

crossed the Dardanelles, from Asia into Europe, by two great bridges of boats specially constructed for that purpose.

UNITED ACTION.

To resist this deadly onslaught threatening the liberty of all the Grecian States, there was formed a Pan-Hellenic (or All-Greek) League, and the combined forces prepared to defend their country. It was decided to make a stand at the pass of Thermopylae, meaning Hot-Gates—a name that has been famous from that day to the present hour, as the scene of one of the most heroic events in the history of the world.

The Spartans, under their King, Leonidas, covered themselves with glory in this instance, fighting to the last man with reckless courage, charging the enemy with bare hands when their spears and swords were broken and dying literally in harness—the name given to armour—rather than give way to the invader. The pass was captured as a result of the overwhelming numbers of the Persians, but Leonidas and his faithful three hundred achieved imperishable fame in that ever memorable year, 480 B.C.

This famous event has been praised by many poets, including our own Thomas Davis.

SALAMIS AND PLATAEA.

The next great event, in that year, in the fight against the invading Persians, was the sea fight at Salamis, in which the Greeks won a glorious victory, although the invading fleet was far and away larger than their own. The disparity was more than counterbalanced, first by the strategy of the Greek commanders, who inveigled the enemy into the narrow waters of the straits, where the Persian ships could not fight to advantage, and, still more important, the desperate valour of the men who were defending their beloved land from the onset of a ruthless and savage foe.

The battle of Plataea, in the following year, resulted in the crushing defeat of the great Persian Army, which was at least three times as large as that of the combined Greek forces. This victory over the invader is described by Herodotus as "exceeding in glory all those to which our knowledge extends."

A remnant of the Persian Army, which escaped the general slaughter, managed to get back to Asia—and that was the end of an invasion which threatened the very existence of the Grecian States; and which, if successful, would have meant slavery for their people.

This marvellous escape from an odious thralldom was the direct result of the united action of Athens, Sparta and the other Greek States, and this unity was preserved in spite of great efforts made by the Persians to disrupt it. An ambassador was sent to Athens, offering a separate peace, with a heavy bribe in the shape of "a close alliance with the Great King," or with "devastation," as an alternative. This offer was rejected by Athens, with the happy result just mentioned.

This was a good example for all small

ing many protests a little improvement was noticeable, but it is not easy to get rid of bad habits. Once again, it is to be observed, empty cigarette cartons, envelopes, circulars, handbills, etc., are discarded on the footpaths by pedestrians. Such conduct is an offence punishable by law. The public, be it noted, have no longer any excuse for dropping bus tickets on the streets, as special refuse receptacles are provided in the new double-deckers.

WEST LIMERICK VIOLINIST TO BROADCAST

Mr. James McEnery, of Castlemahon, Newcastle West, will be on the air again on Friday, January 10th, at 9 p.m. The programme will consist of jigs, reels, hornpipes; also that famous old tune, "The old man rocking the cradle." It is the first time (writes a correspondent) that this tune will be played over Radio Eireann and it will be a treat for listeners, as the old man can be heard singing and the child crying.

A FATAL ERROR

A verdict of accidental death, due to the deceased drinking Jeyes fluid in mistake for milk, was returned at an inquest at Omagh yesterday, into the death of a centenarian named Catherine McElrattan, Gortmore, who died on Saturday last. A neighbour said that deceased, who had become frail and childish, told her she had drunk disinfectant by mistake. Deceased's son said his mother was 103 years old.

DEATHS

Kenneally—January 1st, 1941, at Clare View House, S.C. Road, Limerick, John Patrick Kenneally, late of Customs and Excise, brother of the Right Rev. Monsignor P. Kenneally, V.G., Balarat, and of the late Rev. M. Kenneally, S.J., Sicawei, Shanghai, China, and father of Very Rev. J. Kenneally, Freshfield College, Liverpool. Deeply regretted. R.I.P. Remains will be removed to St. Michael's at 7.30 on to-morrow (Thursday) evening. Solemn Requiem Mass at 10.30 on Friday. Funeral immediately afterwards to Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Sexton—On January 1st, 1941, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. George Imbusch, "Inisfail," Shelburne Road, Catherine, relict of the late Thomas Sexton. Deeply regretted. Remains will be removed to-morrow (Thursday) to St. Murchin's Church. Funeral arrangements later.

nations—including Eire—when they are threatened with invasion, and the lesson is certain to be taken to heart, and acted on should the need arise.