

Letters From the People

Somewhere in America

May 10, 1916.

Sir:

On the third of July last, at sunrise, at the foot of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor, I proclaimed publicly the independence of Ireland. I begat the Irish Republic on the Great Mother Time. In due course the first-born has come to light; and its martyr blood cries to heaven from the ruins of Dublin.

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Republic. Smitten to earth, we rise again, ninefold more strong.

But must blood still call for blood? Hate still breed Hate? "Forgive me, Father, for they know not what they do!" Ireland was of old the Island of the Saints; for many a long year she has been the Island of the Martyrs. For me, the watchword of our Free Republic shall not be revenge, but forgiveness. I would make Ireland the Arbitrer of Universal Peace. Let us but be free to follow our great destiny and all men—and our oppressors first—shall be our brothers. In this hour when the mildest man might well be lashed to fury I hold out the swordless hand of fellowship. England! There are stainless and noble passages even in your history. If we, as we gaze upon the bodies of our murdered brothers, remember them, cannot you do likewise?

Let us be free; let us have peace! To-morrow I may cite that other word of Christ: "Lo! I bring not peace, but a sword."

God save the Irish Republic!

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,
ALEISTER CROWLEY.

To the Editor, Reedy's Mirror,
St. Louis, Mo.

Memories of Ireland

3523 Wyoming street,
May 15, 1916.

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

The recent tragic uprising in Dublin has, I am afraid, aroused bitter memories that will not die with the present generation of Irishmen. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the causes that led up to the outbreak to make any comment on the present unfortunate state of affairs in Ireland, but I wish to call your attention to the life and writings of Theobald Wolfe Tone, the man who has influenced most revolutionary Irishmen.

Tone's character and opinions are as interesting as any of the actors of the great drama of the French Revolution. In ability and genius he almost surpassed any man who lived in the last ten years of the eighteenth century. In 1791, at the age of 28, he formed the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast. They were all Protestants and their programme at first was not radical. The organization was not then a secret combination of men, and, looking back now, one is amazed at the stupid brutality of the British Government in not conceding some of their demands. They were driven to cover about 1794, when the first treason trial held for more than

a century in Ireland took place in Dublin. An Episcopal clergyman, the Rev. W. Jackson, was the victim. He took poison in the dock as the judge was about to pass sentence on him. "We have deceived the Senate," he said, and died. Tone then fled to France. "He went to Paris," said Wellington, "with twenty guineas in his pocket to overthrow the British Empire, and he came nearer to success than any man that ever tried it. * * * His Journal is the most fascinating book I ever read." Hoche and Carnot were then the two most powerful men in France. Tone soon convinced them of the advisability of making an effort to wrest Ireland from her British connection. It is now generally recognized that only the accident that scattered the French ships fitted out for the Irish expedition, prevented the consummation of his plans. Tone made several attempts to land a French force in Ireland from 1796 to 1798. For restless, relentless energy he probably has no equal in history. He was finally captured after a desperate

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fight on a French sloop of war, in Lough Swilly. Tone, like the Rev. Mr. Jackson, committed suicide on the day set for his execution. Napoleon remembered Tone and was very kind to his family. At St. Helena, the conqueror of Europe regretted that he did not go to Ireland instead of Egypt in 1798. All modern Irish History is condensed into two books, "The Diary of Tone" and "The Hard Times," by George Birmingham. Birmingham wrote many stories of Irish life, humorous and otherwise, but the books I mention surpass anything written about the Irish question in the last century.

As a legacy to Ireland, Tone left his memory, the green flag, and his journal in which the song of hate was first sung against England. It is hard to

procure a copy of his book even in the U. S. The English publishers have seen to that. Tone's son was an officer in the U. S. Army. I do not know if he left any descendants, but heard that Admiral Sampson was one of his grandsons.

The pathetic figure of Erin was long ago described by the prophet Jeremiah. "Mourning she hath wept in the night and her tears are on her face; there is none to comfort her among all them that were dear to her."

In one of his plays William Butler Yeats describes her as an old woman, saying:

"It is hard service they take that help me. Many that are red-cheeked now will be pale-cheeked; many that have been free to walk the hills and the bogs

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