

ORATION

By Edward Cantwell, a Member of the Society, Before the Hibernian Association, on the 17th March, 1877.

The Kingdom of Ireland is the only country of Europe which was not conquered by the Romans. It was the only country of the world which was not discovered by Columbus. It was the only country of the world which was not discovered by Columbus.

The shape of Ireland is a rhomboid, the greatest diagonal being 200 miles, the smallest 110. The greatest length is 210 miles, the smallest breadth 100 and 1/2 miles. It has an area of 32,500 square miles, compared with North Carolina, whose area is 52,000 miles, it is a small State for the population it contains.

Ireland contains four Provinces or Kingdoms, Leinster and Munster, in the south and Ulster and Connaught in the north. These are subdivided into thirty-two counties. The population is about eight millions, all white. Some are and a half millions are engaged in agriculture, two in trade and manufactures. About half a million belong to the professions and the aristocracy.

The agricultural laborers are usually Roman Catholics. The professional men and aristocracy are generally English or Scotch. The manufacturers and tradespeople are commonly Presbyterians. The Episcopalians number some hundred thousand. The Presbyterians and Dissenters about the same number, some seven millions, are practical Roman Catholics.

The Irish are a healthy and pliant race. The British preponderate over the deaths at the rate of one thousand per day. About two hundred thousand emigrate every year, of whom about one-half come to America. The Irish in America are estimated to amount, with their descendants, to sixteen millions, their greatest density occurring in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New England.

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The soil of Ireland is exempt from venomous reptiles, but it is proper to remark that Solinus who wrote of Ireland some centuries before the Christian era and the advent of St. Patrick, mentions this exemption. The peculiarity may be supposed to proceed from the climate or the nature of the soil, rather than any preternatural cause. The sees, parishes, rectories and deaneries, established by the Apostles are the ecclesiastical boundaries of this English church in Ireland to this day. St. Patrick died at Downpatrick in the north of Ireland A. D. 461, at the age of 120 years. He was a life of great piety, purity, usefulness and fame.

EARLY HISTORY CONTINUED.
About this period the Roman empire fell to pieces, and the unbridled fury of the northern nations expanding from the chains of her broken power, swept like a tornado over Europe. All that was valuable in art or science was buried in the gates of desolation and covered with the chaos of universal night. Ireland alone of all the nations of Europe had been un conquered and uninvaded by the Roman legions. Here the scholars and poets of Europe repaired as to a sanctuary. The literary and religious foundations became so numerous that the island was called the "Island of Saints." The country was crowded with men of learning and covered over with seminaries and colleges. In the year A. D. 966 Brian Boroihme ascended the throne of Ireland. The use of surnames began in this reign. The sons of the King were called O'Briens. The issue of Malahoe, his brother, were called MacMansons, and those of Niall the great, O'Neils, Mac and O' were prefixed only to the royal issue. Without these prefixes the name indicated merely membership of a particular sept or family and not members of the family of the chief. Hence the saying:

"By Mac and O
You'll always know
True Irishmen they say,
For if they lack both O and Mac,
Normans, said not Irishmen are they."

It was in the reign of Brian Boroihme that the Irish navigators reached and settled the shores of North Carolina and gave their settlement here the name of "Fort of St. Michael." It is a fact of which the American continent is ignorant. Ignorance of Irish history has been the general passion and error, that Columbus was the first to discover America some 500 years later. In the clear light of modern science this belief is being dispelled. We now know that the American continent was known and settled by the Irish and Phoenicians hundreds of years before the Genoese sailor was born. The western coast was peopled from Asia, the point of South America, Carolina and the Gulf States, with Mexico, Yucatan, Peru and Brazil, with white people, principally Irish Christians, from Europe, Africa and Egypt. North of the Rio Grande there are no remains but earth works and tumuli, the debris of a countless horde of nomadic tribes of Asiatic origin, perpetually at war and a prey to coarse barbarity, ignorance and vice. In Mexico, Yucatan, Peru and Brazil there is a civilization older than that of Egypt. Their edifices of sculptured marble, pyramids, statues and paintings richer than Herclatium and Pompeii, the productions of a people of a higher culture and refinement seemingly than any that have succeeded them or that now exist there. Commencing at the pillars of Hercules these flows incessantly towards the Carolina coast, Mr. Seybold tells me, a current or river of the sea, with an initial velocity of 3 1/2 miles per hour, at a distance of a few miles only from the African coast. In the days of Strabo this lined from the Mediterranean to Cape Bojador with Phoenician cities to the number of 300. This evidence is corroborated by the fact that the current is called the southern route the handy navigators and sailors of Ireland reached the coast of North Carolina five hundred years at least before Columbus, and introduced the religion of St. Patrick. Humboldt says that "the skiranger related to the Northmen settled in Vinland that farther to the south, beyond the Chesapeake Bay, there dwelt white men who clothed themselves in long white garments and carried before them poles to which cloths were attached and called with a loud voice. This account was interpreted by the Christian Northmen to indicate processions in which banners were borne, accompanied by singing." They were, as we see to day, in celebrating Patrick's day, and pretty much in the same fashion. Humboldt continues, "Probably," he says, "about the year 982 Ari Mazon, of the powerful Icelandic race of Liff the aquit eyed, was driven from his native island by a storm, and in his voyage from Iceland to Vinland, stopped at Florida on the coast of Great Ireland, the land of the white men. Here he was baptized in the Christian faith." An opinion has been advanced, "says the same author, that Ireland was not at first peopled directly from Europe, but from Virginia and Carolina (Great Ireland) by Irishmen who had earlier emigrated to America." (Columbus 234.) It appears from a note to the same work, that in 1659 a stray Irishman named Owen Chappelin saved himself

from scalping by addressing some energetic words to the Tuscaroras in his native Keltic.

THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.— Ever since March 1800, the people of Ireland have been governed by a Lord Lieutenant and Secretary, and a Privy Council, appointed by the British Cabinet. In the absence of the Lord Lieutenant the government is conducted by the Archbishop of Dublin and the Commander of the Forces. Each county is in charge of a Lieutenant, generally an English Peer of the realm, assisted by Deputy Lieutenants and Magistrates, all Englishmen, all Protestants, and all appointed by the English Crown. The cities, towns and boroughs are governed by local magistrates, usually Catholics, elected by the people. Justice is administered by the Royal Justices, the Master of the Rolls, four Judges in each of the courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer; an assistant prosecutor for each county, a Prerogative Court and a Court of Admiralty. Assizes for civil and criminal cases are held by two of the Judges, in each county in the spring and summer of each year. The execution of the laws is entrusted to the army, the militia, the constabulary and the Dublin police. The army in Ireland now consists of 22,411 men; the militia 37 regiments and 35,000 men; the constabulary 23,000; the police and magistrates about 2,500. The Imperial Parliament meets annually at London. It consists of 106 members, divided into two houses, Lords and Commons. Ireland is entitled to 147 members, of whom 32 are members of the Upper House. Thirty nine of the Irish Commons represent boroughs and cities. The basis of representation is one member of the Commons for every 35,000 of the population. There is one elector for every 10,000 persons in the counties. In the towns one for every twenty eight and one member for every 9,000 of the population.

The officeholders in Ireland are generally selected by the English government or Cabinet. They are usually, therefore, aliens. Aliens by birth and religion, and aliens by the absence of any local attachment or sympathy.

CROMWELL'S CONQUEST.

In 1650 Ireland was overrun and conquered by Cromwell, after a fierce struggle and terrible bloodshed. The population was treated with the utmost rigour. No terms were kept with the vanquished. Ever since that period and English garrison sufficiently strong to crush out all resistance occupies every stronghold.

Aliens fill almost every office, civil or military. The nation of the country have no part in the Cabinet, no voice in the administration of justice, no office in the distribution of the mails, the collection of the revenue, no command in the army none in the navy. Ireland was, until lately, governed pretty much as a subjugated province, inferior to the adjacent provinces of England. It was necessary to degrade by ridicule or overawe by direct force, a population it was hard to demoralize by bribery or drive to exile. The proprietors of the soil reside chiefly at London and in England, and the relation of the fashionable and the aristocratic nobility. They spend the riches and the produce of Ireland in foreign lands. To be an Irishman in Ireland is to invite petty persecutions and reproach. To be an enemy of one native land, having the talents which renders such treason useful to a tyrant, is to incur the hatred and odious recognition of the history of the world, except in these southern States? does not present a more cruel absorption of the whole resources and revenues of a country, and their appropriation to the degradation of the local population, the humiliation of its pride, the debasement of its genius and ambition, and the dishonour of its government to persons whose claim to notice consists in the aid they give or gave to the annihilation of its independence.

Previous to 1800, even under the bloody rule of Cromwell and his Puritans and Roundheads, between whom and the Irish Catholics and Cavaliers there seems a mutual and unchangeable friendship, and who were legislated to enjoy a local parliament or legislature, having the same relation to the Imperial Parliament that our General Assembly bears to Congress. In 1790 the shameful corruption of this body, the inequalities of its basis of representation, and its gross subservency to the Imperial Government, caused the formation of a political society, whose object was to procure reform in these particulars. Among these the society called the "United Irishmen," was the most conspicuous. This was composed of Protestants as well as Catholics. In fact it included every man in the country of any respectability or influence, not in the pay of the government. This organization was based upon the following propositions:

1. Irishmen should govern Ireland; to which end the kingdom should be divided into 300 electorates, as nearly equal as possible in point of population. Rotten boroughs, the property of the aristocracy should be abolished.
2. That each electorates should be entitled to one member of parliament.
3. That every male householder, resident six months in his electorate, should be an elector.
4. That there should be no property qualification for office.
5. That the vote in parliament should be rendered free and not by ballot.
6. That each delegate should be entitled to per diem while in office.
7. That parliament should be annually held.

Thobald Wolf Tone, an Irish barrister, was the founder of the United Irishmen. Its first meeting was held at Ballinacorney on the 15th October 1791. The English government was immediately encouraged by formation of Orange-men, and loyal Orange Lodges, to counteract this society. The United Irishmen met openly. The lodges were held in secret. To ensure the policy of re-

pression and to further the designs of government, it was determined to precipitate an armed insurrection. Accordingly martial law was proclaimed, and the Orange leagues and lodges under the name of yeomen and militia regiments were enrolled, armed and placed under the pay of the government. Secretaries only were enrolled in these organizations, and sectional antipathies were sedulously cultivated. The Sheriffs, Magistrates, Mayors of cities, Constables and Police were required to be Orangemen. The people were goaded by every conceivable instrumentality to resistance. Justice fled the land. Corruption and mal-administration were encouraged and rewarded. There was no law except for Orangemen. They maltreated and shot the defenceless people at every fair and market, sure of immunity from punishment, except such as individual superiority and the shillings could inflict. When brought to trial they were acquitted by partisan juries, packed by partisan sheriffs. The slightest offenses on the part of the people were punished with whippings, imprisonment, transportation and death. At last the United Irishmen, now composed of the bulk of the Irish population, determined on insurrection. Compelled to choose between death on the scaffold and banishment, or death on the field, they preferred the latter alternative. A half million of men, Catholics, Protestants, and Presbyterians organized themselves into companies and regiments under the leadership of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Thomas Addis Emmet, William James MacKeven and Arthur O'Connor. The Keltic and Norman elements being united, they prepared for the 22nd of March was the day fixed for the outbreak of the rebellion. Previous to this time, however, the government, thoroughly advised through its secret agents, or events, seized these and other leaders, and threw them into prison. Lord Castlereagh, who had commenced his career as a reformer and was now chief of the British Court, was now chief of the principal instrument in causing the rebellion of 1798. Lord Cornwallis, smarting from his defeat at Yorktown, commanded the English forces. The Irish had no leaders, no artillery, no guns, no ammunition. They expected to drive the veteran troops of England from the country, with pikes. Martial law was enforced with remorseless cruelty. Every man suspected of being enrolled among the Irishmen was seized and tried by drumhead courts martial, organized to crush, and either whipped to death or hanged. The Orange lodges glutted their fury in the blood of their countrymen. Nor age, nor sex, nor condition were spared. Even little children were ordered to conceal their parents, to disclose the hiding places of their parents. Concealment was punished with death. The privacies of families were invaded at all hours of the night. The delicacy of females was the subject of jest and sport to a rabid soldiery. Aged women were stripped of their clothing and paraded through the streets, chained to the dying, pushed aside in search of plunder. Everywhere was heaped some spectacle of atrocity or a melancholy gloom. The fields were trampled in their mangled and the memorials of rapine and devastation.

There shall beat an Irish heart in an Irishman's bosom. The last organized attempt at rebellion was made in 1848, when Daniel O'Connell, and J. Macneamara Cantwell, with six others, were arrested and tried together at Dublin for high treason; while Thomas Meagher and Smith O'Brien were sentenced at Clonsilla for the same offense. None of them, however, suffered more than fine and imprisonment. The practice of putting men to death for political offences being very generally abandoned by civilized nations.

Suffer me, Mr. President, in conclusion, to congratulate you and this Society upon the auspicious signs which now gild the horizon of Irish nationality. I am persuaded we have not long to live, who only live to see the Irish parliament again assembled at College Green. We have not long to wait, who only wait to hear in Tara's Halls the Irish harp and song!

"O weary hearts, O slumbering eyes,
O drooping souls whose destinies
Are fraught with fear and pain,
Ye shall be free again!"

The sunny smiles of Ireland's beauty shall yet resume the shrines where her chivalry are proud to kneel. Erin's gorgeous banner of gold and green shall float again above her palaces, and her general crown shall encircle the brow of one of her own children.

The assassination of Lord Cantwell, of Cantwell's Court, among the most notable examples of the perfidy of the conqueror. This gentleman was Marshal General of the Supreme Confederate Council, (see John Gray, Ch. Est. Ireland, pp. 86, 87.) Having after a protracted siege surrendered his castle on condition of being permitted to leave the country. (Cromwell's letters I, Carleton Comm. 123.) He was afterwards massacred by the Roundheads on the parade ground of Kilkenny. (Sir John Gray, 126.) Upon the restoration of Charles II. his son, Edward Cantwell, having failed to obtain the restoration of his estates, accompanied Sir Edward Andros to America. In 1678, after being twice sheriff of New Castle, Delaware, he was appointed by that nobleman governor of the English settlements on the Delaware. (Gordon Hist. Penn. 76.)

The administration in Ireland, I am glad to learn is now greatly mitigated. I have every confidence that President Hayes will remedy the same grievance in the southern States.

CITY ITEMS.

April thus far has been a general washing day.

The Spring organ-grinder has put in his appearance.

The right size for the average Wilmington young girl—Exercise.

A sure Democratic recipe for the removal of stains from a tarnished character—get rich.

Read the new story in the New York Weekly by Mrs. M. V. Victor called "The Gay Captain," commenced in No. 24.

Twenty seven tramps last week, and the tide ain't done running this way yet.

A Second street printer who is endeavoring to make both ends meet is living on hog-head-cheese and souse pig's feet.

John Haar now furnishes his bibulous friends with their favorite drinks served in blue glasses and decorated with strawberries.

Our Charlie says that he knows another boy over whom the toe of a boot has more practical influence than all the kind words ever spoken.

A man may understand the true inwardness of the hard money question if he will only go out on the street and try to borrow some of the articles.

The last two or three weeks of changeable weather have been weeks full of contenting emotions for the dear ladies who have bought their new spring hats.

The strawberry sweet by and-by has come again. Draw forth your pocket-book, pay twenty-five cents for a half dozen—smile if you can, and go to the paragonic.

Alas! poor Raleigh is doomed—the temperance tidal wave has struck it. What on earth will be done of Colonel Billaunders of the O- and Major-General Thardt of the State Department?

It is said that Raleigh is to vote "net or dirt" at its next municipal election. If the are to have no more whiskey shops in that village, how do Democrats hope ever again to carry an election there?

Now is the time to make up clubs for the New York Family Story Paper, it is filled with interesting reading each week, and the works of Shakespeare given away gratuitously. Send to Norman L. Munro & Co. 11 Beekman street New York.

Today's Magazine for May has reached us, and like all of its predecessors, is a splendid number. Its reading matter is calculated to exert a beneficial influence on its readers, and so one can finish a personal without feeling better for the time spent in reading. Send to L. A. Godley N. E. Corner Sixth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

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from scalping by addressing some energetic words to the Tuscaroras in his native Keltic.

THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.— Ever since March 1800, the people of Ireland have been governed by a Lord Lieutenant and Secretary, and a Privy Council, appointed by the British Cabinet. In the absence of the Lord Lieutenant the government is conducted by the Archbishop of Dublin and the Commander of the Forces. Each county is in charge of a Lieutenant, generally an English Peer of the realm, assisted by Deputy Lieutenants and Magistrates, all Englishmen, all Protestants, and all appointed by the English Crown. The cities, towns and boroughs are governed by local magistrates, usually Catholics, elected by the people. Justice is administered by the Royal Justices, the Master of the Rolls, four Judges in each of the courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas and Exchequer; an assistant prosecutor for each county, a Prerogative Court and a Court of Admiralty. Assizes for civil and criminal cases are held by two of the Judges, in each county in the spring and summer of each year. The execution of the laws is entrusted to the army, the militia, the constabulary and the Dublin police. The army in Ireland now consists of 22,411 men; the militia 37 regiments and 35,000 men; the constabulary 23,000; the police and magistrates about 2,500. The Imperial Parliament meets annually at London. It consists of 106 members, divided into two houses, Lords and Commons. Ireland is entitled to 147 members, of whom 32 are members of the Upper House. Thirty nine of the Irish Commons represent boroughs and cities. The basis of representation is one member of the Commons for every 35,000 of the population. There is one elector for every 10,000 persons in the counties. In the towns one for every twenty eight and one member for every 9,000 of the population.

The officeholders in Ireland are generally selected by the English government or Cabinet. They are usually, therefore, aliens. Aliens by birth and religion, and aliens by the absence of any local attachment or sympathy.

CROMWELL'S CONQUEST.

In 1650 Ireland was overrun and conquered by Cromwell, after a fierce struggle and terrible bloodshed. The population was treated with the utmost rigour. No terms were kept with the vanquished. Ever since that period and English garrison sufficiently strong to crush out all resistance occupies every stronghold.

Aliens fill almost every office, civil or military. The nation of the country have no part in the Cabinet, no voice in the administration of justice, no office in the distribution of the mails, the collection of the revenue, no command in the army none in the navy. Ireland was, until lately, governed pretty much as a subjugated province, inferior to the adjacent provinces of England. It was necessary to degrade by ridicule or overawe by direct force, a population it was hard to demoralize by bribery or drive to exile. The proprietors of the soil reside chiefly at London and in England, and the relation of the fashionable and the aristocratic nobility. They spend the riches and the produce of Ireland in foreign lands. To be an Irishman in Ireland is to invite petty persecutions and reproach. To be an enemy of one native land, having the talents which renders such treason useful to a tyrant, is to incur the hatred and odious recognition of the history of the world, except in these southern States? does not present a more cruel absorption of the whole resources and revenues of a country, and their appropriation to the degradation of the local population, the humiliation of its pride, the debasement of its genius and ambition, and the dishonour of its government to persons whose claim to notice consists in the aid they give or gave to the annihilation of its independence.

Previous to 1800, even under the bloody rule of Cromwell and his Puritans and Roundheads, between whom and the Irish Catholics and Cavaliers there seems a mutual and unchangeable friendship, and who were legislated to enjoy a local parliament or legislature, having the same relation to the Imperial Parliament that our General Assembly bears to Congress. In 1790 the shameful corruption of this body, the inequalities of its basis of representation, and its gross subservency to the Imperial Government, caused the formation of a political society, whose object was to procure reform in these particulars. Among these the society called the "United Irishmen," was the most conspicuous. This was composed of Protestants as well as Catholics. In fact it included every man in the country of any respectability or influence, not in the pay of the government. This organization was based upon the following propositions:

1. Irishmen should govern Ireland; to which end the kingdom should be divided into 300 electorates, as nearly equal as possible in point of population. Rotten boroughs, the property of the aristocracy should be abolished.
2. That each electorates should be entitled to one member of parliament.
3. That every male householder, resident six months in his electorate, should be an elector.
4. That there should be no property qualification for office.
5. That the vote in parliament should be rendered free and not by ballot.
6. That each delegate should be entitled to per diem while in office.
7. That parliament should be annually held.

there shall beat an Irish heart in an Irishman's bosom.

The last organized attempt at rebellion was made in 1848, when Daniel O'Connell, and J. Macneamara Cantwell, with six others, were arrested and tried together at Dublin for high treason; while Thomas Meagher and Smith O'Brien were sentenced at Clonsilla for the same offense. None of them, however, suffered more than fine and imprisonment. The practice of putting men to death for political offences being very generally abandoned by civilized nations.

Suffer me, Mr. President, in conclusion, to congratulate you and this Society upon the auspicious signs which now gild the horizon of Irish nationality. I am persuaded we have not long to live, who only live to see the Irish parliament again assembled at College Green. We have not long to wait, who only wait to hear in Tara's Halls the Irish harp and song!

"O weary hearts, O slumbering eyes,
O drooping souls whose destinies
Are fraught with fear and pain,
Ye shall be free again!"

The sunny smiles of Ireland's beauty shall yet resume the shrines where her chivalry are proud to kneel. Erin's gorgeous banner of gold and green shall float again above her palaces, and her general crown shall encircle the brow of one of her own children.

The assassination of Lord Cantwell, of Cantwell's Court, among the most notable examples of the perfidy of the conqueror. This gentleman was Marshal General of the Supreme Confederate Council, (see John Gray, Ch. Est. Ireland, pp. 86, 87.) Having after a protracted siege surrendered his castle on condition of being permitted to leave the country. (Cromwell's letters I, Carleton Comm. 123.) He was afterwards massacred by the Roundheads on the parade ground of Kilkenny. (Sir John Gray, 126.) Upon the restoration of Charles II. his son, Edward Cantwell, having failed to obtain the restoration of his estates, accompanied Sir Edward Andros to America. In 1678, after being twice sheriff of New Castle, Delaware, he was appointed by that nobleman governor of the English settlements on the Delaware. (Gordon Hist. Penn. 76.)

The administration in Ireland, I am glad to learn is now greatly mitigated. I have every confidence that President Hayes will remedy the same grievance in the southern States.

The revenue of Ireland is about thirty three million dollars per annum, of which four millions come from the lands, the commutations, the excise, the suppressed and other taxes for the support of the Protestant Church in Ireland. This establishment constitutes one of the grievances of the Irish people, and a source of discontent against the government, which prevails to this day.

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