MANIFESTO

TO THE

WHOLE STUDENTS OF IRELAND.

ISSUED BY THE

DUBLIN STUDENTS' DUNGANNON CLUB,

22 North Great George's Street, Dublin.

"When Liberty goes out of a place it is not the first to go nor the second or third to go.

It waits for all the rest to go, it is the last."-

Walt Whitman.

"The passionate aspirations for Irish Nationhood will outlive the British Empire."—John Mitchel.

An cló-cumann, Limited, 68-71 Great Strand Street, Dublin.

1906.

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DUNGANNON STUDENTS' CLUB AND A JUSTIFICATION OF ITS EXISTENCE.

HE Dungannon Club was founded in October, 1902, by some Dublin students. Its founders saw the anomalous position of Irish students with regard to National movements and with the idea of remedying this anomaly the Club was formed. Its founders pointed out the following evident facts:—

- (1.) That owing to our peculiar history, the Irish students, like those of England and unlike those of every other European country took no interest or united action as a class in the affairs of their country.
- (2.) The great part played by the University students in countries such as France, Germany, Russia, Hungary, etc. For example, the part played by the French students in the various revolutions in France is too well known to be recalled. M. Sainborn, writing of the French students in a recent work called "Paris and the Social Revolution," says on this point:—

"The student strength is out of all proportion to the student numbers. Let the students take their old place in

the streets of the quarter to-morrow 5,000 or 500 strongwith a real rallying cry, and thrills of joy and shudders of apprehension will traverse the length and breadth of France."

With all these external signs of life, literature, art, etc., by which a country demonstrates to the world that it is living, the students of Paris have been ever intimately associated. From Villon to Hugo, all that is great in French literature has been first heard from a café table and recited to a student audience. No great triumph of humanity in science and all that is associated with it has been suffered to pass unnoticed by the students. A demonstration is a necessity to impress the fact on the unthinking or indifferent public. Without a thinking and acting student body fatty degeneration of the heart is inevitable.

RUSSIA.

In writing of the role played by the students in Russia, one has this advantage, viz., that the greatest of European novelists, Turgeney, has troubled himself solely in depicting their influence on Russian politics. On a perusal of him one is inevitably forced to the conclusion that without the students every modern Russian movement would practically be ineffectual. To-day the daily papers bring home to every one the force of the student section in that country.

HUNGARY, The students in Hungary as in those countries mentioned have never failed to do their duty towards their country. History will not readily forget that famous student corps— "The Red Caps," that fought so well in the War of Independence. That corps had in its ranks Marcus Jokai, a man whose works rank high in the literature of Europe to-day, and with pride one may point to the fact that it was he who principally laid the foundation to present day Hungarian literature. That this national spirit is as vital as ever to-day in the Hungarian students, is proved by the fact that when not a month ago an attempt was made to prevent them from

going on their annual pilgrimage to Kossuth's grave, both the civil and military opposing forces were driven back in disorder.

beentained for the Park with the Strains

Although Roumania is a country that has regained its political freedom in recent years, it still remains nationally dependent on France. To do away with this imitation of French fashions and ideals has been the object of the Roumanish-Roumania movement going on in that country for the last twenty-five years. During these years a Romanian national literature has been created, and the de-Gallicising process has spread with rapidity. The Roumanian patriots say--" We admire France, but we do not want Roumania to be an absurd imitation of France. We want the Roumanian language to take precedence in Roumania of any other language—Roumanian customs not to be supplanted by exotic customs-let France be France and Roumania be Roumania." The students of Roumania are the enthusiastic supporters of this national movement. In Bucharest, the capital, there is a National theatre, and fashionable theatricals for charitable purposes are conducted there entirely in the French language. Two years ago the students protested against the Roumanian language being ignored in the National Theatre of Roumania. This year again the philanthropic ladies ignored the language of their country, and the students to the number of 3,000 marched to the theatre and declared they would prevent the performance taking place. When the philanthropic ladies arrived in their carriages the students turned the horses heads around and courteously requested the ladies to return home and learn their country's language. The troops were ordered out and attempted to disperse the students with their sabres. The students replied by seizing on the tramcars and waggons and forming barricades around the theatre. 300 students were wounded in the rioting which took place, but the theatrical performance did not take place. The indignation of Roumania was aroused by the fact that swords were drawn upon the students who, beyond refusing to permit the per-

in the Mungarian students, is proved by the toot that when north another to prevent them from

formance to take place in the National Theatre, gave no provocation to the authorities. As a result of the students' action, the language movement in Roumania has gathered tenfold strength, and the students, to make it clear that their action would not be misunderstood, asked the representative of France to convey to the French nation the message that Roumania was and would be the friend and admirer of France, but that like France, it would assert its national individuality.

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AUSTRIA.

It was chiefly in 1848 that the Austrian students displayed their great power. In Vienna a rising headed by them was so successful that Prince Metternick had immediately to fly to England. As a result of this, the revolutionary party so completely gained the upper hand in the capital, that the Emperor was obliged to summon a diet to be elected by universal suffrage.

GERMANY.

The University reformers in this country have lately talked a good deal about the German efficient and democratic type of University, but at present we have nothing to say concerning this. What we would like to point out is that in Germany par excellence the student is an individual with power, privilege, and a sense of citizenship. It was principally through the revolutionary zeal of the students that a National Assembly was summoned in 1848. Every student of medicine has heard of Rudolf Virchow, founder of modern Pathology, and one of the world's greatest scientists, but few know that he was one of the leading spirits in some of the German revolutions, and was actually sentenced to death, being only saved through the exertions of a professor who always regarded him as a student of wonderful promise. Many obvious parallels suggest themselves to us regarding the conduct of Virchow in Germany and the conduct of his professional brothers here in Ireland, but such parallels await

a special pamphlet. With Germany we end our review of the student forces in Europe and allow the facts to speak for themselves.

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action would not be misunderstood, asked the thought noites and the treasence to convert lo

- I. To do for Ireland what the students of every European capital have done for their respective countries in all matters relating to her language, history, industries, games, etc., etc.
- II. To enable Irish students to have a voice in all matters relating to Ireland.
- III. The regaining of Political Independence of Ireland by a passive resistance and other means of resistance to the government of this country by any other than the people of Ireland. By the formation of a National Council obeyed and supported by and working in the interests of the whole people of Ireland.

By a resistance to all interference with the working of such a Council.

- IV. That we maintain the attendance of Irishmen at the English Parliament is inimical to the best interests of the Irish nation by admitting the right of any body other than the Parliament of Ireland to make laws binding on this country.
- V. That we will co-operate with men of any class or creed who are working for the welfare of the country, as we believe that the interests of Ireland are above the interests of any creed or class or party.

"SINN FEIN" POLICY. Vice gains

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As students with a student tradition, we are of necessity compelled to throw ourselves in with all that is modern and advanced in the movements going on in our country. We therefore hailed with satisfaction the advent of the Sinn Fein

propaganda. Some words on this latter will not be out of place. Heine said, and said truly, that with the advent of gunpowder, Feudalism disappeared, because the peasant in his blouse and the knight in his armour met on equal terms. He also said that with modern methods of warfare and army specialization liberty was again in danger. The need for a new lever was obvious, and that lever has been discovered in several countries in quite recent times. Hungary, Poland, Finland, a section of Russia, Ireland, India, and China have partly together struck on this new policy. Just as a great scientific generalisation dawns not on one but on many countries at the same time. The Swadeshi movement in India is the most recent example, and in that we are glad to see that our class are playing their part. Our own Sinn Fein movement is therefore practically synonymous with the general policy which has been taken up in most countries somewhat similarly situated to us. We seek to hit England. (a) Through anti-enlistment and the consequent crippling of her army. (b) Curtailment of the drink traffic and the consequent diminution in her revenue. (c) Through the boycott of her industries, following the example of China and India.

OUR SPECIAL CLASS OBJECTS.

In addition to the attaining of certain objects as Irishmen, the Dungannon Club also recognises the fact that the student in Ireland is not an individual with class privileges. We have no special sea-side or railway rates as the French and German students have. In Paris every student is allowed into practically all the theatres at half-price. In discussions on the University question, which is of such vital interest to us as a class, we are regarded merely as ciphers. A maternal British Government plus some of our greyheads here at home gravely decide that we are to live in licensed lodging-houses, be in at a certain hour at night, be visited so often by a chaplain, etc., etc. In short, with a sort of regimental control, they reduce us to the level of school children or secondary school boys. As an example of the same thing to-day, we may cite the case of most of the students of personal Basinop closes not seem to think it anions soon godered reserve

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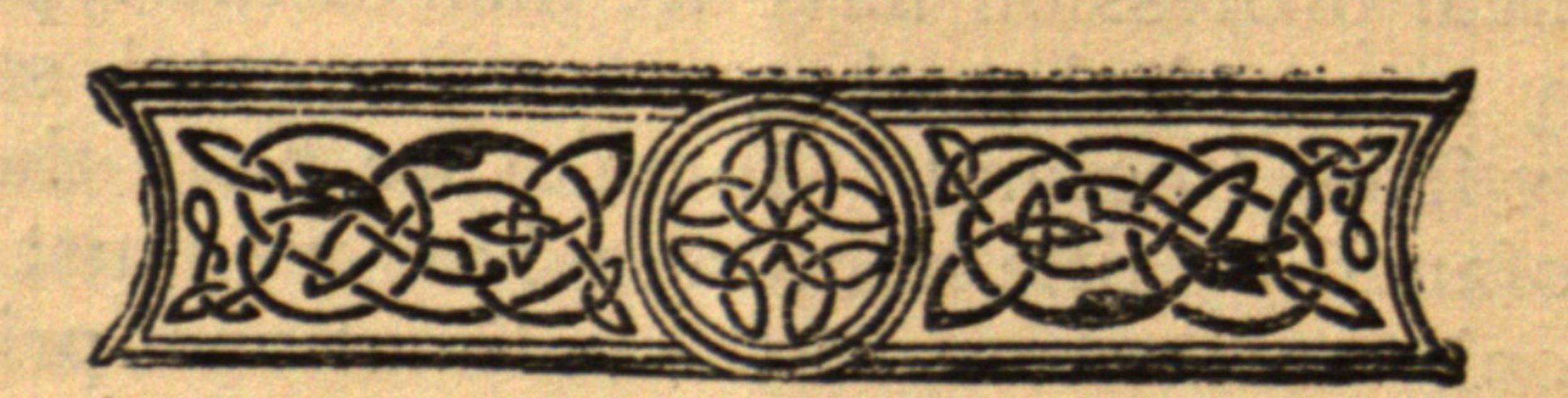
Dublin University, who with a tyranny that the ordinary layman would not for a moment bear, are compelled on pain of being fined to attend Sunday ceremonies in the College Chapel.

OUR APPEAL.

From a consideration of these facts it can be seen that without organisation we are powerless either "to have a voice in all matters relating to Ireland," as a class, or to defend what should be our inherent privileges as students. We confidently therefore appeal to our fellow-students in Ireland to join us in an endeavour to attain our objects. We are setting out to create a new table of values. Irish education, whether primary, secondary, or University, has consistently set itself to fight against the ideal of Education as set up by Aristotle, viz., to make a man a patriot. The student coming to our capital no longer remembers the men he should remember. The Law student forgets Holmes, the Medical student forgets Lawless, Dease, and Dalton Williams, the Ecclesiastical student forgets John of Tuam, or Berkley, and Swift. The consequence of this is that in the Legal profession to-day we have no fearless advocate like Holmes, ready to repeat treason for treason with his client, as that barrister did in his defence of Mitchel. Nor in the Medical profession have we men of the type mentioned who openly avowed that they were for total separation of this country from England. Instead we have the Temple of Science profaned by title hunters, whom we must of necessity expel not only on account of the anti-national principles they avow, but also on account of their conversion of a great profession into a huxter's shop for the procuring of favours from the British Government.

We view also with pain the fact that Ecclesiastical promotion in all the churches in Ireland, seems to be associated with anti-national principles on the part of those promoted. The Archdiocese of Tuam once had for its Bishop a man endowed with virile and unfaltering nationalism, but the present Bishop does not seem to think it inconsistent either with his interests or with his position as an Irish Bishop to

inculcate loyalty to the English Throne to the teachers of our school-children. We start out to change all this, and we have faith enough in our class and in ourselves to be sure of success. Defaulting institutions and defaulting individuals must be shown in their true colours to the people of Ireland. The Sinn Fein Policy must be applied to enemies inside as well as outside Ireland. We hold up no "green cappery" nationalism to the students of Ireland, nor do we ask them to follow half-mast men. We have the highest ambitions for our country, and would have her a queen leading Europe in the world of ideas, as Fintan Lalor said she could on the Land Question. We are no sandbank thrown up by time, but a nation that has made its impress on the world and has produced men who participated in every movement and system that has influenced the world. To get back our National individuality, to ensure our free evolution, we ask the students of Ireland to join us in attaining.



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