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The Great Enchantment

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of Con, when he harried Thomond. The biographer of O'Donnell relates how a poet met Red Hugh in Clare with a rhymed prophecy which he attributed to Columcille describing the young hero thus:—

"He who will avenge Aileach Hugh Oge of steeds of rough roads,
The polished body, fame without deceit, the long hair in ringlets."

And there in the midst of history we have a description of how Red Hugh dressed his hair. But this rivalry of the O'Brien Clan took a serious turn for him when at Kinsale. The Lord of Thomond and his men stood on guard outside the trenches and helped to defeat O'Donnell and O'Neill. And with all due respect to a recent utterance of Mr. O'Grady's own about Kinsale, I hold that in opposing O'Neill and O'Donnell the O'Brien was less moved by loyalty to Elizabeth than by the hereditary feud between his own princely house and the race of Con.

In conclusion, I urge the study of history rather than works of Art and Imagination in Gaelic literature as leading the reader to the most important and interesting works that exist in our language. If you want to judge what can be achieved in the artistic way study, as Dr. Hyde enjoins you to, the lyrical poems of the last century. They achieve the highest qualities that lyrical art can attain to, and they can neither be equalled nor expressed in translation.

ALICE L. MILLIGAN.

OUR GAELIC CLASS.

THE BICYCLE—Continued.

"Oo bí an amhrán te, tirim, agus shian an t-
páiríú ag deallúar iní an rpeir (dhu vea an amshir
thay thirim agus gryeean an thowree eg dhyallro ins an
shpayr)—the weather was hot (and) dry, and the summer
sun shining brightly in the sky.

Te, warm, hot; the phrase te, tirim, is translated
"hot and dry"—the conjunction is not used in this collo-
cation in Irish. The following examples will serve to
illustrate this rule the better:—

- (1) The day is cold and wet—*Úa an lá fuar, fliúc.*
- (2) The milk is fresh and sweet—*Úa an bainne úr, mílir.*
- (3) The road is clean and wide—*Úa an ród glan, leathan.*

Note that the conjunction *and* is not translated in the Irish phrases,

Shian, the sun (fem.); páiríú (sowra), summer (mas.); páiríú (sowree), of summer; an t-páiríú, of the summer. When a masculine noun beginning with *r* is used in the genitive singular with the article, the initial letter of the noun has its sound eclipsed by *t*, as in the following examples—

Blaí an t-patáin (bloss an tholin)—the taste of the salt.

Teac an t-*rasaí* (yoh an thogirth)—the house of the priest).

Ag deallúar, shining brightly or brilliantly; rpeir, the sky (fem.); blaí, taste (mas.); patáin, salt; patáin, of salt (mas.); *rasaí* (sogorth), a priest; *rasaí* (sogith), of a priest.

Most masc line nouns ending in a consonant or two consonants preceded by a broad vowel, form their genitive singular by having the broad sound of the final consonant attenuated or made slender. This is done by inserting the slender vowel *i* between the broad vowel and the final consonant or consonants. Thus—Capall, a horse; capall (koppill), of a horse; iapáin (eearan), iron; iapáin (eearin), of iron; *rolár* (sullas), light; *rolár* (sullish), of light; *ponár* (sunas), good luck; *ponár* (sunish), of good luck.

PATRICK KANGLEY.

THE GREAT ENCHANTMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ALL IRELAND REVIEW.

DEAR SIR—

As you encourage comments by the readers of the "A.I.R.," I venture to express a hope that the cessation of your own articles upon what you so aptly term "The Great Enchantment" is but temporary. Those which have appeared already cannot have failed to interest most of your readers, or to inspire some of them with the wish that you may prove yourself the predestined Ashtolfo, who, mounted on the Hippogriff of the "A.I.R.," shall bring down the wits of our bewitched Orlando from the lunar regions where they have been bottled up so long. May it be that you are only waiting your own time for revealing the counter-spells whereby the enchantment is to be dissolved.

I would infer, from what you have already written, that you look to the principles of '82 for a solution of the problem. While heartily concurring in this view, I would beg leave to suggest that we are still waiting to be instructed how those principles are capable of being practically applied at the present day. All the unanimity and other virtues of the men of '82 (including that "Nationality" wherein, as in most other things, despite certain grave shortcomings, they were so far in advance of their age) would have proved as futile as many a promising movement of later date, had they not possessed the means, in the shape of an armed and disciplined organisation, of rendering opposition to their just demands, too dangerous an experiment to attempt. It cannot, I think, be said that the history of the past century, or even of the past few years, has shown that such a resource, or denial resort, is no longer needed. Bovine John is still an unready pupil in the departments of logic and ethics but he possesses considerable aptitude in comprehending the categorical imperative, when properly enforced.

It is, of course, impossible to repeat the situation of '82 in all its details, as it is always impossible to make the past live again in the present or future. Nevertheless it is quite possible, and most essential, so to organise the resources, national and international which the present times offer, as to be able to apply with effect, when the fitting crisis shall present itself, tactics analogous too, though not identical with, those by which the men of '82 achieved their victory.

In this connection, it is not irrelevant to touch upon the hostility, active or passive, manifested by "National"-minded Unionists to every "Nationalist" movement from 1793 onwards. It is true that in these movements there has been much to excite the disapproval, sometimes reasonable, sometimes not, of certain classes of the community. But how far is that fact owing to the opposition offered by the classes in question to those movements? By bringing to the national cause a support which would have been most cordially welcomed, they might have modified to an incalculable extent, the Nationalist policy, though of course they could not expect, and had no right to, the absolute control of it. But the world will not stand still to suit the fastidious. When those who should have been their leaders stood aloof, the people have necessarily betaken them to other leaders, who, or the best of whom have been, in effect, the true successors of the men of '82. Their ends were similar, and, like them, they sought to provide the only means for achieving those ends. If they have been compelled often to turn aside to by-ends, and to adopt means that were inadequate, or even worse, much of the blame is attributable to the dissension and defection which paralysed their action, and curtailed their resources. It cannot be said that the defaulters have gained much by their action, either in power or profit, esteem or influence. It may be that it is not yet too late to win back a portion of these, by a return to the principles of '82; if so, it must be by adopting those principles in their entirety; not alone by passing resolutions at Dungannon or elsewhere, but by taking such measures as shall make it evident that their resolutions are not to be disregarded.

Probably they will not do this. If not, others assuredly will attempt it, from time to time, until the coincidence of the hour and the man, or men, shall crown one attempt with success.

C. S. B.