

# Kilkenny Exile Honored

CHEVALIER PATRICK J. HALTIGAN GETS FREEDOM OF HIS NATIVE CITY.

On Friday evening (says the *Kilkenny People* for August 29) Chevalier Patrick J. Haltigan, K.S.S., Reader of the House of Representatives, Washington, was presented with the Freedom of his native City of Kilkenny.

Chevalier Haltigan, having formally signed the Honorary Roll of Freemen amidst applause, said:—This is a very trying moment on me, dear friends, and one of the happiest in all my life (applause). Paraphrasing the lines of the great Kilkenny poet who some of us knew during his lifetime, the late John Locke of splendid memory in the Fenian times, I may say:—

"This one short hour pays lavishly back

For many a year of roaming,

I'd almost venture another flight

There's so much joy in returning!

Old friends, old scenes, the old home again,

The field, and the cot I was born in,

And, sweeter than all, over Erin's fair hills

Shines the sunlight of Liberty's dawning."

Honorable Mayor and gentlemen of the Corporation, and you, my worthy friend, Mr. O'Connell, you are indefatigable in your patriotic work, and, my dear friends, this surely to me is a great honor when I think that I am to-night receiving the highest gift in the official life of the City Fathers of my native city. When some years ago I left here, an humble boy, to seek my fortune in the Great Republic beyond the sea, and now come back and get this great honor, I assure you, dear friends and dear relatives, that I shall appreciate it all the days of my life. It shall receive an honored place in a golden frame in my humble home far across the sea, and I shall point to it with pride, gratification, and appreciation to my five boys and to my five girls and tell them that it is the gift of my old fellow-citizens of Kilkenny as a token of their love, their esteem and their admiration (applause). Surely it is a great honor, and next to that which has come to me, dear friends, from the Vicar of Christ Himself, the Sovereign Pontiff, I shall appreciate it most tenderly as long as I live (applause).

I am sure, dear friends, that you would like to hear something from me as to how I find dear Ireland after my long period of absence far across the sea. I am here to-night to boost my native land and not to find fault; to encourage her brave people, and not to discourage them; to commend her for all that has been accomplished in so short a time under her own Government, her own laws, and her own flag.

I have been nearly forty years away; I have observed carefully since I returned, and I have seen much that is commendable in her progress and very little indeed that could be justly criticised. Please God, there is a bright future in store for this beautiful land, one of the fairest in all the world. All that is needed, in my opinion, to make Ireland gloriously prosperous and happy is unity

and co-operation among her people at home. A country is what her people make it, and here is the opportunity for Ireland's sturdy sons and fair daughters. This is a dream-land of scenic beauty, yes, a wonderland of sunshine and flowers; of surpassing historic interest; of marvellous natural resources. In the rushing waters of her many rivers there are millions of horse-power of electric energy, only waiting to be harnessed to turn every wheel of industry in the land, and light every town and city at a minimum cost. On all the seaboard of her coasts, north, south, east, and west, are waters teeming with fish, second to none in the world in food value and in great abundance, placed there by God for man's use and benefit; the roads of Ireland are excellent, and they compare most favourably with those of any other country; her people are God-fearing, law-abiding, temperate, and generous, with a Faith in Christ that is most edifying and sincere; she has a magnificent Hierarchy, priesthood and religious Orders; she is training her young in the Gaelic tongue, thereby making her oncoming people bilingual; in one of her counties in the Southland lies the most beautiful spot in the whole of creation; her National Army and Civic Guard are organizations most admirable in their personnel and deportment; in the national games and manly sports Ireland's young men are among the best in the world; thousands of her sons and daughters have risen to distinction and power in countries beyond the sea, and they are now interested in Ireland's welfare and most willing to aid in her success; she has the good will of every liberty-loving people, and especially so of the people of the United States; thousands of Ireland's scattered children will come back to visit the motherland in the years ensuing, and I hope she will soon begin to receive and entertain them.

A country with these splendid attributes not to succeed? Perish such a thought, and confusion to him who would express it.

"For she is a rich and rare land,

She is a fresh and a fair land—

This native land of mine."

To the young people of Kilkenny and of Ireland I would say "Stay at home." All is not gold that glitters far away. If the foreigner can come to Ireland and succeed, why not for her own people? It is different now abroad from what it was some years ago, and it is different also in Ireland, but for the better. Success abroad is now very hard to attain, because this is an age of education and technical training not attainable by most young men; success at home will be much easier in the future.

I hope, please God, to come again in the near future, and it will be my pleasure to do all that is in my power to encourage others in America to do likewise. If I did not have heavy family responsibilities I would be strongly tempted to stay for a

much longer time, for the summer in Ireland is surely fascinating and attractive. It is an ideal summer country, and will yet be the vacation playground of thousands of the race from far-away countries, where heat and other inconveniences are not congenial. My toast to my native land, now in the enjoyment of her freedom, is this:—

God prosper dear old Ireland, may she ever succeed

In the glory of Liberty's morning;  
May her children unite in the full strength  
of their might.

Division and strife ever scorning;  
May the Cross and the Flag lead her on-  
ward and up

To the heights of achievement and glory  
Their influence unite for justice and right,  
And proclaim to Mankind her great  
story—

Of valor and love, of victory and peace  
In bonds which nothing can sever;  
May her future loom bright in prosperity's  
fight

And her brave people be happy for ever.

My dear friends, this is my heartfelt wish for Ireland, for you of my native City of the Confederation, glorious in a thousand years of Ireland's unconquerable spirit, and ever true to the noblest aspirations for Ireland's freedom and independence. Thank you, ten thousand times, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, for this great honor conferred upon me to-night. May I prove worthy of your esteem, your admiration and your love. God bless you for ever. With gratitude and affection I will return to my far-away home in the glorious American Republic, but ever mindful of your generosity, your kindness and your splendid tribute to an humble son of this grand old historic city by the Nore.

Chevalier Haltigan paid his respects to the Most Rev. Abraham Brownrigg, Lord Bishop of Ossory, at Drakelands, on Monday last. He was most graciously received by his Lordship, and presented with a handsomely-bound set of the *History of the Diocese of Ossory* in 4 volumes, in appreciation of his work for the Church in America.

Chevalier Haltigan, during his stay in Kilkenny, visited his old home at Loughboy, and the scenes of his boyhood. At the band room, Kells Road, the Chevalier had a very happy "At Home" with the "old boys" of St. Patrick's Band, and he was presented with the freedom of the "Village" when the company accorded him a kindly Irish reception. The Chevalier left Kilkenny on Tuesday evening for the States, and was seen off by all his old friends, who wished him a God speed.

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