crossed the Niagara to join the command of General O'Neill, which was camped three miles below Fort Erie. I met him at the landing, and escorted him to camp, where he remained but a short time before returning to Buffalo for the purpose of procuring some articles which he expected he would require during the campaign. He got back in time to join us as we were about starting out on the march to Ridgeway. At the time of the evacuation he volunteered to remain with the wounded. It is a foul slander on General O'Neill and his command for any man or set of men to state or insinuate, that we either forced or compelled Father McMahon to go with us to, or to remain with us in Canada. I hardly believe that the command was so anxious to procure a soul-saver as the statement of the committee would seem to indicate. Our thoughts were centered more on the work we had to do.

By giving the above a place in your columns you will oblige,  
Yours truly,  
JOHN S. MULLEN.

#### Letter From Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 11, 1867.

To the Editors of The Irish Republic.

GENTLEMEN: Following the example of the Brotherhood throughout the country, the old and respectable "Washington" Circle—the parent of the Fenian Brotherhood in the District of Columbia—gave a picnic on the 3d instant, for the benefit of the suffering families of the Irish patriot prisoners. On the morning of the 3d everything looked bright and promising; the weather was delightful, the air balmy and pure, and all nature seemed to smile upon us, to encourage and give us hope; the picnic grounds, too, were admirably selected, and every friend of the cause here was satisfied of having a "big thing." I regret to say, however, we were disappointed, the attendance being not at all satisfactory, which reflects anything but credit on an Irish population of not less than fifteen thousand. Indeed, when I consider the time given, and the energy displayed by the few faithful men here towards making it a success; and when I know the object was, under God, the greatest that ever appealed to the sympathy and charity of a Christian people, I must confess, to me, the result appears humiliating. Thank Heaven, the wives and little ones of the inmates of Portland and Pentonville have others to stand by them outside their country people of Washington!

Messrs. Editors, many reasons might be given for the wholly disproportionate attendance at this picnic, and I was about to instance a few of them, when methought I heard the manly and dignified voice of our respected President cry out, stentor-like, "Hold! Stop!! You are too late. You must now smother your natural indignation. It is too late now to give expression to anything that would tend to create new antagonisms. Just now, the glorious work commenced in Europe a few weeks since, is about to be consummated here. Union with *honest men* should be your cry, for that you should now labor." Of course, Messrs. Editors, like an obedient soldier, I acquiesced without hesitation; for I remember my pledge—"obey all orders of your superior officer"—and so smothered the pent-up recollections of Tuesday, September 3d.

Oh, yes! anything for an honorable union. Let us have it by all means, but with *honest men*. For it all good men should labor. Unity of purpose, unity of action, and the perfection of the military branch of the Brotherhood, are the measures which the experience of the past and the wants of the present suggest as the only sure and reliable means to effect the great object for which we pledged our sacred word of honor. The first cause of the successful establishment of the infernal English power in our country was want of unity. In the narrow circle of sept, the interest, the honor, the glory of universal Ireland were lost sight of, and national pride sunk below the pride of the clan.

The hero of Limestone Ridge—the sincere, honest, unpretending John O'Neill—was present at our picnic; and after repeated calls, ascended the platform, and delivered a very sensible and neat address; in the course of which he feelingly alluded to Luby, O'Donovan (Rossa), Kickham, Duffy, Burke, and others; and renewed his promise to be again at his post when the golden opportunity presents itself. When that day comes, as come it must, let us pray that the jealousies, the rivalry, the lack of the inspiring genius of nationality that paralyzed the aim of the accomplished soldier, Owen Roe O'Neill, will not be repeated in the case of his respected namesake, John O'Neill.

As you are admirers of the General, Messrs. Editors, you will be glad to learn that he is enjoying excellent health, and is doing an extensive business here as claim agent. His offices are within a hop, step, and jump of the Department of the Government—211 Pennsylvania avenue, opposite Williard's hotel—and anyone having claims for bounty, pension, arrears of pay, prize money, etc., will be fortunate in placing them in his hands. Why? Simply because he—unlike others—attends *personally*, in the Department, to the claims of his clients; gives verbal explanations of intricate and disputed points, raised from time to time by the officers of the Government, thus obviating an endless correspondence, and necessarily the saving of much time, paper and post office stamps, and thereby securing his client's "certificate of payment" in an unprecedented short period of time.

And now a word with reference to your paper, Messrs. Editors, and I shall have done.

The subscribers for the REPUBLIC in this city are, without exception, as far as I know, pleased with it. A few, however—and, Messrs. Editors, they are good men and true—think you would do more good by handling our friends (?) of the long black coats with a softer glove, and by a lesser reference to and more moderate expression of American politics. The undersigned, however, does not agree with these few good men. I fear, Messrs. Editors, those friends of mine do not see the sad and appalling condition of their country—an insult to the civilization of the 19th century, and such as the fiendish hatred of our tyrant, his eye glaring with hellish exultation at our destruction, could hope or expect. They appear to forget too soon the blood of Drogheda, Wexford, and New Ross, the gaunt and famine-stricken myriads of Skull and Skibbereen, the destruction of our violated homes, the decay of our language, and the dark night of intellectual darkness in which they sought to entomb our nationality. All these my friends must have forgotten, or they would reason differently. They have, however, sunk too deeply into my

soul to be soon forgotten. They must be deeply, amply avenged, and that can only be done by a united advocacy of the gospel you preach. Go ahead, then, in God's name! The life-blood of our country is ebbing fast, and at such a time it is, in my opinion, folly for Irishmen, with the recollections of what I have stated before them, together with the recollections of the conduct of a Cullen, a Moriarty, a Gleeson, a Duggan and others, to be influenced in their civil and political duties by a clergyman or any other man. The opinion of a clergyman, when he leaves the sanctuary and mixes up in politics, is, in my opinion, of no more value than that of any other citizen—perhaps less, from the training and tendency of his mind, in regard to his connection with church matters. Every man is endowed by the Creator with a mind of his own. Why? To do his own thinking, to guide him in forming his own opinions; and the man who allows another to think for him, surrenders and makes little of one of the greatest faculties of his manhood.

These are *my* ideas, Messrs. Editors, and from them you will at once see how far I go when the life of my country is at stake.

Steps are about to be taken to form a number of new Circles in this city, and in Georgetown and Alexandria, Va. General O'Neill also proposes to commence at an early day the organization of several military companies. O'C.

#### SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

##### The Alabama Claims—Mr. Seward's Ultimatum.

From the Chicago Tribune of 14th September.

Mr. Seward's letter to Minister Adams, which we publish herewith, presents a resume of the case of the United States against Great Britain in the matter of the Alabama claims, upon which we believe that the country will make a firm stand. Divested of legal niceties, it shows that the hostility of the British Government and its subjects, taking form and outward expression at the firing of the first gun in the late war, gave the most efficient aid and encouragement to the rebels throughout the struggle, and resulted in the destruction of ninety-five American merchant vessels, with their cargoes, valued at ten millions of dollars, by cruisers built in British ports, armed with British guns, manned by British sailors, entertained and supplied in British harbors in all parts of the world. In view of this devastation, which we would not have tolerated a moment if we had not been engaged in a life and death struggle, and which the British Government would not have allowed to occur but for the same reason, we have simply proposed an arbitration. The proposition was rejected in gruff terms, so long as our civil war continued. When the war was ended the sentiment of the ruling classes of Great Britain changed, and the proposition to arbitrate was accepted. Our Government then proposed to put the papers in the hands of the arbitrator just as they stood, embracing the question of the untimely recognition of the rebels as belligerents, without, however, insisting that the arbitrator should pronounce upon that point. This is objected to by the British Government in what seems to be very decisive terms, but no more decisive, perhaps, than those in which Earl Russell refused to arbitrate at all.

In our opinion Mr. Seward should have insisted on a decision of the recognition question by the umpire, instead of leaving it to his discretion. But inasmuch as the record has been made up differently, we are content to abide by it, and to take the position, (1) that the case shall go to Court as it stands, or (2) that the claims shall be paid, or (3) that the United States shall levy on British property to satisfy them. We believe that we can collect ten millions of dollars and costs without going off this continent. We believe, furthermore, that if Great Britain shall not accept the very easy terms which have been proposed to her, five years will not pass by until the experiment will have been made.

#### MEETINGS, LECTURES, ETC.

##### America and Great Britain.

ADDRESS BY REV. NEWMAN HALL, D. D., OF LONDON.

[We particularly call the attention of our readers to the following lecture, by the Rev. Newman Hall, and to the subjoined answer to it by Mr. T. O'Neill Russell. Mr. Hall's lecture is of the greatest significance, and shows unmistakably the tremendous efforts England is making to save herself from the ruin which is fast overtaking her. She knows she must either fight America soon, or swallow such a very big "leek," that the disgrace of the latter alternative would be almost as dangerous as a war. A war with America will leave her a wreck—a mere shadow of her former self—with every sod of foreign earth torn from her, and a young Republic only two score of miles from her western shores. Paying the Alabama claims will show her hands to the world, and prove she is a coward as well as a tyrant. Mr. Hall is one of the most eminent and eloquent of the nonconformist ministers of England. When such men as he could be hired by his Government to come out here and utter falsehoods so monstrous and so barefaced as are contained in this lecture, what straits must England be in, and what further evidence need men desire of her perfidy? If Irishmen do not band together and checkmate England on this side of the Atlantic, she will have the entire American people poisoned by her lies, and deceived by her cunning.—Eds. I. R.]

Rev. Newman Hall, D. D., of London, England, lectured on Monday evening, 16th instant, in the spacious Second Presbyterian Church, which was filled with a deeply interested audience.

The exercises were opened with a finely executed voluntary from the choir, followed with prayer by Rev. Dr. Bulgamic, of Scarborough, England. The choir and congregation then joined in singing, with powerful effect, the national hymn,

"My country, 'tis of thee."

Lieutenant Governor Cross then came forward and said, in substance, that he had been requested to introduce the learned gentleman who was to address them, and he was proud to do it. It gave him pleasure to say that when our nation was struggling in a civil war, the distinguished gentleman stood by us, and, though a cloud had covered us, he had looked