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STRAY SCRAPS

An Open Letter To Mr. Dillon

(By RAMBLING THADY).

Dear Mr. Dillon, I write you these few lines hoping you are in the best of health, as the departure of this leaves me, thanks be to God. Ever since they made a Minister of you I was going to write to you, but I'm bad at the pen and the bit of grammar I ever had is gone with the wind. Anyway, as your father's son, God rest his soul, who in his day did his own share for the country, I know you'll agree that if my writing is bad my heart is right. In your father's day 'twasn't the big nobs and the smart fellows that stood up against the landlords and drove them across the water—'twas the men of the spade and shovel—and I'll tell you now—and I know what I'm talking about—this country will never be right until the farmers and the labourers will put their heads together and work for the common good.

Now that you are a Minister you must try to forget many of the things you said when you were a plain T.D. Perhaps you were right in what you said, and then, again, perhaps you weren't. 'Tis well known you have a nader for the English, but where you got it, God only knows—you didn't get it from your father, anyway—but there, again, I didn't ever know your mother.

All kinds of Ministers are paid for talking and between you and me and the wall a lot of 'em don't always practise what they preach. You are new at your job, newly ordained, if I might say so without disrespect, and I hope you'll do more than talking.

"TOUGH CROWD."

You have a tough crowd to deal with in the farmers, but the farmers had a tough time of it, too; you can't forget that. They went through an economic war. 'Tis akil now who was the cause of it. Let bygones be bygones—there's no good in reaping up old sores. But you know as well as I do that if the farmer can't put his hand in his pocket, no one can. That's as plain as the nose in your face. And if we hadn't the farmer where would we be during the war? Most of us would be dead and the rest of us would only be walking corpses. That's my way of looking at it. Perhaps I might be right, and then, again, perhaps I mightn't.

You are a young man, as ages go, and I'm old enough to be your father, and I don't like to be mistering you, so I'll call you Jim. Take an old man's advice and if you made a few foot-paws long ago admit it like a man and there will be more thought of you. A lot of people do be drawing down that you said one time that wheat and beet was only a cod. Why don't you laugh it off, Jim, and say you were only coddin', or as the smart Allecks say, pulling their legs. We all say the wrong thing sometimes and we'd like to bite off our tongues after, but what's the use crying over spilled milk only give it to the cat.

And when they started the hat factory in Galway you made game of them. My dear boy, if you had any sense in your head you would not tread on the ladies' corns. I could tell you a thing or two but I won't. You heard the story of the fox without the tail as well as I did.

I know you have ideas of your way about the Republic of Eire, or, as some people say, the so-called Republic. Perhaps you are right in what you think and then again, perhaps, you aren't. The dear knows, the English were bad enough in their day and for that matter they're bad enough yet, but there's more of them there and I tell you they're no great shakes. We're between the devil and the deep sea.

TALKING ABOUT GRASS!

Oh, I was nearly forgettin'. You were talking about grass lately, and you said if we had more grass we would have more milk and that they'd be no need to rise the price of milk. There's a lot in what you say, and from the showlder out I'd say you were as right as nine pence. While I am writing here Blackie, Whitey and Ronnie are out grazing in the half-acre and the three of 'em aren't too badly off and all I did was to top-dress it in the winter with road stuff and dung and give it a shake of the bag.

There's a big place near Kilmallock; Mount Coote they call it, and by the same token the first of the Cootes was a bad egg, belongin' to an English lady, and I saw a field of grass there about four inches in the month of January. The field was only the bulk of 4 acres and there were 20 fine sheep out in it, forty legs of mutton that drew water from my false teeth. I saw the very same field last week and the same 40 legs of mutton were grazing it—you know what I mane—the owners of the legs—not the owners of the sheep. Bad manners to it, I'm mixed up and I can't ex-trick-kate myself. As I say, the 20 sheep are still there and they have only the tops of the grass et. That's something you should call to see, Jim, when you come to Kilmallock. I made inquiries and found out that the seed of the two kinds of rye grasses—the one that lasts only for a year and the one that lasts for ever more, amen—was set in August.

If the sheep were taken out there would be a fine crop of rye grass on the 20th June, the fair day of Kilmallock, and a crop of aftergrass to last until November. There 'tis for you—three crops in one year, and you'd be talkin' about Jersey and their two crops of spuds in one year.

As a Minister for Agriculture, my dear boy, there is dope to hand out when you're goin' round the country making speeches and altin' big dinners.

Good luck to you, any way, and hoping to hear from you in your spare time.—Yours truly,

"RAMBLING THADY."

HOSPITAL WANTS 'PHONE KIOSK

Strong representations are being made to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs by the local Guild of Muintir na Tire for the provision of a public telephone kiosk in the town of Hospital (writes our correspondent there). Recently Hospital Guild of Muintir na Tire were successful in having a Post Office pillar box installed at Ballinamona Cross. This amenity is greatly appreciated by the people of the district, and it is to be hoped that the representations for the public telephone kiosk will meet with the same success.

ODDS AND ENDS

Result Of Competition

(BY AN MANGAIRE SUGACH).

The following sent me songs and ballads for my competition:—Charles Sheehan, Ballybricken; James Clancy, Hill Rd., Ballingarry; Patrick Murphy, Appletown, Fechanagh; Dave Cronin, Tankardstown, Kilmallock; George Finn, East Sq., Askeaton (per Miss Nancy Collins); Michael Lenihan, Station House, Bruree; Mrs. Nora Quirke, 23 Mungret St., Limerick; Frank O'Connor, 34 Bengal Tce., Limerick; John P. Crowley, 9 New Tce, Cappamore; a man who wishes to remain anonymous, from Ballygiltinan, Glin; Cait Ni Aimbrois, The Old Mill, Newcastle West; M. S., Near Tuamgraney, Co. Clare; Mrs. Mary O'Donnell, Lauragh, Milford, Rathluire; Peter Kerins, Galbally, Grange; N. F. W., c/o W. J. Crawford, Ballylanders; Anonymous sender of song about Doon hurlers, 1888; Edmond Burke, Darnstown, Kilmallock; Patrick Kelly, Ballyfookeen, Bruree; Breeda Hennessy, Carrewmore, Cratloe; Patrick Power, Bilboa; Michael O Dalaigh, 59 Sunnyhill Rd., Streatham, London; Timothy MacCarthy, Kilbacolla, Bruree; Micheal O Laighin, Srath an Mhuchaidhe, Cluan Larach; Kathleen MacMahon, Ballyshonick, Pallaskenry; Anna Woulfe, Finnoe, Ballyhahill; Timothy O'Sullivan, Duxtown, Rathkeale; John Kelly, Deerpark, Sixmilebridge; Rose Atkinson, 26 Little Gerald Griffin St., Limerick; Brigid Gleeson, Fedamore; Margaret T. O'Shea, Grange; Tomas O Conba, Drom na Daoile, An Caislean Nua; Bridie O'Connor, Glenastar, Ardagh; Micheal Mac Craith, Brugh Riogh; Michael Madigan, Madigan's Hotel, Rathkeale; Brigid Harnett, Rooskagh, Newcastle West; Hannah Enright, Knockane Rd., Newcastle West; Kathleen O'Rourke, Tubbermurry, Pallaskenry, Thomas J. V. Dillon, 6 St. Jude's Tce., Parteen; Patrick F. Meade, Clanmorris Ave., Limerick; John Horan, Barnagh, Templegiantine; P. J. Lonergan, Herbertstown; Thomas Power, Billoa; Brigid Corkerry, Drewscourt, Ballyagran; Maighread Bean Ui Bhrosnachain, Gleann Mor, Tuar Na Fola; Eoghan O Suilleabhain, Arus an Mhuinteora, Cill Fhionain; Mary Daly, c/o Mr. J. O'Donovan, Grange, Newcastle West; Mrs. E. W. "Laburnum;" Michael Creagh, Fort East, Rathluire; Patrick Young, Castleoliver, Glenosheen; John O'Connor, Mellon, Kilidmo; Josephine Purcell, Uregare House, Kilmallock; Tomas Maghum, per Cait de Bhaills, Baile na Mainistreach, Cill Fhionain; Brigid Corr, Foynes; M. Ni R., Caislean Nua; Timothy O'Brien, Inch St., Laurence, Caherconlish; J. D. O'Connor, 4 Munster Tce., Limerick; Patrick O'Connell, Foynes; Ed. Denehan, Drinagh, Knocklong; Master John Murphy, Cloughervilier, Herbertstown; Michael Nolan, Finnoe, Ballyhahill; Thomas Treacy, Knockfierna, Ballingarry; Daniel O'Brien, Ballyvologue, Ballingarry.

I thank you all very sincerely. And in my thanks I must include a very distinguished Tipperary correspondent, who sent a fine song of the great Archbishop Croke, not as an entry for the competition, but because it might interest readers of the "Limerick Leader." Well, I'm sure it will, and I'll publish it in due course, D.V. Our thanks to: An Canonach Mac Gearailt, S.P., V.F., Baile an Gharrdha, Durlas Eile.

BOOK PRIZES FOR FOUR.

When I announced the competition, I stated that I'd award two book prizes for the best entries. Since then I've changed my mind. I'm announcing four prize-winners to-day. They should receive their books in a day or two. There are still a few left to whom I intend awarding consolation prizes. Their names will be announced later. To-day's winners are: J. D. O'Connor, 4 Munster Terrace, O'Connell Ave., Limerick; Ed. Denehan, Drinagh, Knocklong; Miss Anna Woulfe, Finnoe, Ballyhahill; John O'Connor, Mellon, Kilidmo. I'll delay no longer, but will give you one of the songs from the splendid collection of more than twenty submitted by Mr. J. D. O'Connor. Here it is:

MARY FROM MURROE.

"If I was at home in Lackamore,
My pencil I'd take and write,
My thoughts commenting, dear, of you,
That my Mary had taken flight;
When first I came to this countrie,
My thoughts were all of you,
And set my memories back again
To my Mary from Murroe.

One evening near the farrier's,
At the cross above the forge,
'Twas there I spied my Mary,
An' she comin' down the road.
Alas our courting was cut short,
For her mother came in view,
'Twas then I kissed the ruby lips
Of my Mary from Murroe.

So we jogged along together
Till we came to the" boiling well,"
We both sat down and began to talk
Till night upon us fell;
And as we sat there side by side,
The darkness hid our view,
But not enough to hide the smile
Of my Mary from Murroe.

If I had all the money
That lies in Lackamore;
Or all the earthly treasurers
That King Billy had in store,
'Tis wishing I'd be giving them
As present back to you,
I'd give my life, she were my wife
In the thatched house near Murroe.

We jogged along together, till
We came to the painted gate,
"Go home at once, dear Mary,
For I feer it's getting late.
I'll try and earn a fortune
And your footsteps I'll pursue,
And when I gain fame, I'll call again
And court you in Murroe."

More songs next week.

LATE MR. M. McDONNELL, SCART

The late Mr. Michael McDonnell, Scart, Askeaton, whose death occurred on the 9th inst., belonged to a well-known and highly esteemed family with many connections in West Limerick. The remains were brought to St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, on Saturday evening, 10th inst. There was a very large and representative funeral when the interment took place in the adjoining cemetery next day. The officiating clergy were—Very Rev. C. Canon Mangan, P.P., V.F.; Rev. R. Dunworth, P.P.; Rev. D. O'Donnell, P.P., and Rev. Father McDonnell, C.C. (relative).

GARDENING

Flowering Trees And Shrubs

Although some trees and shrubs flower at other times of the year, and lucky we are that we possess such, it is only natural that the bulk of the flowering trees and shrubs should bloom in the early part of the year.

Most of them flower in April, May and June and many of those now in full bloom are so lovely at the moment, that it is no wonder to see people stop to admire them.

The flowering Japanese cherries are, perhaps, the most prolific and colourful flowers at the moment, and the following are a few of the best varieties. Prunus serrulata seckiyamma. This appears to be the most popular variety, and no wonder, as it is so hardy and floriferous with its upright branches loaded each spring with thousands of double-pink flowers, which bloom before the light coppery-coloured foliage is fully expanded. This variety is just coming into full bloom now.

Prunus launesia grandiflora is a double flowering creamy white, and is past its best at the moment. Prunus launesia erecta is a good blush pink semi-double. Prunus kirin is a very striking double pink cherry with reddish foliage, and prunus fugenso is a double pink variety with spreading habit and very large flowers.

There are many other beautiful flowering cherries, but space will not allow me to name any more of them at present, especially as I have so many other beautiful trees and shrubs to mention which are or have been in flower quite recently.

Of course, the flowering crab-apples have not come in flower yet, except a few early flowers, such as pyrus floribunda, and its varieties. This hybrid crab-apple and its variety atrosanguinea are worth their places in any garden. Grown as half standards on 4 ft. stems, the graceful arching branches of these crabs are most beautiful when loaded with millions of small pale pink and white flowers.

Although we had the hybrid almonds, peaches and plums in flower earlier, I think that the cherries and crabs give the best value, as the early flowering trees have their bloom cut away nearly every year by harsh winds or frosts in this country.

Of the shrubs that are going or gone out of flower, the lydonias japonicas, as they are incorrectly called, with their scarlet, orange or white flowers, make brilliant splashes of colour, especially when grown against a wall. The same applies to the golden forsythias, just gone out of bloom. The former is a really sure valuable shrub to the gardener, as it can be grown successfully against a wall facing north, whereas the forsythias must have a warm aspect. These two shrubs, although they are often grown against walls, can be grown quite successfully in the open.

Shrubs in flower at the moment that should be included in any garden are spiraea arguta, with its graceful branches smothered at the moment with millions of small white blossoms. Berberis Darwinii, going out of blossom now, but covered with bright orange blossoms for the past fortnight. This shrub is nice at any time with its attractive evergreen foliage.

Kieria japonica is a very old-fashioned shrub often seen in cottage gardens. It makes a brave show at this time of year with its golden yellow balls of bloom. Erica Mediterranea, a 21 ft. high heather which will grow satisfactorily in limy soil, is in full flower now. Dentzia gracilis is a lovely white flowering, low-growing shrub coming into bloom now.

Of the many others that could be named I will mention only three—the well-known and deservedly popular flowering currant, Ribes Sanguinea, the sulphur broom cytisus praecoce, which is one solid mass of sulphur yellow blossoms at the moment, and the beautiful and less-known double gorse. The latter shrub will go on exhibiting its golden head of bloom for many weeks to come, and when its country cousin, the common single gorse, will have gone out of bloom for many a day.

NOW IS THE HOUR.

Now is the time to choose the varieties of flowering trees and shrubs while they are in flower, and order them from your nurseryman for early autumn delivery. If you do not know the name of the tree or shrub, send him some flowers and a twig, with a leaf or two attached.

One can always get a flower named at the Botanic Gardens, Dublin, by sending the bloom, twigs and leaves to the keeper. The specimen to be named should be packed in a cardboard box in slightly damped moss, so that it will arrive fresh and unbroken. It is always well when sending specimens for naming, to state as much as possible about them, i.e., if they are growing in the open or against a wall or in a glasshouse, etc., etc.

THE PRUNING OF TREES AND SHRUBS.

To get the best value out of flowering trees and shrubs, they must be sensibly pruned from time to time.

Some shrubs, such as the rhododendron and lilac, require very little pruning. The removal of dead bloom is, perhaps, all that is required annually with these two shrubs, whereas in the case of the flowering currant and the purple flowering buddleia variabilis, it is best to slaughter them every year by cutting them hard back with the secateurs.

The time of pruning, too, must be studied, for on the correct timing of this operation depends the success or failure of the flower harvest. For instance, in the case of the two shrubs mentioned above, the flowering currant, because it flowers on the previous year's woodgrowth, is cut back hard as soon as the blossoms have fallen in April, so that new vigorous growth will be encouraged early and have sufficient time to grow all summer and get fully ripened before winter and be ready to flower again the following spring, whereas the buddleia, because it flowers most profusely in late summer on vigorous current year's woodgrowth, it is pruned hard back in early spring, February or March, so that it will have the whole of the summer to grow its new wood sufficiently to be ready for flowering by July that same summer.

As a general rule shrubs that flower before June are cut back immediately after flowering, whereas shrubs that flower after June are cut back hard in February or March.

WEEK'S REMINDERS.

The first truss of early tomatoes are in bloom now. Make sure that they are well "set" by syringing them each mid-day with clear water, or by spraying them once with one of the new hormones, obtainable at most seedsmens. If the fruit is "set" with the latter there will be no seeds in them.

It is probably time now to give a ball watering of chestnut compound to plants established in cold houses and a thorough soaking of clear water to all the ground in early houses.

J. J. O'CARROLL, R.Sc.O.

USEFUL CAREER

Cut Short By Death

DEMISE OF POPULAR DOCTOR

The tragic and early demise of Doctor Lawrence Hayes, aged fifty two years, cast a gloom over the district of Emly, County Tipperary, where he practised as Medical Officer, and his native Ballylanders. Deceased up to a few months ago was in perfect health, and his illness was only presumed temporary. By his demise the medical profession has suffered a great loss, as he was a most efficient, popular and competent medical officer. The people of the dispensary district of Emly will never forget his good and generous nature; he always came to the aid of the sick and infirm, often at great inconvenience to himself, and he was ever ready to take a patient any distance to insure recovery. Doctor "Larry" as he was popularly known, was the essence of good-will, and had a kind and encouraging word for those people in need of encouragement. His early death is a great loss to the community in general.

Born in Ballylanders, fifty two years ago, he was second son of the late Michael and Ellen Hayes, and brother to the late Rev. Michael Hayes of U.S.A., and the late Patsy Hayes, a pharmaceutical chemist. He was also brother of Mr. D. J. Hayes, auctioneer, valuer and general merchant, Ballylanders, and of Rev. Mother Ligouri, Sacred Heart Convent, Roslyn Park, Sandymount, Dublin, and Mrs. O'Callaghan, Kilfrush. He was educated in the National Schools, Ballylanders, and then entered Mount Melleray. Having matriculated in Dublin University in 1925.

WIDELY POPULAR.

His first practice was in Mitchelstown, where he enjoyed his profession and was very popular with every representative of the public. He was appointed medical officer of Emly district approximately nine years ago, and during his time there, rendered trojan service to all those under his charge and care. He was very much respected by his brother doctors and held in high esteem by the clergy of the diocese. His remains were taken to St. Ailbe's Church, Emly, on Saturday, April 10th, and a huge cortege of priests and laity attended the removal. The remains were received by Rev. Father Meaney, P.P., Emly. All through Sunday, April 11th, the coffin was placed in the church before the high altar. On Monday, April 12th, following Solemn Office and Requiem Mass, the remains were interred in the family burial ground at Ballingarry, Ballylanders, every section of the public and clergy being largely represented.

The celebrant of the Solemn Office and Requiem Mass was Rev. Father T. B. Condon, Ballylanders, and Adm., Pro-Cathedral, Dublin; deacon, Rev. E. Condon, Banogue; sub-deacon, Rev. Dr. James, O.F.M., Capuchin, Provincial, Cork; master of ceremonies, Rev. L. Meaney, P.P., Emly.

CHIEF MOURNERS.

The chief mourners were:—Mrs. Kathleen Hayes (wife), Mary, Eleanor, Michael and James (children), D. J. Hayes (brother), Rev. Mother Ligouri, Sacred Heart Convent, Roslyn Park, Sandymount, Dublin (sister); Mrs. P. J. O'Callaghan, Kilfrush, Knocklong (sister); Dr. Michael Hayes, Dublin; Michael, Thomas, Patrick O'Callaghan, and Michael J. Hayes (nephews); Mother Gerrard, Sacred Heart Convent, Ferrybank, Waterford, and Helen Hayes, Ballylanders (nieces); P. J. O'Callaghan, Kilfrush; James Molloy, M. and L. Bank, Rathdowney (brothers-in-law); Mrs. Irvine Moore, Bank of Ireland, Mount Mellick; Mrs. Joe Blake, Ballyconnell; Mrs. Dot Hayes, Dublin; Mrs. D. J. Hayes, Ballylanders (sisters-in-law); Mr. E. J. Ryan, Patrick Carmody, Michael Carmody and Mat Carmody (cousins), Mr. Irvine Moore, etc.

CLERGY PRESENT.

Clergy present—Very Rev. P. Canon Ryan, P.P., Pallasgreen; Very Rev. W. Canon Fogarty, P.P., Clonoulty; Very Rev. J. Canon McCarthy, P.P., Hospital; Rev. Dr. Slattery, P.P., Lattin; Rev. M. Leahy, P.P., Bulgaden; Rev. Father Dunne, P.P., Ballylanders; Rev. Father Hayes, P.P., Bansha; Rev. Father Foley, P.P., Knockaney; Rev. Father Sampson, P.P., Knocklong; Rev. Father Howard, P.P., Ballyhea; Rev. Father O'Neill, P.P., Knockaviller; Rev. Dr. Kiernan, O.F.M., Capuchin, Cork; Rev. Dr. Heelan, C.S.Sp., Blackrock, Dublin; Rev. Dr. Kennedy, C.S.Sp., President, Blackrock College, Dublin; Rev. Father O'Donoghue, O.P., Provincial, St. Mary's, Cork; Rev. Father Mel Duffy, O.F.M., Limerick; Rev. Thomas Ingoldsby, S.D.B., and Rev. Father Cummins, S.D.B., representing S.D.B. College, Ballinasloe; Rev. Father Bannon, C.C., Cashel; Rev. Father Kennedy, C.C., Knocklong; Rev. Father Ryan, C.C., Borrisoleigh; Rev. Father McGrath, C.C., Ballybricken; Rev. Father O'Byrne, C.C., Emly; Rev. Father Noonan, C.C., Galbally; Rev. Father Ryan, C.C., Clonoulty; Rev. Father Ryan, C.C., Herbertstown; Rev. Father Bergin, C.C., Hospital; Rev. Father Fitzgerald, C.C., Pallasgreen; Rev. Father O'Connor, C.C., Tipperary; Rev. Father Morris, C.C., Ballylanders; Rev. Father Skehan, C.C., Lattin; Rev. Father Keogh, C.C., Galbally.

MEMBERS OF MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Members of the medical profession present were:—Dr. R. D. Condon, Waterford; Dr. Cecil Molony, Limerick; Dr. Norton, County M.O.H., Clonmel; Dr. Greey, Assistant Co. M.O.H., do.; Surgeon Hogan, Cashel; Dr. Hennessy, do.; Dr. Cleary, Hospital; Dr. Curnane, Thurles; Dr. Magner, Fermoy; Dr. O'Brien, do.; Dr. Ogilvie, Ballylanders; Dr. Condon, Galbally; Dr. E. Cooke, Kilfinane; Dr. Russell, Bansha; Dr. Dowling, Tipperary; Dr. Kirby, Tipperary; Dr. Moran, do.; Dr. O'Connor, Kilmallock.

SIXTEEN IRISH SHIPS HELD UP

Sixteen Irish ships are now tied up in Dublin and Cork Harbours as a result of the dispute between the seamen—members of the Irish Seamen and Port Workers' Union—and the Shipping Federation.

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The Great Annual NOVENA in honour of MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (Feast 24th May)

will begin on Sat., 15th May

During this Novena all are invited to join with the Salesians in beseeching Almighty God, through the all-powerful intercession of Mary Help of Christians:

1. To protect and bless our Holy Father the Pope in these critical times, and to grant his intentions.

2. To grant the intentions of (at all and any operators and friends) the past and present pupils) all others joining in this Novena.

3. To grant the early canonisation of our martyred Primate, Blessed Oliver Plunkett, and the beatification of the humble Irish worker, Matt Talbot, and the prosperity and unity of Ireland.

"Propagate devotion to Mary, Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are."—ST. JOHN BOSCO.

(May8c)

Novena leaflet and petition envelope may be had on application to:

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