

But McGee did not confine himself to poetry in praise of the past. There were many notes in his lyre, and once in a homely ballad he depicts the honest pride of a farmer who at length owns his land—owns a little bit of Ireland:—

'All that I have is my own,
I owe duty to nobody;
I can labor or let it alone,
I give my work to nobody.
I have no agent to tease,
I have no bailiff to bother me;
I'll vote for whoever I please,
However they try to soothe me.'

Simple enough words: but they have compact in them the whole sad story of bad landlords and persecuted tenants.

The poetry of *The Nation* was not always so solemn and serious as these few selections might lead you to believe. McGee, indeed, was usually serious, but most of the writers knew how to write gracefully of the humor and the mirth and the loves of the Irish people.

John O'Hagan's poem, 'The Old Story,' many of Edward Walsh's, of Davis's, and of Gavan Duffy's are well known love songs and are so familiar to every Irishman that it would be useless for me to quote from them here. And if any do not know them and all the other songs which build up the 'Spirit of the Nation' get them now and read them if you love Ireland, and if Irish sentiments means anything to you.

The pen is mightier than the sword. The flash of the sword at Ballingarry in '48 has been well nigh forgotten. But the work done in the columns of *The Nation* still lives gloriously enshrined in Irish hearts, though the hands that wielded the pen have all now been stricken by death.

And how they died! What various deaths, what tragic deaths in many cases! Meagher's brilliant genius went out darkly and mysteriously when he who set Ireland aflame with his rhetoric, and who charged at the head of the Irish Brigade in America like the greatest of the dead heroes of our race, was drowned in the rushing waters of the Mississippi; Darcy McGee was shot through the head at his own door in Canada; Dalton Williams breathed his last in Louisiana; Mangan and Davis died early in Ireland; Gavan Duffy went to an honored grave, dying at Nice, after a long, glorious life in Australia. As we read of their deaths in distant lands where 'by the strangers' heedless hands their narrow graves were made,' and of their services for other countries than their own, we think of Sarsfield bleeding to death at Landen, and crying out as he saw the life blood ebbing from his wounds, 'Oh, that this were for Ireland.'

Gisborne

At the practical examination at St. Joseph's Convent of Mr. St. George, representative of the Trinity College of Music, London, seventeen candidates were presented, all gaining certificates as follow:—

- Senior Grade—Mary McLaughlin, 64.
- Intermediate Grade—Pop Martin, 83 (honors); Eileen Hall, 80 (honors); Dorothy Edwards, 63.
- Junior Grade—Rene Potham, 85 (honors), Convent, Wairoa; Nora Neenan, 82 (honors); Nellie Brosnahan, 75; Madeline Hedley, 74; Ada Rowan, 70; Lorna Malone, 66.
- Preparatory—Freda Potham, 84 (honors), Convent, Wairoa; Ted Williams, 72; Vera McDonnell, 70; Sophie Hinton, 69.
- First Steps.—Trixie Caesar, 85 (honors).
- Violin—Intermediate, Leonard Ballantyne, 77; junior, Theo Caesar, 83 (honors).

R. V. C. Harris

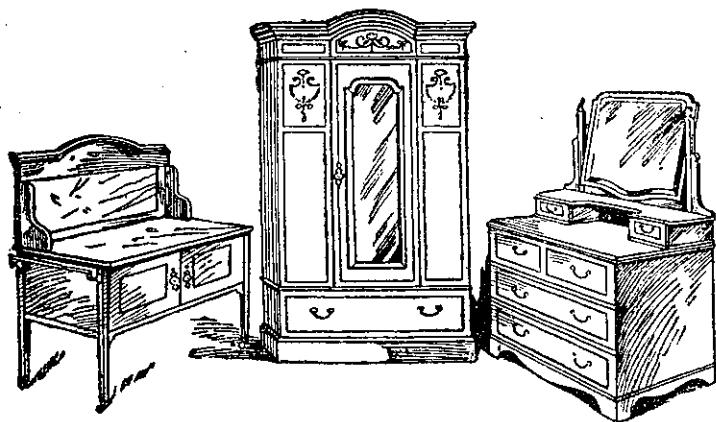
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