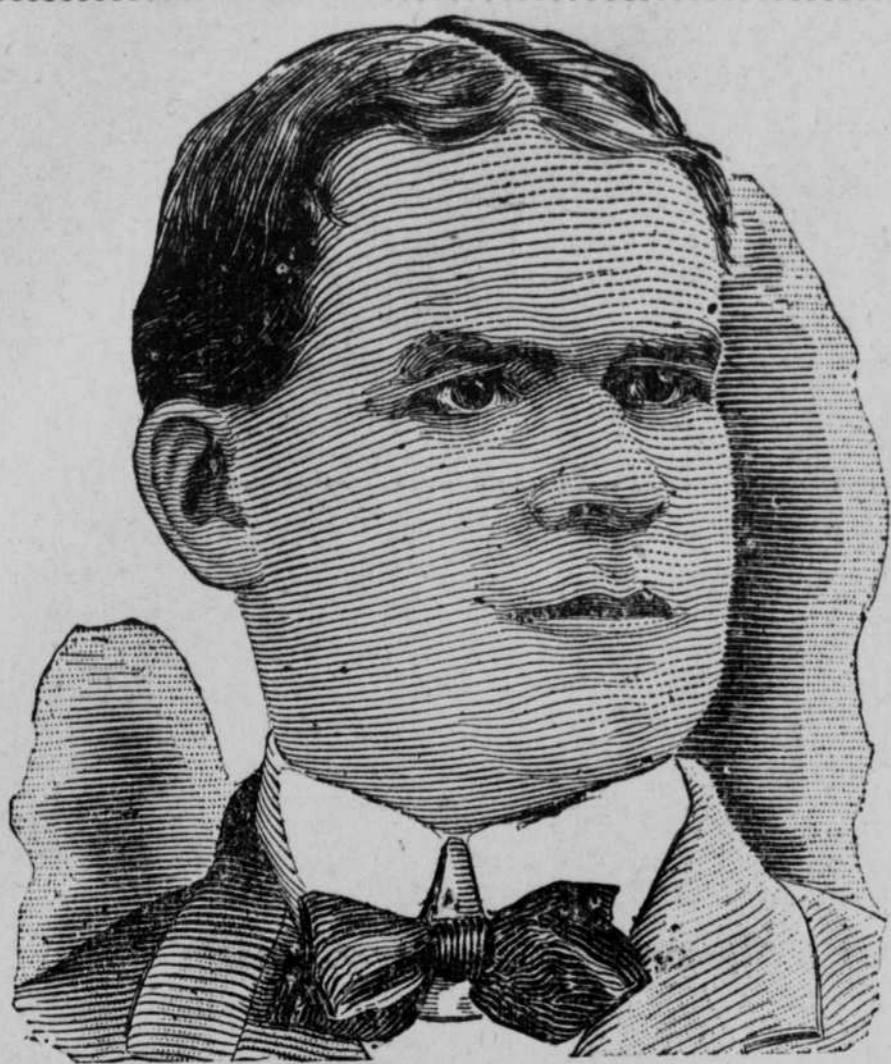


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## HARP ALWAYS THE PRIDE OF THE EMERALD ISLE

Long before history had trodden a pathway across the insecure ground of legend and tradition the Irish harp was affixed the reflex and interpreter of popular feeling. Perhaps it may be said to have come popularly into the general view when James I. placed it in the third quarter of the royal arms of Great Britain. But a century before this Henry VIII. had impressed a harp on the Irish coinage; a seemingly prosaic fact which yet cannot be divorced from the strong element of romance which permeates every phase of the subject. For it seems that a son of King Brian Boru presented his father's harp to Pope John XVIII. in 1003; and that it was treasured in Rome until Leo X. sent it to Henry VIII. 500 years afterward. He in turn gave it to the first Earl of Clanricarde; and after passing into the possession of several Irish families Brian's storied harp eventually found a home in the college museum in Dublin. But supposing this venerable instrument to be at least 1,000 years old, that is a mere trifle in the history of the harp—and especially of the Irish harp.

We may accept the Theban harp as a pretty ancient representative of its great family; but then the older Irish historians go back to the deluge and it is only in the very mistland of antiquity that we lose touch with their national symbol. And even there we seem to catch the echo of its strains.

But though boasting of such a remote past, the Irish harp is simply an adaptation of an instrument common to central and northern Europe. We find it in the hands of the German and Celtic bards, and of the Scandinavian skalds; and every race has been able to impress upon it something of its own peculiar genius. The violin is Italian in its birth, and it is said to be animated by an Italian soul. And in like manner, such of the old Irish music as has come down to us essentially consists of strains of the harp. This, however, is not surprising, for we are told that "long before the lyre was known in Rome or Greece the Gael of Ireland had attained a high degree of perfection in the form and management of the harp. Not to be capable of sweeping it in a masterly manner was deemed a disgrace even to royalty." This, however, was not solely an Irish feeling, but that of almost every people among whom the harp flourished. In medieval times it was regarded as the king of musical instruments, chiefly because no other provided such an effective accompaniment for the voice. The national feeling aroused by it was nowhere expressed more strongly than in Ireland, and the cloud of legends, traditions and ancient superstitions which in that country seem essentially to cling to it are its peculiar but very natural heritage. The harp is the especial pride of the green isle.

## HOW KENTUCKY JURY GOT EVEN WITH TRICKY THIEF

Ex-Gov. W. O. Bradley says that one never knows what a jury will do. "Jurors are just as uncertain as kicking mules," he declared. "A lawyer never knows what may influence a juror's mind, and too frequently matters other than the law and the facts in a case determine verdicts."

"Down in my county years ago a fellow was accused of manslaughter, and he came to me and employed me to defend him. At first it looked like the poor devil had a bad case, but after I had heard his story, I became convinced that he would have no difficulty in proving that he shot in self-defense."

"I went into the trial with a determination to get him off. I felt that he was being grossly mistreated and unjustly accused, and I had the evidence on which I based my opinion. I will venture to say that there was not a man, woman or child who heard the testimony who believed that my client was guilty, and from a study of the jurors' faces I had brought myself to believe that they were just as strongly convinced that he was innocent."

"I made my argument, and I don't believe I ever spoke with more earnestness and more feeling. The court ordered the jury to retire and make

a verdict, and I sat in my seat, believing it wouldn't take them long to agree. I turned to my client and said: 'They will be back here in fifteen minutes and you will be acquitted.'

"There was a rap on the door of the jury room, and the jurors filed into the court room. The foreman handed the verdict to the clerk, who read: 'We, the jury, find the defendant guilty, and fix his punishment at ten years at hard labor in the state penitentiary.'

"I was simply shocked. I walked out of the court house and the first man I met was the foreman of the jury."

"Tom," said I, 'what in thunder did you mean by making such a verdict as that? Don't you know that the law and the evidence did not warrant any such verdict?'

"He called me to one side and said: 'Bill, I'll tell you about that fellow. He's been stealing mules and chickens in my neighborhood for ten years. We've known all the time that he was guilty, but he was so tricky we could not get the proof on him. I told them fellows on the jury about him, and we all just agreed that we would soak it to him while we had a good chance. So we just give him ten years.'—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## SINGING BULLET NOT THE MISSILE TO BE FEARED

"Don't be afraid of a bullet that you've heard whistle," said another old soldier. "If it sings in your ear rest assured that it will never harm you. It is a fact, as any old soldier will tell you, that you never hear the bullet which hits you. It is a problem of 'windage,' as the boys in the army called it. In other words, the bullet which you hear sing has already sped past you, and the bullet which hits you has hissed in the ear of some other fellow in passing before it got to you. It is a simple proposition, after all. The singing of the bullet is the atmospheric vibration which is created and the resistance which the air offers to the progress of the bullet. This cannot be detected by the ear until the bullet has crossed a parallel line with the ear. It may sail over your head or whizz close to the ground, but if it passes you at all the ear will catch the sound of its flight. To the soldier of many battles the voice of the bullet is music. He knows that he need have no fear of the bullet that sings in his ears. It is the bullet that he does not hear that must be feared."

and it is this bullet which always brings harm to him. No soldier ever heard the bullet which inflicted a wound on him. I was amused by a raw soldier who was attached to our command. It was his first time on the firing line. We were skirmishing and some sharpshooters were having some fun at our expense. A bullet whizzed close to him. Faintly he could hear the crack of the rifle, but it was not distinct enough to alarm even a novice. The singing of the bullet, however, brought a blanched expression to his face. He did not wince, however. We were lying in the edge of the woods. Another bullet buzzed by. 'I don't like the sound' said the young soldier. Zip! Another bullet split the air very close to his head. He was paler still. 'Comrade,' he said to me, between bleached lips, 'I don't want to be shot from ambush; let's charge the devils.' I told him not to fear a bullet that had spoken to him on its flight, but he did not like the idea of lying there in the woods and listening to the voices of these invisible messengers of death.

—Baltimore American.

## THE STORK CAME BACK.

A Warsaw journal relates the following story of an experiment made by a Polish nobleman to ascertain how far storks migrate during the winter. He caught a stork and attached a plate to its neck on which were inscribed the words: "Haec ciclonia ex Polonia" (This stork comes from Poland).

In the following spring the same stork was found in the nobleman's park with a bundle round its neck containing several precious stones of great value, and the metal plate with these words on the other side: India cum donis remittit Polonia" (India sends him back with presents to the Poles).

Where Scandinavians Live. Minneapolis is the second largest Scandinavian city in America.

Wear Small Boots. The Mexican of average size wears a No. 6 boot.

Her Definition. Little Edith went to the kindergarten. One day the teacher gave her a list of words, telling the little miss to find out their meaning and then write a sentence containing each word. The first word on the list was "niche," and little Miss Bright Eyes discovers that it means a recess, so she very carefully and precisely wrote on her slate: "The children ate their lunch at niche." And the teacher wondered at the flexibility of the English language.

Few Women in Unions. Of over 800,000 women employed in the German industries, less than 25,000 are organized.

Canada's Export Trade. Canada's export trade per capita is just two and a half times as much as ours.

Russian Suicides. Fully 2,500 persons commit suicide in Russia every year.

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