

The Late Irish Convention at Chicago.

CHICAGO, Oct. 9.—EDITOR AMERICAN: There was a so-called convention held in this town week before last. Irish revolutionists, from all over the United States, Canada and the world, made up its delegates—and, sad to relate, this solemn convocation of Erin's bog-trotters, of the dynamite-gunpowder plot, Phoenix Park tragedy type, was held in the beautiful, spacious auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. O'Dynamite Rossa, Patrick Egan, John F. Flerty et al. have always relied on "physical force." "Father" Tom Sherman said once upon a time that the A. P. A.'s were "a lot of anarchists." Take that back, Tom! You know you were falsifying. The Chicago Irish convention on Sept. 25 declared in the most unequivocal terms that force had to be employed to attain "Old Ireland's" independence. It has always been the same sanguinary argument with the Roman Irish since the unlucky and unhappy birth of the first Irishman. But what is the meaning of the term "physical force" as employed in the vocabulary of the Fenians, whose true descendants are the kith and kin who composed the Chicago revolutionary assembly? Our lecturers can easily define the term. It means dynamite, caissons of gunpowder, brickbats in blocks of five, clubs and stones. It means their several secret, political and revolutionary societies armed to carry death and destruction to Great Britain, with which nation we are at perfect peace. All these objects have been from time immemorial the only means which the south of Ireland pagans have employed to settle their disputes. Who, then, Father (?) Tom, are anarchists, the A. P. A.'s or the pope's Irish?

The Micki have made a new departure in their mode of warfare against the British nation. They propose to form new organizations, into which shall alone be infused new blood, and arm them to the teeth, to begin the Eighth Crusade, so to speak, and thereby relieve the United States of the presence of a very undesirable class of its population, to hurl them against the forces of the British Empire.

The St. Jam's Gazette hit the nail squarely on the head when it said: "There is none so valiant as the exiled Hibernian in the secure atmosphere of an American liquor-saloon. There is none so ready to attack the Saxon when the Saxon cannot get at him, or so patriotic in raising other people's money for war."

Here is a reasonable observation made by the Chicago Daily News of Sept. 27: "Ireland and Cuba and England and Spain might profit by two international conventions where they could compare notes and then arbitrate the matter." F. X. DES RIVIERES.

Patriotic to the Last.

A couple of Englishmen, en route for Rome, were joined by an American, whose blatant patriotism first amused, then bored them. No matter what was admissible, rich or rare, there was always something in America to eclipse it, according to our countryman. The Britishers determined to teach the Yankee a lesson, and taking advantage of the chronic thirst of their companion, they plied him with all the liquor he could be induced to absorb, and then proposed a visit to the catacombs. Before they reached their destination they were obliged to guide his errant steps between them, and at length, overcome with drowsiness, the American begged to be left alone to lie down at his ease. When sounds as of a discharge of musketry issued at regular intervals from the nose of the prostrate patriot, his companions concluded he was dreaming of the Fourth of July and would therefore be oblivious to anything at hand. Producing a sheet purloined from their hotel and until now carefully concealed, they wrapped the sleeper in its folds and then left him, to do the catacombs on their own account.

Returning an hour later, they found him still sleeping. One of them then drew from under his coat a tin fish-horn, and blew upon it a blast that only elicited a grunt and produced a fluttering of the eyelids of the sleeper. A second blast, however, longer and louder, brought him to a sitting posture, with eyes wide open and senses all alert. A moment of bewilderment, and then he exclaimed joyously: "Gabriel's trump! Resurrection day! First man up! Hurry! America still ahead!"—Harper's Magazine.

Popish Education in Ireland.

The Belfast Witness, the organ of the Irish Presbyterian Church, is aware of the dangers which threaten Protestantism under the government. It takes up the proposal of the Spectator for the establishment and endowment of a Roman Catholic University, and says that the Spectator "keeps carefully in the background the fact that the Irish Roman Catholics have Maynooth endowed by the state for some half-million of British money, entirely under the control of the Italian Pope, or Prince, or both. It omits to mention the facts that to all the rewards, exhibitions, etc., of the Royal University, Irish Roman Catholics have the same freedom of access, the same protection for their religious opinions, as have the other denominations of the country. It overlooks the fact that thirteen fellowships, with £400 per annum each, are

attached to the strictly Roman Catholic College in Dublin." The Witness points out with many apposite instances that the Roman Catholics are not to be satisfied, that they will go on making claims until complete ascendancy is granted. It is high time that the Protestant feeling in Ireland found some expression, and we are not without hope that the Presbyterians may be able to do something to check that legislation in the interests of Roman Catholicism which we believe to be the one hope of breaking down Home Rule in Ireland.

A GERMAN "KING OF TRAMPS."

Once a Valiant Soldier, He Became a Hopeless Wreck.

A few days ago there was buried in Brooklyn, N. Y., the body of William Heiser, alias "Jumbo," 45 years of age. He was known as "The King of Tramps," and for the past twenty years was one of the most interesting characters of the city. He was the son of the mayor of a town in Germany, and through a money broker was in receipt of an allowance of \$100 every three months. Even under the dirt of a tramp he showed his breeding. Tall and commanding in appearance, he was in the habit of reminding all with whom he came in contact that although a tramp he was once a gentleman. Of the thousands who knew him no one could contradict him. Twenty years ago he made his appearance in Brooklyn. It was at the time when lodging houses were attached to the station houses. He was ever about the Bedford avenue station, cleaning and tending the furnaces. All attempts to make him talk of his previous life were a failure. His only answer was: "I am a gentleman if I am a tramp." It was his pleasure on receiving a remittance to take his friends out and get them drunk and then pay their fines. Through the money broker it was learned that "Jumbo" gained a gold medal during the Franco-Prussian war, but that having incurred the enmity of the German government he came to this country. Eighteen months ago, on expressing a wish to reform, his relatives sent him \$1,000, with which he started in the furniture business, but failed. An officer found him sitting on the steps of the hospital at Bedford avenue and South Third street. He awoke him. "Keep moving," said the officer. Jumbo's reply, "They don't know me any more," was scarcely audible, but he kept moving as best he could. A few hours later another officer found him sitting in the gutter. He made an attempt to get up, but fell back unconscious. He was taken to the station house, where he died. Fortunately the regular \$100 remittance was received the day after, and he was not buried in the potter's field.

THE MYSTIC THREE.

Something About the Time-Honored Superstition for the Number.

I was reading an article the other day on the superstitions regard for the number three, and it set me thinking. There must be something in it. The third repetition of anything is generally looked upon as a crisis. An article may be twice lost and recovered, but when lost the third time is lost for good. Twice a man may pass through some great danger in safety, but the third time he loses his life.

If, however, the mystic three can be successfully passed all is well. Three was called by Pythagoras the perfect number, and we frequently find its use symbolical of deity. For instance there are the Trinity of the Christian religion, the trident of Neptune and the three-forked lightning of Pluto. In mythology there are the three Fates, the three Furies and the three Graces. Shakespeare introduced three witches. I can remember the old nursery rhyme about the three wise men of Gotham, and the song of the three blind mice whose tails were cut off by the farmer's wife.

I have heard of three volume novels, and know that most doctors order their medicine to be taken three times a day. We eat three times a day. The Bible speaks of a man being thrice blessed. The old saw—"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again"—gives three trials. Cleveland tried three times for the presidency and succeeded twice. Surely he is not going to brave fate and try again?

Hard on the Rescuer.

"Charlie Brown—later on the famed Aretemus Ward of literature—and I were walking toward the office along toward 1 o'clock in the morning, when we were reporters together on the Cleveland Leader," said Gen. Warren P. Edgerton, "when we heard piercing cries from the second story of the house. 'Ah, ha! Beauty in distress!' ejaculated Brown. 'Let's go over.'"

"Over we went, and into the room where the trouble was. We saw a burly fellow fearfully belaboring his little mite of a wife, and I rushed in to do the saving act. Well, that fellow was a whopper. The table was set for a meal, he evidently being some sort of a night-worker, and the first thing he did was to swing me across the top of it, making a clean sweep of the dishes and the hash. Then I was fired under the table and had it overturned on me. Just then as I got a chance to breathe, I looked around to see what Brown was doing for the relief of the country. "'Time!' he shouted; and as I turned my banged-up head I saw him perched on a chair on the corner, with his watch in his hand, enjoying the situation hugely.

"The ruffian let me up and we two proceeded on our way. The next day after I had the pleasure of reading a vivid account of the fight described by 'rounds' as Brown saw the scrap."—Philadelphia Call.

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