

NATIONAL GRAVES
ASSOCIATION



KILDARE
1798
COMMEMORATION

Suim Seancair na Sciltodara
i Dtaobh
Eirge-damác na bliana 1798.
An tAcair Seosam ó Muiréile, S.I.

Translated by
TOMAS O'KELLY.



PRICE - - - 1/-

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PREFACE

At one of the initial meetings of National Graves Association, etc., it was decided to leave on record some little attempt to do justice to the memory of the United Irishmen of Co. Kildare. Few historians of the period give more than a passing reference to the Rising in Co. Kildare. The County Committee hereby tenders its most grateful thanks to an é-déanr Seóram Ó Murchú, S.I., who wrote this little booklet. We must also thank the Editor of the Clongownian for his permission to re-print the Irish version, which appeared as an installment in the Clongownian, 1948.

It is also only fitting to return thanks to His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin for giving us his patronage and blessing, and to state that it has been our inspiration throughout.

The translator apologises for any liberties taken with the original text. The reader of the English translation would scarcely believe the difficulty of rendering a free translation, as one has to think in Irish and suddenly revert to thinking in English, a vastly different process.

We hereby dedicate this Souvenir of the 1948 ceremonies to the memory of our illustrious fore fathers of 1798.

Co. Kildare National Graves Association.

AUGUST, 1948.

an céad buille

An oíce rín (23-4 Aibreán) irea tórnais Eirí-Amac 1798. Is i gContae Cilldara do caitead an céad uicéar, agus is in an gCoráoill do bainead amac an céad buair míleata as na Fíor Aontaithe. Do gabadar an áit agus do dóigeadar an áit agus do dóigeadar an beairic agus do cúipeadar “Crann na Saoirse” in an rriáir. An oíce céanna, nó an lá dá cionn, do ruaisead na sarrtúin ar an gClonard agus ar Baile Moir na nIurparac agus do fás dhá an Rí baite Cilldara éin tuil as fóiréint ar an gCeann-Dhóm Dúndar i gCill Cúilinn. I bhíre-Deirceairc an Contae do tionólad na hEireannaí Aontaithe ar an Oir-Fóirais Moir agus gabadar Deal dea an Tuair agus cúipeadar ar luét an Coimníó-In-Airce teicead go dtí Tis Cuirte na Fóirais Moir agus go tís moir an Coimníó Céitinn. D’éirig muintear Cill Cai agus Maen Colam Cille, ac ní táinig an cádar úr ar Cairlean an Comair go rabadar as rúil leir, agus níor deimeadar an ionraí ar de 1 do cur i gceic. Do éir ar an ionraí ar Mairtíer Eimín, ionraí do veimead as muintir na hIar-Fóirais.

STAD AN CONTAE, 24 AIBREÁN

Trádnóna an lae rín, 24 Aibreán, reo mar a bí cúirí an Contae i gcoitinne. Bí na hEireannaí Aontaithe i reib móir-códa an Contae, agus bí Fóirais an Rí tar éir bailiú leo irteach in de 1 ra Deirceairc, agus i Nar na Rí ra Tuairceairc. Is amlair do éir ar an ionraí do éis Miceál Mac Ragnall ar an Nar ar marom. Tárla go raib fairnéir fáca as an Tairna Sofforo ionn ré, agus bí an sarrtúin i gcoimair aise. Bí in an mbaite ar marom muintir a Reirimnte fein (Sluaácthe Armaaca) agus oronár dá gunna cáca agus ionnt fóirais de Óragúin agus de Sean-Úreánaí agus de Marra Síomáirais. I gcaiteam an lae do méarais ar an líon fear, tne sarrtúin an Clonard, do éitú irteac éicu. Um érádnóna do táinig an Ceann-Dhóm Dúndar, agus do táinig maolú éigin anra ar éroac an seimí, agus ar marú muintir an baite mar díoltar ar an ionraí.

RÁIC IOMGAIN

Do réir deallramh is amlair rín do fan an reéal ar fead ionnt lá. Léimíó trácc ar cúpla reiomarc i gcoimarranácc Cill Óroicéir timpeall an 26ú lae de Dealaine. Da dóig de duine ar na hEireannaí Aontaithe in na laeáanta ro, gur beag eolar do bí as buíonta fé leic acu ar imeadái na mbuion eile, go dtí gur tórnáidóar ar bailiú le céite in na campái. Ac do rpreas reála na Coráoille muintear Raic Iomgáin, fé ceannar an Captaom Seán O Duburcúile ar an loilig Moir, éin tabairt féin mbaite

(26 Dealaine). Do gabadar an áit ón nSíomáirra agus bhreadar ar an céad éirí-ionraí do rúnne an Marra Dub ar an Daingean. Ac táinig airé-ghúicíonraí ó Sluaácthe Dear-Corócaí mar don le óronár, agus do ágabadar ran an baite. D’éirig an Captaom O Duburcúile amac go dtí an Campa i dtis Móca i bharróirce an Clonard.

CAMPA ÉNOIC AILINNE

Tar éir na buairc úr as na hEireannaí Aontaithe i Sean-Cill Cúilinn (24 Dealaine), do bhur an Ceann-Dhóm Dúndar ar a n-ionraí rín air i gCill Cúilinn an Óroicéir. Samlaitear gur tuisead doib anra gurab é a lear eimníú le céite, reácar a marú i min-oreamanna, agus do bailiódar i gCampa ar Énoc Ailinne. Tá an enoc éom háro ran nárb féoir le Marra oibriú ma n-áiré ann, cé nárb óin daingean i gcoimníó Coirte é. Do móir pasairc barróirce Cill Cúilinn cinnóllaca rúcána doíarrab ar an gCeann-Dhóm Dúndar, ruo do veimead 27 Dealaine. Rinne Lake agus Dúndar cunne leo as a Ceann-Ceátrúin i gCairlean Mairtin. Do tugad tórna “Méirli” na rócair do bí uaca i go scuirí veimead leir an gCoimníeac-In-Airce agus leir an tóiránácc gcoitianta, ac veirtear gur de deairc-anneoin an Ceann-Dhóm Lake é go dtáinig Dúndar féin éin glacad leir an ngéillead ar an gCnoc, 28 Dealaine.

AR AR AN gCUIRREAC

Ní raib an oiréar ran den áó oiré ruo do géill ar Cuirreac Cilldara cúpla lá ma diair rín. Tar éir doib a gcuir dhóm do cur uaca do éis Sir James Duff óróú dá éir Marra iao do ionraí, gur dícú 352 oíob ar an bhóir ran. De réir an dealoir bí 85 baintreac in don trráir amáin de baite Cilldara an marom dá éionn.

CAMPA TIS MÓCA.

Do éuarí rúimóir luét Tuairceir an Contae i gCampa i dtis Móca um veimead na Dealaine. Go dtí ran níor éirig rín bharranácc O gCeatáir agus Uacáir-fine. Do fásad muintear Contae Cilldara raor dála tuatáir éirite amac, toirce oiréar dá nOirig, veir gara ó mí Máirca i leic. Ac doob’ iao rín an lonspóirce rín i dtis Móca do éomead an tóir ar rúil ó tórac an Meicín go dtí lár an lúil. D’é da éaréac oiré Liam Aigimear ar Tis Baite an Fáirigis sarru do Raic Coráirh.

GABAD CILL ÉOCA

Bí tráccáil éigin i rtaob Coimníollaca Síocána timpeall tórac na Campa Tis Móca. Ac má bí, is sarru a mar an mar-zaioct ran, mar do éirig dhóm an Campa amac gur gabadar Cill Éoca, reácc míle ó Tis Móca, 4 Meicéam. Do ruaiseadar ar an

mbaile riu Sir Fenton Aylmer agus a Cór Síomáinac Dómnae Caedais, agus do éiríodair tré éime an deariae agus tís Baile na Cuirte.

IONSAÍ AR TÍS MOCUA.

Bí an Longphort úr tís Mocua ina abar gear-éiríte don namair. Dúo luét an Campa as cur irteac ar ionbhealaí ba éabaéac leir an Riatar i na bóirne ar a síomáintí eallaí beiríoc agus caorac so Baile Aca Cliaé an tréac úr, agus ir ionda beiríoc agus caorac dúo do sabad mar éiríe agus do h-íreac i tís Mocua nó i Muclann nó i n'Oróiceac as luét leanúna Liam Aislmeair. Do éir an Riatar an Ceann-Arim Champagne éun toul i gcomairte le Lieutenant Tyrell ar Cluam Iorair, 5 Meiteam. D'é torac a gcomairte sup éiríodair rior ar fórraí ón Daingean éun an Campa o'ionraí. Do ghuair an Ceann-Arim ar Eadan Doirne, 7 Meiteam, leir na síomáir reo leanar: cur den Limerick Militia, Coolestown Yeomanry Cavalry, Canal Legion, Clonard Cavalry, Ballina Cavalry. Maíonn Musgrave sup éiríodair irteac ra longphort agus sup reairíodair é, 8 Meiteam.

SABÁIL MAS NUADAC.

Deir an t-údar éanna, árac, sup saib Liam Aislmeair agus 500 fear leir baile Mas Nuadac ó síomána Cairteam, 10 Meiteam, .i. dá lá o'eir "leir-reiríora" longphort tís Mocua, agus do tucadair 11 Síománoe ina bhíorúnaí so o'í an longphort éanna, agus fórr sup tós muintear an Campa éanna éiríe ar Mas Nuadac, trí lá ma óiaró riu arí, 14 Meiteam.

CAC BAILE OBAIO.

Cúis lá dá éir riu írea do tioríeac Cac Baile Obaio. De réir Dailéio ar a tucadair "Cac Baile Obaio" bí tionól mórr o'Éireannaí donaité Tuairceit an Contae ríom an gcaé ran, agus veir na reálda bealoríor so maib daoine ó Contae Loé gCarman agus ó Contae na Míoe ann, agus bí mná na dúíe gnoéac as bhúe aráin don t'ruac le tamall ríom. D'é oúngaoir do bí as na hOifisí ghuireac le 5,000 fear pé vém Baile Aca Cliaé, le linn o'fórraí an Rí beiré bhúiríúil i gContae Loé gCarman. Bí ríú acu timpeall 30,000 cúnóirí do bailíú éucu ra tuarar ran doib. Ac do tángéar i nghaníor ar an síonól ar fearann Muintear Noit i mBaile Scolos ríom bhreicéaréa ar marom, 19 Meiteam, agus ir ar éisín oí bí am as na hOifisí a gcuio fear do éabairt so hionac ionéoranta ar bharr Choic Baile Obaio. Ir amíaró ba mó den ois ná den bíaró do bí caite as an rluac anhran agus do bí acann ríor curó veirna fearaib ar marom, agus o'pás ran nac maie an mar a bí o'ra éun caéa. Ac dá noimeac na riu píce beairt ve réir órtaie an Aislmeairis .i. toul o'ionraí na n-áit ar a mbéac na gúnnaí móra as caiteam i rí i rí so maib an teime o'ionáir as imit ar rleairáib aríe, ionnar sup maraíó 200 fear acu i mball ar a tucadair "An Cláiré Dún-

maraitéac" ó ríom. Tús riu gúnna an Aislmeairis pén o'ionáir do sabáil, agus bí ríora amám o'ionáir gafa acu, ac do éir ionraí na n'Orasún dá gcairéim íao, agus anhran írea do ríome na gúnnaí móra íao do éanú. D'é éaríla ve riu sup reairíeac an tionól, agus gurb riu éairt an uam veireannaé as fearaib Cill Dara éun beairtaíocé an Tiarra Easbáir do éir i bhéiróm. Bí maib ar ran amac ac teagmaráí guerilla nó mionéogaíocé.

"LUÍOCÁIN AN ÉLAONAC"

Ac do éiríeac Liam Aislmeair so maie ro gne riu cogáíocéa. Veir agus reáéacain tar éir bhreacó Baile Obaio bí a curó fear as véanám ionraite ar Campa tís Mocua, ve réir licreac do reiríoc an Daintiarra Sarah Napier, i gCill Ornéio oí, 27 Meiteam. Agus o'ullmáis Liam Aislmeair luíocáin ríor Cúil Cluana Sabann agus an gCluonac, 4 Iul, agus meireac an Cairteac, tume dá curó fear, do éairt uréar ró-éaríeac, bí an fórra gálda ar raó gafa aise. An lá ma óiaró riu arí, do éir oifisíeac leir (an Captáoin Míeac Ó Coisgís ar Rac Cofais) an ruais ar an namair, tré bhreirionraí, ran ionac gceanna, 5 Iul.

CAC CLUAM IORÁIRO.

Tar éir caéa Baile gCúilleán, 4 Iul, do táimis rluac 1,600 fear ve muintir Contae Loé gCarman agus Cill Manntám irteac i t'Uairceair Contae Cill Dara. Siac do bí i gceannar o'raí Antoinne ve Poire agus Easbáir Mac gEairte ar Co. Loé gCarman, agus gEairíeac Ó Drom ar Cill Manntám, agus an t'ácar Maorós Ó Céirín, ar Loé gCarman, do bío as véanám gno r'asairt i bháiré Cill Dara tamall ríom an éirí-amac. ghuireadair ón gCorácoill agus 800 capall ar Contae Cill Dara acu éun toul o'ionraí Aca Luain, ac do bhreacó o'raí as toul t'earna na Dóinne éar Oróiceac Cluam Iorair, 11 Iul, agus cúláíodair ó veair sup éairíodair an oíe i gCairtean Cairbhe i mDairnataé Cairbhe Ó gCiaróa. Sabadair irteac i gContae na Míoe i gcomairnataé Baile Seam, 12 Iul. Tar éir o'raí cam-éairt do éabairt tré Contae Luíbaró, agus a reairé i mBaile na Dacáille i gContae Aca Cliaé, o'uill curó acu ar Contae Cill Dara. Do sabad Antoinne ve Poire agus an t'áé. Ó Céirín i gCluam Dols, agus do croéac íao aráon in Eadan Doirne. O'éiríeac le hEasbáir Mac gEairte rluac an Aislmeairis do baime amac rlan.

IMTEACÁIREACÉ ACUS MARSAIL

Um an t'acra ro do toraíó ar beir as plé comíollaéa ríocána i gContae Cill Dara. Bí an Tiarra Buckingham tar éir licir do éir so o'í acáir Liam Aislmeair, á éabairt le tuigríeac so n'gacraí so ceannar le géilleac na n'Éireannaé donaité ra Contae riu. Do éir "Oifisí na Dairnataé" (.i. Uí Ceatais agus Uacáir Fíne) licir dar óáca 15 Iul so o'í Lieut. Michael Aylmer agus do éir Sir Fenton Aylmer i so o'í Tiarra Cairtean Riabais mar don

KILDARE IN '98

THE KINDLING OF THE FLAME

THE FIRST BLOW.

The Rising of 1798 began on the night of 23rd-24th of April of that year. The first shot was fired in Co. Kildare, and it was in Prosperous the United Irishmen won their first victory. They captured the town, burned the barracks, and planted the "Tree of Liberty" in the street. On the same night, or the day afterwards, the garrisons of Clane and Ballymore-Eustace were routed. And the King's army left Kildare town to reinforce General Dundas at Kilcullen. In the south of the county the men of Narraghmore rose up. They captured Ballitore, and routed the "free quarters gentry," who fled to Narraghmore Courthouse and the residence of Colonel Keating. The men of Kilkea and Moone also took the field. But the reinforcements they were expecting from Castledermot never arrived. And they were unable to attack Athy, as they had planned. An attack on Monasterevan was beaten off.

STATE OF THE COUNTY.

On the evening of the 24th of April the position was as follows: The United Irishmen held most of the County. While the King's forces had rallied at Athy in the South, and at Naas in the North. An attack on Naas, led by Michael Reynolds, was eventually beaten off. Lord Gosford, acting on information received, had the garrison in readiness. He had under his command the Armagh Militia (his own regiment); two pieces of heavy artillery, Dragoons, Ancient Britons and Yeomanry. During the day, the surviving remnants of the garrison in Clane arrived to swell his forces. In the evening, the arrival of General Dundas did much to put an end to the butchering of the townspeople who were being killed in revenge for the attack on the town.

RATHANGAN.

The situation remained thus for some days. There is an account of some skirmishing near Celbridge about the 24th of May. At this stage the various bands of United Irishmen were working in ignorance of one another's plans. But presently they began to come together into camps. At the news of the victory at Prosperous, the men of Rathangan under the leadership of Captain Doorley of Lullymore, attacked and captured the town. The Black Watch from Daingean counter-attacked but were repulsed with heavy losses. But the South Cork Militia returned to the attack, and with the help of artillery, re-captured the town. Captain John Doorley and his men retreated in good order to an encampment in Timahoe in the parish of Clane.

IN THE FIELD

THE CAMP AT KNOCKAWLIN.

After the victory of the United Irishmen at Old Kilcullen on the 24th of May, they were beaten in a further attack on General Dundas's forces at Kilcullen. The United Irishmen then decided to group their forces, rather than be wiped out in small bands. The encamped, therefore, at Knockawlin. This hill could only be attacked by infantry, as it was too high to be stormed by dragoons. The parish priest of Kilcullen advised the United Irishmen to seek terms from General Dundas, which they did on the 27th of May. Lake and Dundas received them at their headquarters at Castlemartin. The "rebels" obtained the terms they sought, i.e., an end to free quarters and atrocities. But it was very much against General Lake's will that Dundas came in person to the hill to accept the surrender on the 28th of May.

SLAUGHTER ON THE CURRAGH.

Those who surrendered on the Curragh a couple of days later were not so fortunate. After surrendering their arms, Sir James Duff ordered his dragoons to cut them down. And 352 of them were put to death on the spot. According to local tradition, in one street alone in the town of Kildare, eighty-five women were left widows that morning.

THE CAMP AT TIMAHOE.

Most of the United Irishmen of North Kildare encamped at Timahoe towards the end of May. It was only then that the men of that area took up arms. This was not their fault, as most of their officers had been taken prisoners in March. But these men in Timahoe kept up the fight from the beginning of June to the middle of July. Their commander was Liam Aylmer of Painestown House, near Rathcoffey.

THE TAKING OF KILCOCK.

At first there was some talk of surrender in the Camp at Timahoe. But that kind of talk was quickly silenced. On the 4th of June, they marched on Kilcock, seven miles distant. They stormed the town, Sir Fenton Aylmer and his yeomanry were routed, and the barracks and Courthouse were burned to the ground.

THE ATTACK ON TIMAHOE.

The Irish army at Timahoe was a sore trial to the enemy. They had cut the government's most important lines of communication, i.e., the roads along which cattle and sheep were brought to Dublin at that time. Many a herd of bullocks and sheep was taken to Timahoe, Mucklin and Drehid to be eaten by Aylmer's followers. General Champagne took counsel with Lieut. Tyrell of Clonard on the 5th of June. Their conference resulted in an attack on the Camp from Daingean. The General himself advanced from Edenderry on the 7th of June with the following forces:—Some of the Limerick Militia, the Coolestown Yeomanry Cavalry, the Canal Legion, the Clonard Cavalry and the Ballina Cavalry. Musgrave brags that the Camp was stormed and dispersed on the 8th of June.

TAKING OF MAYNOOTH.

The same author, however, tells us that Liam Aylmer and 500 of his men took Maynooth from the Carton Yeomanry on the 10th of June—

two days after the "storming" of Timahoe. He tells us also that they brought eleven yeomen prisoners back to the camp. And he tells us that three days later still, on the 14th of June, the Army in the Camp took a herd of cattle from Maynooth.

BATTLE OF OVIDSTOWN.

The battle of Ovidstown was fought five days later. According to an old ballad, there was a big muster of United Irishmen in the North of the County before that battle. According to tradition, they were joined by contingents from Meath and Wexford. And the women of the country-side were kept busy baking bread for them. The officers in command planned to march on Dublin with 5,000 men while the King's forces were being kept busy in Wexford. They hoped to increase their forces to 30,000 men along their line of march. But at Hortlands, on the morning of the 19th of June, the enemy took them by surprise, and their officers just had time to place their men in position on the summit of Ovidstown Hill. The assembly had more to drink than to eat, and there had been trouble with some of the men that morning. So they were scarcely in the best frame of mind for battle. Had the pike-men obeyed Aylmer's orders and charged the artillery, he would have carried the day. But they tried an encircling movement, were enfiladed by the enemy big guns, and two hundred of them were killed at a place ever since called "The Murdering Ditch." Aylmer's sharpshooters then attacked the guns. They took one of them. But a charge by the Dragoons threw them into confusion, and the big guns finished the work. The gathering was dispersed. And that was the last attempt made by the men of Kildare to put Lord Edward's plans into effect. From that on, guerilla warfare was all that could be attempted.

GUERRILLA DAYS

AMBUSHES AT CLANE.

Liam Aylmer was well prepared for this kind of warfare. More than a week after the defeat at Ovidstown, he was making sorties from his camp at Timahoe, according to a letter written to Lady Sarah Napier, at Celbridge, on the 27th of June. He prepared an ambush between Clongowes Wood and Clane on the 4th of July. And were it not for Caffrey, one of his men, firing too soon, he would have captured all the enemy forces. The day after that, one of his officers, Captain Michael Quigley, routed the enemy at the same spot.

BATTLE OF CLONARD.

After the battle of Hacketstown, on the 4th of July, 1600, men from Wexford and Wicklow arrived in North Kildare. They were commanded by Anthony Perry and Edward Fitzgerald, Wexford; Garret Byrne, Wicklow; and Father Naohog Kearns of Wexford, who had been a priest in Kildare before the Rising. They were joined by 800 Kildare horsemen, and set out for Prosperous with the intention of attacking Athlone. But they were defeated when crossing the Boyne at the bridge of Clonard on the 11th of July. They retreated south, and spent the night in Carbury Castle. They advanced into Co. Meath near Johnstown on the 12th of July, and made forced marches into Co. Lough. They were dispersed at Ballyboughal in Co. Dublin, and some of them returned to Co. Kildare. Anthony Perry and Father Kearns were

captured in Clonbullogue and hanged in Edenderry. Edward Fitzgerald succeeded in bringing Aylmer's men home safely.

TRUCE AND TREATY

DESPATCHES AND NEGOTIATIONS.

Negotiations for peace were now initiated in Co. Kildare. Lord Buckingham sent a letter to Liam Aylmer's father, offering favourable terms to the Kildare men. The "officers of the Barony" (i.e., of Ua Ceatoigh agus Uachtar Fhina) sent a letter dated the 15th of July, to Lieut. Michael Aylmer. This was forwarded by Sir Fenton Aylmer to Lord Castlereagh with a covering letter of his own from Maynooth on the 15th of July, in which he solicited a peace treaty. To this end he proposed a truce. General Wilford met Liam Aylmer and Edward Fitzgerald at Sallins. And as a result he ordered a truce in the area. He sent word of the truce to the officer commanding the King's forces in Co. Meath and to Lord Cornwallis, 17th and 18th July.

SIGNING OF THE TREATY.

A treaty was then signed. The United Irishmen of Co. Kildare, Co. Wexford and Co. Wicklow were encamped at Prosperous. Emissaries of the Government arrived at the Camp. Two officers of the Armagh Militia remained as hostages while Aylmer and seventeen of his officers went to sign their names to the treaty. According to tradition, it was signed at Rathcoffey.

TREATY CONDITIONS.

The following were the conditions of the Treaty:—The higher officers of the United Irishmen to go free of any trial, and without prejudice to their property rights. They would be allowed to depart to any country not at war with his Majesty the King. Full pardon to all soldiers under their command. According to Sir Fenton Aylmer's letter, the Treaty enacted that the United Irishmen lay down their arms on a level, sheltered place on the hill of Baile Ui Ghorain. The forces of the King to advance from Maynooth, without going too close to them. The officers not to surrender to the Government for three days, so that they could say good-bye to their friends.

On Saturday, the 21st of July, the following surrendered in Sallins:—Liam Aylmer, Colonel; Denis O'Farrell, Soldier; Edward Fitzgerald, Colonel; Patrick Meany, Soldier; Jos. McCormack, Captain; Richard Daly, Soldier; George Luby, Captain; James Andoe, Soldier; Andrew O'Farrell, Captain; Michael Quigley, Captain; James Tiernan, Captain; Brian MacDermott, Captain; Aodh Mac an Mhaoir, Lieut. Colonel; Peter Corcoran, Soldier.

The above were taken to Dublin in four coaches, to be deported "at the convenience of the Government."

Under the protection of the treaty of Kildare, their comrades in other counties received the same pardon. But, alas, the conditions were not observed in every case. For example, Esmund Kyne was hanged in Wexford before news of the Treaty was received "officially."

The remainder of the Kildare men went to their homes, where they remained, without taking any further part in national affairs until the Rising of Robert Emmet. But that is another story.

That was the end of the 1798 Rising in Co. Kildare. No Kildare man need ever be ashamed of it. Although they had the option of postponing

the Rising until the other counties were ready, they took the field on the date fixed for the rest of the country. It was Kildare men who headed the beginning, and who gave the signal to begin. They stopped the Post Coaches on the roads of their own county when the men of Dublin failed to do so. It must have been the Kildare men, therefore, the old poet was addressing when he said—"Gradh mo chroidhe, my Leinster-men, you fanned the flame aglow."

It is not because they fanned the flame that we praise them, but because they kept the fight up for two long months, longer than in any other County except in the mountains of Co. Wicklow. When we think of the open country-side of Co. Kildare, so difficult to defend, we are indeed proud of them. They fought so well that five Generals were thrown against them. The history of Kildare in '98 is an important chapter in the history of our country. And it is important that we leave a lasting and permanent record of it.



The Battle of Prosperous

The following poem, which seems to have been composed about fifty years ago, was contributed by Mr. Thomas Cribbin to Sean O Cribin, Craobh an Chlaonta.

The chapel bell at Prosperous was pealing loud and high;
The weavers and the artisans in groups have gathered nigh.
From Blackwood and from Downings, from Longtown and Donore;
From Curryhills and Landenstown, those sturdy Peasants pour;
And Matrons from Mylerstown and Maids from Currabell;
The dread doings of those yoemen in shuddering horror tell;
For those monsters of oppression and dark dishonour reign
In that district long abandoned to the tyrant rule of Swayne.
The bell had ceased its tolling and the echoes scarce have died,
When from the Clane direction see yon spurring horseman ride;
Like a fairy wind from Allen comes the horse with flowing mane,
And seated in the saddle is brave Esmonde from Clane.
He reined before the Chapel gate, and as his friends drew near,
With choking voice he asked them: "Boys, is Ermond Lairdir here?"
Then as the stalwart figure of O'Hanlon met his view,
He sobbed out "Edmond Lairdir, I have dreadful news for you.
Edmond pray for patience, for your home is burned down,
And your aged parents butchered by forces of the Crown;
And your sweet gentle Maire, your fair young blooming bride,
With her infant in her arms by their bloody bayonets died.
Ah, men of old Cill Dara, do we call on you in vain?
Can the offspring of such fathers tamely wear a slavish chain?
Can the sons they've left behind be so unmindful of their fate,
That any true Kildare man fears to speak of '98.
So, Edmond, pray for patience, and be quick, make no delay;
For we'll meet the brutes in open fight on the 23rd of May."
No word did Edmond utter, but towards the Chapel faced,
And solemnly that strong right hand upon his heart he placed.
While he bowed his head in reverence and swore an oath that he
For all those deeds of slaughter yet would well avenged be.
At Hatter's Cross at midnight of the appointed day,
Four hundred brave United Men assembled for the fray.
They had guns and blunderbuses with many a trusty pike;
With knives and even pitchforks, and the sharp-edge blades of scythes.
From Killabegs and Ballinafagh, from Newtown and elsewhere,
There came the finest fighters in the County of Kildare.
Captain Andrew Farrell, boys, is marching at their head,
A braver man to battle ne'er his trusted forces led.
And Edmond, too, with sledge and pike is marching by his side.
He is thinking of his parents dear, sweet infant and fair bride,
Now they have reached the Blackstick on Blackwood's bleak highway,
The night was dark, not e'en one star shot down a guiding ray,
When nine of those valiant heroes quick scaled the Barrack wall,
And slew the sentries at their posts ere they could warning call.
Then with one well-directed blow O'Hanlon burst the door,
And up the stairs to Swayne's bedroom in frenzied wrath he tore;
And there his Maire's murderer sat, half dressed upon the bed;
The ready pike quick found his heart, the tyrant dropped back dead.
And now, at doors and windows, alarmed Yeos appear,
With shaking limbs and shivering hands and features blanched with fear;
For around that doomed Barracks was piled the well-dried hay,
And soon a thousand tongues of flame made night as bright as day.
And now the peasants' muskets and pikes and pitchforks plied,
And if the Yeos escaped the fire, on vengeful steel they died.

When the morning sun on Prosperous shot down its pallid light,
That hated Yeoman barracks stood no longer there in sight.
The vow that Edmond Lairdir made he had fulfilled it well;
But five of all that hated band escaped, the tale to tell.
Some fell at Old Kilcullen, at Clane and Naas some died,
But the spirits from their Graveyards for a century have cried,
Ye men and boys of Prosperous such is my simple lay,
Of your fathers' fight for freedom, on that 23rd of May;

Song of Ovidstown

(Air The Dawning Of The Day).

Oh, Mary get my coat of green,
It's near the break of day,
In a retreat* my name shall be,
It's not at home I'll stay,
The ancient race unto disgrace,
Shall ne'er be brought by me,
Oh, I'm away to Ovidstown to fight for liberty.

CHORUS.

With pike so keen, and sash of green,
That emblem dear to me;
Oh, I'm away to Ovidstown to fight for liberty.

Captain Farrell, he has gone,
He was in Donadea;
The moon is up and Hanlan's troops,
From home are gone away.
Before we dull to-morrow's sun,
A glorious sight you'll see,
On all Dara's plains, we'll break our chains,
And set old Ireland free.

CHORUS.

There is Captain Burke from Barrettstown,
He's gone with his brave band,
Of full three-hundred green clad youths,
He has at his command,
And Cox's Corps has left Donore;
I fear that late I'll be,
To reach the ground where the trumpet sounds,
To set old Ireland free.

CHORUS.

Oh, Mary get my coat of green,
It's near our parting time,
On the old hill of Ballinafagh,
We will fall into line;
Oh! there's the shout, the boys are out,
Hurrah! $\xi\mu\acute{\alpha}\theta\ \xi\epsilon\alpha\lambda\ \mu\omicron\ \epsilon\pi\omicron\iota\theta\epsilon.$
With that brave band I'll join my hand,
And set old Ireland free.

CHORUS.

* NOTE.—It is supposed that the United Men went to Confession, received Holy Communion and spent some time on a retreat, before going into the battle.