

THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

OPENING OF THE MATHEW AND CITY OF LONDON TOWER, AT MOUNTPATRICK.

A MAGNIFICENT Testimonial to the exertions of Father Mathew in the Temperance Movement has just been completed at Mountpatrick, by Mr. William O'Connor, and was opened, with due ceremony, on the 9th instant. The day may appear to have been singularly chosen; for the occasion and the proceedings were antipodal to our metropolitan festivities, on the time-honoured 9th of November; and, by the way, the intention of the Testimonial is to commemorate the hospitable reception given to the Temperance Missionary by the citizens of London. However, there are various kinds of hospitality: it may be as genuine over tea and muffins as over oceans of claret; and this we take to be the Milesian view of the matter. The Temperance Movement has, at all times, received due illustration at our hands; and, by the aid of the clever artist, Mr. James Mahony, we are now enabled to present this additional commemoration in our pages. We rejoice in doing so, for two reasons: first, because the cause is a righteous one; and, secondly, because it has called forth much artistical taste in the present design and execution.

The Testimonial is a massive Tower, which has been erected at the sole expense of Mr. O'Connor to celebrate the kind reception given to Father Mathew by the right-minded Londoners in the year 1843, upon the occasion of his first Temperance Visit; and the 9th instant being the anniversary of laying the foundation-stone, that day was appropriately chosen for the opening of the building, and the hoisting, for the first time, of the Union Jack, on its summit; where, despite of all brawlers to the contrary, long may it continue to wave!

About half-past one o'clock, a great number of ladies and gentlemen assembled in Mr. O'Connor's demesne, and were conducted by that gentleman to the Tower, where he pointed out to them the many objects of interest which it presents. The visitors were first conducted to the second apartment, or what might be called the dining-room. It is circular, about sixteen feet in diameter. The windows are in the Gothic style, the upper portions being filled with stained glass. The window frames and cases are of fluted oak, and the latter are surmounted with carved heads; over these is some splendidly executed stucco work, which is continued along the entire ceiling, and gives the apartment a classic air. In a niche between two of the windows stands, on a handsome rose wood pedestal, and covered with a glass shade, an exquisite marble bust of the Very Rev. T. Mathew, by Hogan; and above this is a bust of the venerable Bishop the Right Rev. Doctor Murphy. This apartment is also adorned by a massive chimney-piece, on tile front of which is a small *basso-relievo* figure of Father Mathew, holding Britannia and Erin by either hand, surrounded by the emblems of both countries; and from the centre of the ceiling hangs a very beautiful chandelier. The party next proceeded to the top of the larger portion of the Tower, to see the flag

hoisted on the Staircase Tower, which is 20 feet higher, being nearly 100 feet from the base. Amongst the gentlemen then present were Father Mathew; the Rev. James O'Regan; the Rev. Michael O'Donovan; Captain Irvine (who laid the foundation stone), J.P.; Charles Mathew and son; Thomas F. Meagher, Waterford; Henry Meagher, Waterford; Michael J. Barry; — Flanagan, Tullamore; Robert D. Beamish; William O'Connor; John Donegan; Daniel Keleher; and Daniel Casey.

The splendid flag, presented by Captain Waggett, is in size 20 feet by 14, and was prepared for hoisting, amid the firing of cannon and the music of several bands.

Mr. O'Connor then came forward, and having presented the cordage, &c., to Captain Irvine, said—It was now three years since that respected and dignified gentleman had laid the foundation stone of the edifice on which they were assembled, and though he (Mr. O'Connor) regretted his inability to do justice to his merits, he was satisfied that such as knew him felt there was no necessity for eulogizing his worth. (Cheers.) He had not the least regret for the motives which actuated him in building that edifice (hear, hear), for though many said it was an expensive undertaking, yet, with the same views he then and still entertained, he would not consider ten times the expense misapplied for such a purpose (hear, hear), and if he could raise the tower to tell times its present height it would still be unequal to the dignity and moral grandeur of the services of him of whose labours it was commemorative. (Hear, and cheers.) A greater impression was never made on an individual than upon him at witnessing the kindly reception Father Mathew met with from the highest classes of society in London. He (Mr. O'Connor) was walking in the Strand with an English gentleman, when they heard of the meeting, and his friend having expressed a desire to be introduced to Father Mathew, he (Mr. O'Connor) introduced him, and he was so struck with the respect and attention evinced towards Father Mathew by all the nobility and men of distinction present, that he resolved, on his return to Ireland, to commemorate it in some manner; and soon afterwards, when walking over the grounds they were now on, it struck him that the site would be a most eligible one to build a tower on, which would perpetuate Father Mathew's fame, and, at the same time, signify his gratitude for the reception he had met with in London (hear, hear)—and he felt assured that it was only necessary the people of both countries should know each other better and more intimately to create more kindly feelings between both. (Hear, hear.) He never thought he should see English noblemen and men of wealth kneel before an Irish Priest to take the pledge of Temperance, for though intimate he (Mr. O'Connor) was with Father Mathew, he had not yet converted him. (Laughter.)

Father Mathew—(To the Reporter)—I beg you won't take that down. (Great laughter.)

Mr. O'Connor, in conclusion, expressed a hope that Father Mathew would be long spared to bless the country by his services, and he begged to thank the gentlemen present for their attendance on the occasion. (Cheers.)

A letter was then read from Colonel Cruttenden, regretting his inability to be present.

Captain Irvine then addressed the party assembled, and congratulated them on the erection of the tasteful and liberal testimonial of Mr. O'Connor to the merits of Father Mathew. The cord which bound the Union Jack was then handed to the gallant Captain; and, in an instant after, the flag floated in the breeze from the summit of the Tower, amid the firing of guns and the enthusiastic cheering of those assembled.

The Very Rev. Mr. Mathew expressed his deep gratitude to his much respected friend Mr. O'Connor, for the elegant and tasteful manner in which he had complimented him by the erection of so noble a building; and he felt also most grateful to his friends around him, for their presence on an occasion which to the last hour of his life he should remember with pride and pleasure. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Mr. O'Regan then made some able and eloquent observations, which we regret not being able to give at length; after which, two oak trees were planted near the house, one by Father Mathew and the other by Master Robert Delacour Beamish, the bands playing "Hearts of Oak," and the company then separated. In the evening, a party of friends were most hospitably entertained at Mount Patrick; and next day five hundred quartern loaves were, on the order of Mr. O'Connor, sent from Mr. W. Casey's bakery, and distributed to the poor.

On Monday night, the Tower was brilliantly illuminated, and the effect, from its elevated situation, was very grand and imposing. Upwards of a thousand variegated lamps were tastefully arranged in the windows; and a profusion of lamps the same size as those used for the street gas-lights, were arranged on the balustrade round the building, which, with lighted tar barrels on the hills about, formed a most attractive spectacle.

On this balustrade, too, are stone figures of Faith, Hope, Charity, Fidelity, &c, Lamps were also hung round a stone statue of Father Mathew, which stands behind an elegant *jet-d'eau*. From seven to nine o'clock, a display of fire works of every variety was kept up; rockets in quick succession shot up in the dark clouds, while blue lights, wheels, and every other form of illumination, afforded amusement to the crowds who thronged the grounds to a late hour.

Our Artist has sketched the principal room in the London Testimonial or Tower, and a view of the exterior. Of the latter, Mr. Mahoney has had the honour to present to her Majesty, enclosed in a highly enriched Arabesque border, in gold and colours.

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