

Daily Chronicle

GIBSON PEACOCK, Editor.

VOLUME XIX.—NO. 303.

OUR WHOLE COUNTRY.

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MARRIED.

O'CALLAGHAN—OLAY—At 8 o'clock, on the 5th inst., in St. Charles Church, the Right Rev. Robert H. Clarkson, D. D., conferred the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony on Miss Anna M. Callaghan, daughter of the late Rev. Edmund G. Clarkson, of this city.

WEDDINGS.

WOODS—At St. Matthew's Church, Wheeling, Va., on the 8th inst., by the Rev. Geo. Adams, D. D., the Rev. Mr. Adams officiated at the marriage of Miss Anna M. Callaghan, daughter of the late Rev. Edmund G. Clarkson, of this city, to Mr. W. F. Woods, of Wheeling, Va.

DIED.

COLLISON—On the 7th inst., after a lingering illness of several months, died at the residence of his wife, Mrs. M. C. Collison, aged 80 years, Mrs. M. C. Collison, aged 80 years, Mrs. M. C. Collison, aged 80 years.

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FENIANA.

THE LATEST MOVEMENTS TOWARDS CANADA.

Fenianism in the Old World.

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION.

What Head Centre Stephens Has Done.

Curious Parliamentary Speech, &c.

Fenian Movements Canada-ward.

PORTLAND, April 8, 1866.—About seventy Fenianism in the Old World.

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country, sometimes in Skibberen, sometimes in Bantry, sometimes in Kenmare, sometimes at Killarney. He is described as one of the patriots of 1848, and therefore a qualified man another to guide the movement of 1858. I will prove that this man Stephens was the person through whom it was understood the Americans would go to Ireland, and by the French, to conquer the country; that the conspirators were to have money from America and soldiers from France. This man "Shuke" will find it difficult to refer to as the person through whom foreign aid was to be obtained, and that bears directly on the point of the indictment.

The result of the trials at that time was that the men who were tried at Killarney were convicted, and the judgment, which was not severe, considering their offences, was ten years penal servitude. A motion was made for the discharge of certain persons who were not tried. I thought it my duty to resist, believing them to be all guilty of high treason, and the court refused to discharge them. Accordingly, they were left in custody until the government of Lord Derby was obliged to retire. The present right Hon. Secretary of State for the Colonies then became Minister for Ireland, and I will ask him hereafter to explain his policy. The first thing that occurred was the discharge from custody of all these persons, who were pleading "not guilty," and among them the writer of the letter, who had been in the country and got away to America. After some little period he returned to Ireland for the third time, to do up his charge of motives against the right honorable gentleman, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. My belief is that he failed to comprehend the character of these men. The right honorable gentleman is a man of a different type, and I am sure he would live among plausible politicians—[laughter]—and could not comprehend the character of Mr. Stephens. In one sense I am sure that Mr. Stephens was a daring revolutionist and enthusiastic republican, and the right honorable gentleman was no more able to deal with such a man than I am. I have given related to these men had a policy and a conviction, and I do not understand how the right honorable gentleman could have dreamed of the right honorable gentleman's opinions. We did not hear anything of Stephens for some little time afterwards; but after the right honorable gentleman had been the Minister for Ireland for fifteen months a grand demonstration was got up in honor of the memory of McManus, who was described as having risked his life for the cause of the people, and he was placed. No prayers were said; but they did not want prayers said; what they wanted was revolutionary speeches, and these were delivered, and everything which a gentleman undertaking so serious a matter as the overthrow of the Irish government ought to acquaint himself with prior to embarking on so perilous and desperate an effort. [Hear, hear.] He afterwards returned and was introduced to many respectable families as a teacher of the French language, and I have heard that he was much esteemed and admired for his qualifications. Towards the years 1858 or 1859 a conservative government was in power, and then Lord E. Fitzroy, from his habit of reading the police and magisterial reports, perceived plainly the peril of a conspiracy in Ireland, and after some time it was found out that he had been in communication with persons in America. The member for Corkermouth, Lord Naas, recommended that a faithful man should be despatched to America, to discover whether there was any reality in the truth of the statement that the conspiracy had a connection with persons in that country, and the man returned and reported that it had, and that in his judgment there was a dangerous confederacy in America in connection with the movement in Ireland. After a time it was discovered that Stephens was the person who organized this second conspiracy in the year 1858, and after full inquiry by the government of that day, and in the case for the Crown, prepared by a most eminent officer, Sir Matthew Barrington, the following facts, which were afterwards proved in evidence, were stated:

It further appears that the members of this treasonable confederacy, who were engaged in the conspiracy to carry out their designs; but no trace of passwords or secret signs has been discovered. The earliest fact which has been ascertained appears to be that a person named Stephens, and who was also known by the soubriquet of "Shuke," and who was implicated in the insurrectionary movement of 1848, was in this country last summer, and that he traversed the localities mentioned, organizing this society, and giving to certain persons the form of oath which was administered to others for the purpose of extending the operations of the society.

That oath was proved on evidence, and the terms of it will give the House to understand what an unprincipled even as the escape of Mr. Stephens. The oath which these persons took was in the following terms:

I, A. B., do solemnly declare, in the presence of God, to renounce all allegiance to the Queen of England, and do my utmost endeavors, at every risk, to make Ireland an independent democratic republic; and that I will take up arms and fight at the moment's warning, and shall yield implicit obedience to the commands of my superiors; and that I will preserve inviolable secrecy with regard to brotherhood; and finally, I take this oath without any mental reservation—[laughter]—so help me God.

Two or three witnesses proved the connection of Stephens with these proceedings; and to show the character of his friends, who acted with him to the last moment of his arrest, and were so properly prosecuted by the government, and I admit that from the time the government acted we have reason to be thankful for the conduct of the officers, magistrates, juries and judges—[hear, hear].—I will read a short extract from a letter of one of the conspirators:

Dear Sir—I am ever ready to do my utmost to promote the cause and achieve the reality of nationality. I am, therefore, your servant in any undertaking to obtain that result; but I differ with some sentiment expressed in the seventh paragraph of your prospectus, inasmuch as I do not believe that the Saxon will ever relax his grasp except by the persuasion of cold lead and steel. No, never! Cold steel; to that I must come, I never quail; to hear it spoken by the blow alone which we strike on the chains of the despot be broken, and, if I take the liberty to offer another remark, I would say that too much is said about the activity of our own creed, and when principal object is to promote union among Irishmen. Excuse the liberty I have taken, and wishing God speed to the cause.

I should mention to the House that the following statement was made in 1859 as to Mr. Stephens:

It appears that a person, who I deeply regret to say has escaped the hand of justice, who was known by the name of "Shuke," but whose real name was Stephens, appeared about a year ago in this

country, and as it struck him, that those who were active in America, even O'Mahony himself, were acting under the suggestions and under the control of this very James Stephens.

That is the description which was given of him by the learned judge, and there can be no doubt of its accuracy. On the day on which the People was seized Stephens was in a house in Bonville street, and when told of the seizure he said he had always anticipated that would occur. He then took to his six-barrelled revolver and went out. When he went he did not appear for nearly two months. Diligent search was made for him, but he was nowhere to be found. He had been three times engaged in insurrectionary movements against the Queen, and while they had seized I do not know how many of his confederates, the great chief and head of this conspiracy was for a considerable time untraced. He was lodged in Richmond Prison in November; and here I may be allowed to pay a passing compliment to the admirable and efficient management of the police, a force whose conduct has been most exemplary; and I take great pleasure in saying so, because eleven twelfths of them were taken as by surprise. There was an instance here in which a man, never in the house with him. I don't believe there was any covetousness in the case. Everything was done so suddenly that the whole party was taken by surprise. There was a knock at the door. Stephens, who had expected some one, came down in his shirt-sleeves. He was told that if he did not open the door it would be broken in. He knew his position, and accordingly he surrendered. I suppose the House never heard of such a case as occurred when he was brought in Windsor Jail. I have not met him with any other persons in connection with the case, and I think, sufficiently described the character of Stephens. He had been three times engaged in insurrectionary movements, and had been brought before the House on the responsibility of the executive government now began. That responsibility is not to be fixed on any inferior or subordinate agent. The responsibility of the executive government cannot escape the responsibility of telling the House what was their conduct in the matter, and how it happened that Stephens escaped. He could have been kept in a military guard could be sent to the prison; second, if there was a sufficient guard, he could have been kept in a military guard; and third, the inmates of the prison are great traitors than the rebels they were intended to guard. The three circumstances must have occurred.

Mr. Lawson denied, with some warmth, the insinuation that the general election had been done with a view to the breaking up of the Fenian conspiracy, and asserted that the Executive had done all they could to insure the safe custody of Stephens. Richardson, however, stated that the Fenian control, and having offered the assistance of a military guard, they were not responsible for its being declined. He created much anxiety by the statement that he had placed the Phoenix prosecutions conducted by Mr. Whitehead, and contended that the Irish government had done all in their power to guard against the escape of Stephens. Mr. Grey asserted that the Phoenix and the Fenian conspiracy were identical in origin, and censured the Irish Executive for its dilatoriness in making the arrests.

Sir R. Peel protested against the assumption that this dilatoriness had anything to do with the general election, and that it was "men and money" and that the fullest inquiry into the conduct of the government. He denied that the Executive had done any thing in their power, and had offered a military guard, and he was not aware that it had been declined, and it was by internal treason alone, against the government, that the escape of Stephens had occurred. He praised the conduct of the constabulary and of the juries.

Lord Naas and Mr. S. B. Miller vindicated the conduct of the Irish Executive in Lord Derby's time, in regard to the Phoenix conspiracy, and censured the present government for allowing the conspiracy to run its course so long, and for not taking greater precautions to secure Stephens. Mr. Sullivan defended the government, and Sir G. Grey stated that Lord Wodehouse had acted with the entire concurrence of the Cabinet.

Mr. H. Baillie pointed out that the publisher of the Irish People had previously been convicted, and might have been called up for judgment at any time.

Stephens in Paris—How He Voyaged and How He Escaped.

[Paris (March 22), Correspondence of Dublin Express.]

I write to give you positive information of Stephens, which I think will be the first authentic account of him since his escape from the jail. He embarked from Galway in a small sailing vessel, and, after being some time, he was arrested at the coast-guard, where he was detained by stress of weather for two or three days. From Belfast he sailed to the coast-guard, and from thence by the conveyance to Dover of the steamer "The Opium," where he arrived on Sunday the 18th of March.

[Paris (March 22), Correspondence of the London Globe.]

For some days past, subdued whistlers were to be heard amid the presence of Head Centre Stephens in this capital, and on inquiry into the grounds of such a report, it was found traceable to John Mitchell. None of the French authorities seemed cognizant of the intelligence, and there were sufficient reasons for hesitation in forwarding to you tidings not perfectly authenticated. All doubt on the point is now removed. It is openly proclaimed by Mitchell's sympathies in the Opinion Nationale. But there are two versions of his mode of escape; one that he got on board a Galway hooker, and steered for London; the other that he got clear off to Glasgow, and reached France via Scotland. He is at present staying at Mit-

chel's residence, and means to take the first packet for New York, starting from Havre.