

presented a scene of peace, happiness, and contentment. To the gold chain of office which Moran wore on the judgment seat the Irish for centuries subsequently attached supernatural powers. It was said that it would tighten around the neck of the judge if he was unjustly judging a cause!

The dawn of Christianity found the Romans masters of nearly the whole of the known world. Britain, after a short struggle, succumbed, and eventually learned to love the yoke. Gaul, after a gallant effort, was also overpowered and held as a conquered province. But upon Irish soil the Roman eagles were never planted. Of Ireland, or Ierne, as they called it, of its great wealth and amazing beauty of scenery and richness of soil, the all-conquering Romans heard much. But they had heard also that the fruitful and beautiful island was peopled by a soldier race; and judging them by the few who occasionally crossed to Alba to help their British neighbors, and whose prowess and skill the imperial legions had betimes to prove, the conquest of Ierne was wisely judged by the Romans to be a work better not attempted.

The early centuries of the Christian era may be considered the period pre-eminently of pagan bardic or legendary fame in Ireland. In this, which we may call the "Ossianic" period, lived Cúbal, or Cúmbal, father of the celebrated Fin Mac Cúmbal, and commander of the great Irish legion called the Fianna Erión, or Irish militia. The Ossianic poems recount the most marvellous stories of Fin and the Fianna Erión, which stories are compounds of undoubted facts and manifest fictions, the prowess of the heroes being in the course of time magnified into the supernatural, and the figures and poetic allegories of the earlier bards gradually coming to be read as realities. Some of these poems are gross, extravagant, and absurd. Others of them are of rare beauty, and are, moreover, valuable for the insight they give, though obliquely, into the manners and customs, thoughts, feelings, guiding principles, and moving passions of the ancient Irish.

(To be continued.)

#### CATHOLIC BRANCH, RED CROSS SOCIETY, CHRISTCHURCH.

At the third annual meeting of the Catholic branch of the Red Cross Society, held last week, his Lordship Bishop Brodie presided, and gave a short but interesting address on the noble work done by the Red Cross Society. The report and balance-sheet, presented by the secretary (Mrs. J. Hoban), showed that the members have every reason to feel satisfied with the amount of work done by them during the past year. The receipts amounted to £206 5s 4d, and the expenditure to £189 6s 8d, leaving a balance of £16 18s 8d. Special donations of £18 and £10 were made to the "Our Day" Fund and the "Honey Fund" respectively. To augment the monthly contributions a very successful concert was given by the Christchurch Tramway Concert Troupe. The committee tender thanks to his Lordship Bishop Brodie and Dean Regnault for their kindly encouragement and generosity in contributing to the funds of the branch, Sir George and Lady Clifford and Mr. J. S. Barrett for substantial donations, Lady Clifford for gifts of material, Mrs. T. Cotter for cutting the material into garments, A. J. White for free cartage, Christchurch Catholic Club for free use of rooms, Mr. T. Cahill for assistance given at all times, and Mr. George Dobbs for auditing the accounts, and the Christchurch Concert Troupe. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patroness, Lady Clifford; president, Mrs. J. S. Barrett; vice presidents, Mrs. C. Barnett and Miss Sloan; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. J. Hoban; committee—Mesdames George Harper, Cronin, Herbert, Delany, Tulloch, Kingan, O'Brien, Macfarlane, Misses McGuire and Doherty. At the conclusion of the meeting the Bishop thanked the members for the work done during the year, and expressed a hope that the same help and encouragement would be given as long as it was needed.

## IRELAND'S APPEAL TO AMERICA

The following is the text of the appeal which has now reached President Wilson. Readers will recall that we pointed out a few weeks ago that the Lord Mayor was not allowed to proceed freely to Washington, and that the Government wished to exercise censorship over the appeal. The Lord Mayor approached the Ambassador in London and had the appeal sent through him in the official mail bag. The text has been published in the Irish papers.

### TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Sir,—When a century and a half ago the American colonies dared to assert the ancient principle that the subject should not be taxed without the consent of his representatives, England strove to crush them. To-day England threatens to crush the people of Ireland if they do not accept a tax, not in money, but in blood, against the protest of their representatives.

During the American Revolution the champions of your liberties appealed to the Irish Parliament against British aggression, and asked for a sympathetic judgment on their action. What the verdict was history records.

To-day it is our turn to appeal to the people of America. We seek no more fitting prelude to that appeal than the terms in which your forefathers greeted ours:—"We are desirous of possessing the good opinion of the virtuous and humane. We are peculiarly desirous of furnishing you with the true state of our motives and objects, the better to enable you to judge of our conduct with accuracy and determine the merits of the controversy with impartiality and precision."

If the Irish race had been conscriptable by England in the war against the United Colonies is it certain that your Republic would to-day flourish in the enjoyment of its noble Constitution?

Since then the Irish Parliament has been destroyed by methods described by the greatest of British statesmen as those of "blackguardism and baseness." Ireland, deprived of its protection and overborne by more than six to one in the British Lower House, and by more than a hundred to one in the Upper House, is summoned by England to submit to a hitherto-unheard-of decree against her liberties.

In the fourth year of a war ostensibly begun for the defence of small nations, a law conscribing the manhood of Ireland has been passed, in defiance of the wishes of our people. The British Parliament, which enacted it, had long outrun its course, being in the eighth year of an existence constitutionally limited to five. To warrant the coercive statute no recourse was had to the electorate of Britain, much less to that of Ireland. Yet the measure was forced through within a week, despite the votes of Irish representatives and under a system of closure never applied to the debates which established conscription for Great Britain on a milder basis.

To repel the calumnies invented to becloud our action we venture to address the successors of the belligerents who once appealed to Ireland. The feelings which inspire America deeply concern our race; so in the forefront of our remonstrance we feel bound to set forth that this Conscription Act involves for Irishmen questions far larger than any affecting mere internal politics. They raise a sovereign principle between a nation that has never abandoned her independent rights and an adjacent nation that has persistently sought to strangle them. Were Ireland to surrender that principle she must submit to usurped power, condone the fraudulent prostration of her Parliament in 1800, and abandon all claim to distinct nationality. Deep-seated and far-reaching are the problems remorselessly aroused by the unthinking and violent courses taken at Westminster.

Thus the sudden and unlooked-for departure of British politicians from their past military procedure towards this island provokes acutely the fundamental

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