

# THE IRISH VOLUNTEER

EDITED BY EOIN MAC NEILL.

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## NOTES.

We have passed through an extraordinary year of Irish history. Little more than a year ago, we saw Mr. Redmond, through the medium of Mr. Richard Hazleton, utterly and absolutely condemning and scoffing at the notion of an Irish Volunteer organisation. On last Easter Sunday, we find Mr. Redmond, supported by Mr. Hazleton, officiating as president of an Irish Volunteer organisation and reviewing some 20,000 Volunteers in military array. On Easter Monday, Mr. Redmond addresses a Volunteer convention, and he explains his position by telling them that it was necessary to place the Volunteers under the guidance of tried and experienced men, and not to trust the men who called them into existence and laboured hard to organise them throughout the country, "however worthy those men might be in every other respect."

The ordinary man can hardly help thinking the question: Where would the Volunteer organisation be and where would the prospect of Home Rule be by this time, if everything had been left to the guidance of the tried and experienced men? All life is experience, and experience varies greatly. An experienced sailor is not always a good farmer, and an experienced farmer may not be an expert mariner. Even Mr. Redmond's experience, large as it is, has not made him infallible. Certain men, by their experience of their fellow-countrymen, which is not less than Mr. Redmond's, came to the conclusion that Ireland was ripe and ready for the Volunteer movement. Mr. Redmond now admits that these men knew best. He says the Volunteer movement is a movement of the Irish people's own. But it took the accomplished fact, after some months, to enable this truth to master Mr. Redmond's experience, though the truth was fully realised and anticipated by the men whom Mr. Redmond would set aside as untried and inexperienced.

Mr. Redmond's present attitude amounts to a complete admission that his experience and his judgment left him completely at fault about the Volunteer movement until other men had proved the value of the Volunteers. It is now admitted not merely that the Volunteers are a valuable factor, but that the Home Rule situation would be utterly hopeless without them. Seldom have untried and inexperienced men been able by a year and a half of work to achieve such a success in public affairs as was testified to by Mr. Redmond and the Irish Party in Dublin on Easter Sunday.

It would have been better if enlightenment had arrived before the surrender of March, 1914, on the question of exclusion. Coming after that catastrophe, the desire to be identified with the Volunteer movement and to dominate it has the appearance of self-protection.

From Mr. Dillon's recent utterances, we gather that he desires the surrender to be revoked. There is every right to revoke it, for the surrender was offered as the price of agreement and was refused. But the Prime Minister and the Liberal leader in the House of Lords, six months after *optional temporary exclusion* was put forward as the price of agreement and rejected, announced *unqualified and unrestricted exclusion* as a part of the Ministerial programme. The Government has given its assent to the policy of partition. Mr. Dillon repudiates that policy. The Volunteers repudiate it. Mr. Redmond is silent as yet on the point, and until he also repudiates partition in the clearest words, no matter what votes of confidence may be voted, Mr. Redmond has not the confidence of any section of the Irish people, except possibly the band of Whig Imperialists who have recently been flocking to his standard.

I note that under the new constitution proposed for the National Volunteers, their governing body is to consist in nearly equal parts of an elected and a nominated element.

Some half dozen members of the National Committee were publicly pledged to give place to an elected committee. Necessity, like the Imperial regime in Ireland, knows no law.

Trust the British Democracy, trust the Liberal Government, trust the War Office, trust anybody except the Irish people! Mr. Redmond has spoken repeatedly about some "offer" made by him to the War Office? What is the offer? We know from the newspapers that within the last few weeks Mr. Redmond has been several times closeted with Mr. Asquith, and from his Manchester speech we know that he has been in intimate communication with the War Office. Is Mr. Redmond's Committee aware of the terms of his offer? It is not for want of trials and experiences that I ask the question. However far Mr. Redmond may trust the British Democracy, his way of working in Ireland is anything but democratic. He has not consulted his supporters beforehand on the subject of a single one of his departures since 1914 began. As for National Conventions, they are a thing of the past. Is any fresh departure in contemplation?

As I wish well to the National Volunteers, and desire to see them do their part for the liberation of Ireland, I warn them against any plan to deprive them of National control. That would be the crowning mistake of a series of mistakes, and would leave Ireland at the mercy of hostile force, probably under a Unionist-Liberal coalition. I know on the best possible evidence that in military circles the proposal to "take over" the National Volunteers is freely discussed.

I know it is rumoured that the Government's intention is to "take over" both the National Volunteers and the Ulster Volunteers—yes, the Partitionist Government. Think what that means. The Partitionists could then count on being in a position to abolish all Volunteers who will not consent to be taken over. Already they have been experimenting how far they can



go towards suppressing the Irish Volunteers under the cover of factious dissension, and at the same time they have been punishing Unionist sedition with colonelcies and big salaries. Notwithstanding German festivities, the toasting of "The Day," and Germanophile pronouncements and incitements, none of the revolutionaries encouraged and financed by the British anti-Irish party have been deported, raided, or proscribed, no widowed mother of a Unionist revolutionary has been driven from her livelihood. Promotions and fat salaries are the penalties for "sedition" and for storing "munitions of war," when the object is a pogrom of mere Irish Nationalists and the perpetuation of barbaric hatred in Ireland.

Any surrender of National control over the National Volunteers will be a blunder of the first magnitude.

E.O.N. MAC NEILL.

## Arms and the Man.

By THE O'RAHILLY.

The problem of effectively arming the Volunteer Force, solely by personal effort and without any chance of utilising the revenues of the nation for that purpose, is obviously difficult. It is however the problem that confronts us. Let us therefore consider, not its difficulties, but how they may be overcome.

It is not necessary to deal here with the various and interesting methods by which the actual possession of arms may be secured even under a Government which is so friendly that it denies to its own supporters the right to obtain arms. The "Fanny" at Larne and the white yacht at Howth have shown two of the ways in which it can be done, and it is not desirable to discuss here the half dozen equally effective, if less spectacular, methods by which arms have reached Irish Volunteers during the past twelve months. Suffice it that as long as money is available and a healthy demand exists it is always possible and generally easy to procure them.

The question is then one of money and of enthusiasm. If enthusiasm is lacking it is idle to discuss further. Let us assume that we have the enthusiasm, and let us see how we can raise the money.

To begin with, it can't be got from the obvious and proper source, the Revenues of the State. These are needed for the payment of patriots. Neither will it be got from the subscriptions of wealthy Irish Nationalists. These will be collected by the paid patriots. Irish America will help, as it has helped nobly in the past, but the sooner we realise that public subscriptions, on no matter how generous a scale, will always be insufficient to equip an army, the better for ourselves. The total amount that might be realised from a

public fund, even though that fund were successful beyond all previous experience, is trivial in comparison with what the Volunteers themselves could raise in another way.

I verily believe that the Irish Volunteers will never be fully equipped until they decide to do what is easily in their power, namely, to equip themselves.

And can they afford it? Yes they can.

They can afford to contribute the sum of one shilling per week to pay for their own rifles.

I realise that many of them are hard up. I know that more of them are underpaid, but I also know that the cause in which they are embarked is worthy of great sacrifices. I am aware that most of them occasionally either smoke or drink, and that if they would abandon these luxuries until their country is free they would save at least the weekly shilling. I see that many of them can pay and are paying three or four times this amount towards the cost of their equipment at present, and this fact will enable the general average to be maintained even though an occasional man finds it difficult to contribute the standard sum.

I quite understand that occasions might occur, through unemployment, sickness, strikes and such causes, when some would find it actually impossible to continue their payments without interruption; and the answer to this difficulty is that entertainments, concerts, dances, raffles, goose clubs, local collections, donations, or Company levies should be used to make up deficiencies of this kind. The essence of the idea is that every Volunteer Company should if necessary either beg, borrow or annex sufficient money to maintain its rifle fund ALWAYS and permanently at the standard of a shilling a week per man.

It is difficult without going into figures to realise what this would enable us to achieve for Ireland. Let us therefore take an example:

The Irish Volunteer Movement is eighteen months in existence. Its membership has naturally varied considerably at different periods, but in its heyday last summer it undoubtedly included more than 250,000 men. Supposing that its history had been less chequered, and that its 250,000 members had subscribed a shilling weekly for eighteen months. It would already have raised by this means no less than £975,000, which would have been just about enough to provide a modern magazine rifle and a bandolier full of ammunition for each and every one of its quarter of a million men.

Will any man deny that this result would have repaid him for the sacrifice of something less than twopence a day?

This ideal however was not realised. Our British masters desired that the Organization which might have accomplished this should be disrupted and destroyed; and their Irish employees have effected its disruption and have, in part at least, accomplished its destruction.

The unique opportunity of 1914, perhaps the most glorious opportunity that Ireland has ever seen, is lost for ever, but the future remains to us. Will the Irish Volunteers utilise it? Will they take the steps that will within a very few months provide Ireland with an army of say 100,000 men possessing effective arms and ammunition?

The answer depends upon whether or not each separate Volunteer will silently, surely, and persistently set aside not less than one shilling each week for the purchase of his own equipment.

UA RAGGATTE.

## BELFAST VOLUNTEERS.

### SPECIAL ORDER.

Every Volunteer is ordered to be on parade at 3 p.m. sharp on Saturday, 24th inst., and must bring full equipment for inspection.

## INVASION.

How Brian Smashed Danish Power in Ireland.

### CLONTARF CENTENARY COMMEMORATION,

Mansion House, Dublin, Friday, April 23rd.

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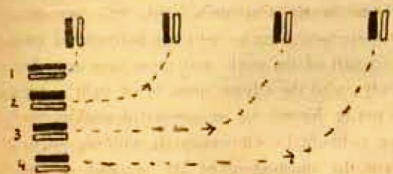
### CHAPTER III.

#### FURTHER EXERCISES IN THE ATTACK.

##### A—ADVANCING IN FILE.

The formation found most effective in advancing against artillery fire is that of companies moving in parallel files of sections at fifty paces interval. The Company Commander, having given full instructions on parade, will lead his men out to a suitable field. It is better practice if the ground be fairly irregular.

Draw up your men in company column, and name No. 1 section as directing section. Then, on the command, "Extend into files of sections at fifty paces to the right—move," the commander of No. 1 section wheels his men into the file and halts them, while the other section commanders lead their sections out to the right, coming up on a line with No. 1 section at the required interval one beyond the other.



In carrying out this movement see that the sections present the narrowest front to the enemy.

It may be necessary to remark that no parade commands are to be given. I have noticed valuable time wasted on manoeuvres by officers calling their men to attention and sloping arms before going into action. There should be as few commands as possible, and these should be by signal.

Now recall the sections by signal into company column. Let all sections clearly understand that they are to march by the directing section, and when the extension into line is given they are to extend to the same flank as the directing section. Then extend the files again and signal the advance.

Having advanced about 50 yards, order the commander of number 1 section to extend his men to the right. When he does so, all the other section commanders will do the same, and the company will form a single skirmishing line.

Repeat this movement, varying the flank you extend to, until it is done readily and correctly.

##### B—FIRING LINE AND SUPPORT.

Reform company column again. Then extend numbers 1 and 2 sections in files as before, and let them advance under their half-company commander. Extend numbers 3 and 4 sections similarly about 100 yards behind them. When the company has advanced about 50 yards, the lieutenant in front will order the commander of number 1 section to extend. Number 2 section will extend in the same way. A firing line will thus be formed, which will go on advancing. At the same time the half-company commander over numbers 3 and 4 sections will order them to extend so as to form the supports.

After another 50 yards has been covered, the supports will reinforce the firing line, and advancing will continue by alternate rushes and by "ragged" rushing as in Chapter II.

It is especially urged on Volunteer officers to practice this last as often as possible, as practice alone can get men to carry it out readily and speedily.

##### C—AN ATTACK ON A POSITION.

To carry this out satisfactorily 2,000 yards of ground are required. In Dublin the Phoenix Park is the best place.

First point out the object of your attack—a line of trees, the crest of a ridge, etc. Then form your firing line and supports in files as in section B, the supports being 300 yards behind the firing line. Advance in this formation till within 1,000 yards of the objective.

Now extend into two skirmishing lines, and continue the advance. When within 800 yards of the position the firing line should begin alternate rushes of 50 yards. The supports, which should gradually decrease the distance between them and the firing line may be merged with the latter at 500 yards, when the line will be re-distributed among the section commanders regardless of existing units.

Alternate rushes will now bring the line within 300 yards of the position, the rushes getting shorter each time. "Ragged rushing" will cover the next 200 yards, and the last 100 will be left for the charge.

In carrying out the attack the rules laid down in Chapter II. (especially as regards alternate rushes) must be adhered to. It is a good plan for the men to clap their hands to represent firing.

It is recommended that companies should practise a complete attack whenever possible, but it is no use beginning until Chapters I. and II. have been learnt.

## The Use of Ground.

A careful system of studying ground features and applying the knowledge to the movements of small bodies of troops is very important for all Volunteers of all ranks. This is quite as important for a private out stalking an enemy's sentry as for the commandant of a battalion. The matter is particularly important for those corps which belong to towns, for great numbers of the country corps are composed of men in whom a lot of the necessary knowledge is naturally present.

We shall first set out a few observations on the question of cover from view. Some kinds of cover from view are no protection against rifle fire, and should be used with caution. A plain hedge without a bank is of this kind. Men are inclined to crowd behind cover of this kind when no other kind is near, and in such cases it is imperative not to draw the enemy's fire. Still the fact that concealment from view gives the men confidence and encourages them to advance can be used to advantage by an officer. A different case is that of a single soldier seeking cover for himself. In such a case the man might be tempted to take post behind a large tree under the impression that it was sufficient protection. This is wrong. *No tree in Ireland will stop a rifle-bullet fired straight at it.* It may be taken as a general rule that a bullet will always pass through a tree 2 feet thick and kill a man behind it.

On the other hand, perfect cover may exist where to an unpractised eye there seems to be none at all. The most important case of this kind is that afforded by very slight undulations of ground, which afford absolutely "dead ground" as far as rifle fire is concerned. What is meant will easily be realised as follows: Let the observer take his stand at the foot of a very gentle swell, and move towards the crest of it. He will be surprised how close to the crest he will be able to get without catching sight of say a hedge on the other side. In other words, he will frequently be within rushing distance before he comes under fire. On the other hand, if he is taking up a defensive line, in front of a section of which is such a patch of "dead ground," it will be necessary to see that this is swept by diagonal fire from another section of the line.

Another important point that can easily be practised is the moving of small bodies along the line of the hedges in an enclosed country. Men moving in twos or in single file behind a hedge are entirely concealed from an enemy at a comparatively short distance beyond the hedge. If it is desired to approach close to the enemy a zig-zag course may often be followed with advantage. In such a case a couple of pioneers should be at the head of the column with bills or axes to break down the hedges; while a couple of scouts sent on ahead would ensure that the detachment was not fired into at close range by an enemy's picket.

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addressed to the

**IRISH PRESS BUREAU,**  
30 Lower Abbey Street, DUBLIN.

**The Irish Volunteer**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915.

## Headquarters' Bulletin.

The Central Executive of the Irish Volunteers met at Headquarters on Wednesday evening, 31st March, Commandant The O'Rahilly presiding; on Wednesday, 7th April, Commandant P. H. Pearse presiding; and on Wednesday, 14th April, Commandant Thomas Mac Donagh presiding.

The usual reports on Organisation, Training, Arms, and Finance were considered at each meeting.

At the meeting on 14th inst. detailed reports from the Organisers on Companies visited were considered, and various election to Company officerships ratified.

Vice-Commandant John Fitzgibbon was appointed Director of Recruiting.

Meetings of the Executive will be held henceforward on Wednesday evenings at 6-30 p.m. It was not considered desirable to appoint a Standing Committee.

The Headquarters' Staff desires to express its satisfaction with the mobilisation and operations carried out by the Dublin Brigade at Easter.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,  
Dublin, 14th April, 1915.

### APPOINTMENTS.

Dublin Brigade.

The following appointments are made by Headquarters:—

Captain Eimer O'Duffy, Adjutant of 2nd Batt., to be Brigade Chief of Transport, Supply, and Communications.

Lieut. Thomas Slater, C Coy., 2nd Batt., to be Adjutant of 2nd Batt. with rank of Captain.

Limerick Brigade.

1st (City of Limerick) Battalion.

The following appointments are made (or ratified) by Headquarters:—

Hon. Colonel—James Ledden.

Commandant—Michael P. Colivet.

Vice-Commandant—George Clancy.

A Company.

Captain—J. M'Nerney

1st Lieut.—S. Dineen.

2nd Lieut.—J. Cashin.

B Company.

Captain—E. O'Toole.

1st Lieut.—J. O'Donnell.

2nd Lieut.—P. Whelan.

C Company.

Captain—M. Burke.

1st Lieut.—W. Forde.

2nd Lieut.—J. McKeon.

D Company.

Captain—P. Walsh.

1st Lieut.—A. Kivlehan.

2nd Lieut.—A. O'Halloran.

D Company (Killonan and Ballysimon).

Captain—W. Hennessy.

1st Lieut.—B. Laffan.

E Company (Castleconnell).

Captain—P. J. McGee.

1st Lieut.—J. Keane.

P. H. PEARSE, Commandant,

Director of Organisation.

Headquarters, 41 Kildare Street,  
Dublin, 14th April, 1915.

## NOTES FROM HEADQUARTERS.

### MOBILISATION SCHEMES.

It is of the first importance that each Company and Battalion of the Irish Volunteers should have a workable mobilisation scheme capable of being put into practice at any moment. It should be possible to mobilise a Company of Volunteers within two hours; and if a Company can be mobilised within one hour so much the better. At the recent Easter mobilisation several Companies, rural and urban, of the Dublin Brigade showed that they could mobilise themselves within the hour. The whole Brigade was mobilised within a little over four hours. On the next occasion an effort will be made, and we believe successfully made, to mobilise the whole Brigade within two hours. It was considered advisable not to make the Easter test too severe. The next test will be severer, and will be applied absolutely without previous warning.

### WORKABILITY.

In each instance it is for the Company or Battalion Commander to think out, and then test in actual practice, a scheme adapted to the local circumstances. The scheme which has proved by far the most successful is one originally adopted by B Coy., 1st Batt., Dublin Brigade, and which, with slight modifications suggested by local conditions, has been found entirely workable by many rural and urban Companies in Co. Dublin. The essentials may be briefly stated for the guidance of Company Commanders who are thinking out schemes for mobilising their own commands.

### A SPECIMEN SCHEME.

The Company District is divided into a

convenient number of areas in accordance with the places of residence of the men. In a town a street or group of streets might form an area; in the country a village or a townland. In each area a man is put in charge of the mobilisation of the men resident in that area, and is given two assistants. As soon as the order to mobilise reaches the man in charge he sends one of his assistants to summon the men living in the area, and sends the other to pass on the word to the man in charge of the next adjacent area. The latter does likewise: one of his assistants proceeds to rouse that area and the other passes on the word to the next area. And so on until the circle is complete. It will be observed that the mobilisation of all the areas proceeds practically simultaneously. Furthermore, the scheme can start at any point. It is sufficient for the Company Commander to communicate the order to mobilise to one man, and within an hour the whole Company will be assembled. It is earnestly recommended that Company Commanders study this scheme and adapt it to the particular requirements of their respective districts.

### ORGANISATION.

It is of great importance that the scheme be cut-and-dry and ready to put in operation at a moment's notice. And a paper scheme, or a scheme in the Captain's head, will not do. Definite men must be told out beforehand for each part of the work, and these men must be ready; also the scheme must be of such a sort as not to depend for its successful working on any individual. Obviously, it will not do to leave the summoning of the sections to the Section Commanders alone: if a Section Commander is out when the order reaches him who is to summon the section? And still more obviously, the Captain is not to rely upon being available himself to do the roping in of his men at the last moment: the scheme should be capable of being put into operation and of working smoothly even in the Captain's absence. Ordinarily, the Captain's part will consist in despatching an orderly to the man in charge of the nearest area with the brief command, "Company parades at — to-night at — p.m." The rest will be automatic, the order passing from man to man and from area to area swiftly and smoothly. It is quite plain that if this is to be achieved, the whole plan must be carefully thought out beforehand and rehearsed once or twice. Finally, good Company mobilisation implies good Battalion mobilisation. If the Company mobilisation schemes are sound, the mobilisation of the Battalion will be automatic, and the Battalion Commander will be able to set the whole thing in motion by simply despatching copies of a single order to each member of his staff and to each Company Commander.

### THE DUBLIN MOBILISATION.

In this week's Headquarters' Bulletin the Headquarters' Staff expresses its satisfaction with the Easter mobilisation and operations of the Dublin Brigade. The main object of the



manoeuvre was to test our ability to mobilise and to carry out a combined operation in strict accordance with a time-table. This test, being the first of the kind, was not a very severe one, but, as far as it went, it shows a most gratifying state of efficiency. Punctually to the appointed hour—which was twelve midnight—the five Battalions of the Brigade, having mobilised Company by Company and Battalion by Battalion, and carried out a very interesting movement over a front extending from Blanchardstown to Santry, met at the sign-post in Finglas village. A special word of commendation is due to the spirited work of the Swords Company under Captain Coleman. The scheme also involved the despatch of a flying column to Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. The column marched 80 miles in 47½ hours, the marching hours (including all short halts) being 22½, which gives an average rate through out of 3½ miles per hour. The average rate of infantry on the march is 2½ miles per hour.

## LET EVERY IRISHMAN TAKE NOTICE.

The *Belfast Weekly News* of 15th inst. cordially admits the existence of Liberal-Conservative alliance, and declares that Home Rulers are consequently in what is politely called "the halfpenny place" in the following words:—

The general impression is that by its amending the Parliament Act the life of the Government will be extended for another year at least, or until the war is over. The Irish Home Rulers may kick against such an arrangement, as it might interfere with their pet schemes; but the Government, by the aid of the Unionists, are in the position to enforce whatever joint arrangement they may come to.

Perhaps the Volunteer policy rather gives pause to possible Liberal-Conservative performances. We shall see! At any rate, let every Irishman who reads this ask himself—“Where would Ireland be now without her Volunteers?”

A. N.

## Dublin Regiment.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The attention of Company Commanders is drawn to the necessity of sending despatch riders to Headquarters every Monday between 7 and 8 p.m. to receive their weekly orders and other notices. Last week six Companies failed to send a despatch rider, and so an important form which was to be sent to them will not reach them. In future serious notice will be taken of officers who thus fail to keep in touch with Headquarters.

E. O'DUFFY,

Brigade Chief of Communications.

## VICTORIES OF IRREGULAR TROOPS.

### V.—CALATAFIMI.

Perhaps never has a victory of irregulars had such far-reaching results as Calatafimi, where Garibaldi gained a great initial success against the Neapolitans. After this the current set steadily in his favour, and in a few months the entire island of Sicily fell into his hands. The victory was gained four days after he landed with the Thousand at Marsala on the extreme western point of the island. This he did on May 11th, 1860, having seized the two steamers that carried his force from the northern Italian coast and evaded the vigilance of Neapolitan cruisers.

#### OPPOSING FORCES AND PLANS.

Garibaldi had on board almost exactly a thousand volunteers hailing from every part of Italy. A considerable number of them had seen fighting in the Alps the previous year during the campaign of Magenta and Solferino against the Austrians—in which Marshal Mac Mahon made his name. Some of the higher officers: Bixio, Sirtori and Turr, the Hungarian exile, were soldiers of considerable experience and ability. The rank and file were brave and intelligent men, from every walk of life. Bixio, who was a very rigid disciplinarian, had introduced a considerable spirit of order and obedience. Garibaldi's design was first of all to make for the mountains in the interior of the island, and then carry on a vigorous guerilla campaign against the Neapolitan troops throughout the island. In this way he expected to gradually raise the inhabitants and increase his forces so as to be able to finally expel the Neapolitans. He knew that if he accomplished this, foreign powers would speedily recognise the accomplished fact. But his force was desperately small, poorly armed, and the entire enterprise was very much of the nature of a gamble.

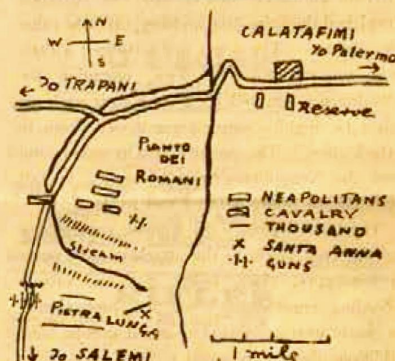
The Neapolitans had some 25,000 troops in Sicily at the time Garibaldi landed, and kept constantly reinforcing them. Moreover, until Garibaldi had gained a few remarkable successes these troops were of a very fair quality, and the infantry was armed with an excellent rifle. On the other hand, most of Garibaldi's Thousand had old muskets with a maximum range of 300 yards, and some of them had only 10 rounds for that! 35 picked Genoese Carabineers had good rifles of their own and a good supply of cartridges. The weak point of the Neapolitans was the command: no army had ever worse generals. They were entirely lacking in the enterprise and resource by which alone it was possible to overcome such an able guerilla leader as Garibaldi.

The population was entirely friendly to Garibaldi, and small bands or "squadre," as they were called, joined him. They were

poorly armed with blunderbusses, &c., and quite untrained. Several of them were entirely unarmed, and these Garibaldi equipped with pikes. Most of these "squadre" kept well clear of the fighting at Calatafimi, but a band of 200 under Santa Anna formed an honourable exception, and did excellent service.

#### PRELIMINARY MANOEUVRES.

The day after the landing of the Thousand, Garibaldi struck north-east into the hills towards Salemi. From there a good road led to the capital, Palermo, on the north coast, and at Calatafimi this road was joined by another from Trapani, an important seaport on the



western side. The other roads in this western end of Sicily were very poor—mere tracks. There was a Neapolitan garrison in Trapani, and a strong one in Palermo. When the Government heard of Garibaldi's landing, a detachment was sent to Marsala, but when it arrived there he was already in the hills, and it eventually landed at Palermo—where there were already more troops than Landi, the commanding general, was able to direct.

The Thousand reached Salemi, and pressed on beyond it without any exciting incident, and on the night of May 14th they bivouacked on a small plateau over the Palermo road. Meantime Landi, with some 3,000 infantry, a couple of squadrons of cavalry and two guns, had advanced from Palermo as far as Calatafimi, and halting there had pushed out detachments further ahead. Friendly inhabitants informed Garibaldi of these movements.

At 4 a.m. on the 15th, the Thousand broke camp and advanced to the small village of Vita, where they breakfasted on food purchased from the country people, and then continued their march as far as the hill of Pietralunga. From there they could see across the valley of a small stream to the opposite height of Pianto dei Romani, where the enemy's forces were drawn up. The Neapolitans on Pianto dei Romani numbered about 2,000 infantry and 2



guns, which last were in position on the left of the line. On the road to the right were the cavalry. Garibaldi had five old pieces of artillery on the road—more useful for their moral effect on the peasantry than for their military value. These had to be protected by a barricade from the enemy's cavalry, and only came into action towards the close, when they fired a few shots. The Neapolitans in the actual engagement were commanded by Sforza, a capable officer, very different from Landi. The latter kept idle a reserve of 1,000 men all day some miles in rear.

#### THE BATTLE.

The battle commenced a little after noon, the sun being scorchingly hot. The Thousand deployed rapidly, the picked Carabineers in advance, and Santa Anna with his band of 200 peasantry on the right. The Neapolitans pushed forward down the slope of Pianto dei Romani and across the stream; one battalion furnished the firing line and supports, the other the reserves. The firing line advanced a little way up the opposite slope, engaging the Carabineers, but fell back upon their supports when Garibaldi's entire force moved down to attack them. The position was reversed, and now the Neapolitans were compelled to fall back up the slope, fighting foot by foot.

The hill of Pianto dei Romani presented a rather steep glacis to the attackers. In parts it bore corn, vines, beans, flax and olives, affording concealment—but not protection—to single men advancing or small groups. In addition, there were small terraces irregularly placed and used for cultivation. These were either cut in the rock or built of loose stones, and were only a few feet high. They were, however, enough to cover a man lying down—or even in places kneeling to fire. The Neapolitan troops stood shoulder to shoulder and fired volleys. Garibaldi's Volunteers crept forward in little parties or singly from cover to cover. The Carabineers acting in front as a firing line, the rest firing seldom, but always striving to be in place to reinforce the firing line. Each terrace thus was a stepping-stone for a further advance, and gradually the entire force worked its way forward, though not without loss and stragglers dropping behind.

The two guns on the defenders left flank troubled the attackers considerably, until the company on the right of the line, supported by Santa Anna, worked forward along an easier line, and towards the end rushed the artillerists, seizing one gun.

At length it looked as if the advance was checked. The strength of the force was very seriously reduced at all points of the line, and the enemy appeared to all intents and purposes unshaken. Bixio spoke to Garibaldi about the advisability of falling back, but the answer was, "Here we make Italy or die." They were then towards the left of the line, with about 300 in their neighbourhood, and over to the right were dotted numerous groups of ten or a

dozen men at irregular intervals. Then some of the soldiers above started throwing down large stones. One of these struck Garibaldi, and at once he realised what it meant. Shouting, "They're throwing stones, their ammunition's spent; come on," he jumped up, and every man scrambled up the height. After a few moments of confused fighting with the bayonet and clubbed rifle it was all over, and the Neapolitans were streaming down the reverse slope of the hill.

#### COMMENTS.

The tactics of the Volunteers speak for themselves, and were brilliantly successful. Above all, their careful hoarding of their ammunition was beyond praise. They crawled forward bit by bit without firing except very occasionally. At the end—although some had only ten rounds to begin with—their store was not altogether shot away. They trusted to the bayonet to even things up, and not in vain. Their losses were fairly heavy—about 15 per cent. of their strength, some being only slightly wounded. No attempt was made by Landi to reinforce Sforza, and the cavalry was kept idle. It might have been usefully dismounted and used against Garibaldi's left flank. Very often the Neapolitans fired too high—a common mistake of troops trying to sweep a steep slope from above. They seldom resorted to small local counter-attacks, which might easily have had a decisive effect. In one of these they captured a standard.

### CLONTARF CENTENARY. Dublin Celebration.

The announcement of the forthcoming celebration of the Centenary of the Battle of Clontarf and the overthrow of Danish power in Ireland will be eagerly welcomed by Irish-Irelanders. The commemoration will be held in the Mansion House on Friday, April 23rd, and will consist of a lecture, concert and tableau. The event should properly have been commemorated last year, but various circumstances combined to defeat the proposal. The lecture on the occasion will be given by the eminent Gaelic author and historian, Mr. J. J. O'Kelly (Soeig), and the singers will include Miss Joan Burke, Messrs. Jay Ryan, E. O'Connor Cox, and Gerrard Ua Croithe. Musical items will be rendered by an orchestra and by some prominent soloists. The doors will open at 7 o'clock, and the prices of admission will be 2/-, 1/- and 6d.

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## TWO REVIEWS.

SHALL IRELAND BE DIVIDED. By Eoin Mac Neill. (Dublin: Volunteer Headquarters, 1d.)

This is a tract which cannot be ignored. It is a tract which reveals by first-hand evidence the ancient enemy of Ireland crouching, as it were, out of sight and creating religious and political enmities among the Irish people for its own base purposes. Those who have read the adventures of Sherlock Holmes may remember the extraordinary prince of criminals with whom the detective was finally confronted. His name was Professor Moriarty. I may quote the words of Sherlock Holmes:—"For years past I have continually been conscious of some power behind the malefactor, some deep organising power which forever stands in the way of the law, and throws its shield over the wrongdoer. For years I have endeavoured to break through the veil which shrouded it, and at last the time came when I seized my thread and followed it, until it led me, after a thousand cunning windings, to ex-Professor Moriarty of mathematical celebrity. He is the Napoleon of crime. He is the organiser of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city. He sits motionless, like a spider in the centre of its web, but that web has a thousand radiations, and he knows well every quiver of each of them. He does little himself, he only plans. But his agents are numerous and splendidly organised. Is there a crime to be done, a paper to be abstracted, we will say, a house to be rifled, a man to be removed—the matter is organised and carried out. The agent may be caught. But the central power which uses the agent is never caught—never so much as suspected."

Eoin Mac Neill has tracked down the ancient enemy of Ireland which spider-like has sat sucking the life blood of our country for the last seven hundred years. Strange to say, there is no indication of any political or religious bias in Eoin Mac Neill's tract. And this is a suitable opportunity for defying any Irishman to read the tract without suspecting, nay, without being absolutely certain of the identity of the force which has worked so long to destroy the unity of Ireland. England has indeed left the marks of her five fingers on our country, which could be called greed, hatred, bigotry, ignorance, and misrepresentation. Truth must prevail. And the truth of the gospel according to Eoin Mac Neill, which is the old gospel of Irish nationality, shall certainly prevail. Buy this tract and you will see the Saxon Spider at work!

A. N.

THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS. By The O'Rahilly. (Dublin: Whelan & Son. 1d.)

It is to my thinking desirable that the



amazing history contained in this tract should be brought to the knowledge of every thinking man in Ireland and every Irishman in exile. It is most undesirable, however, that this tract should be accepted as anything more than a piece of history. As history it could be read in fifty years without disturbing anyone's mental comfort, but it will be a miracle if the facts which this tract reveal fail to irritate certain persons to whom the statement of plain truths is unwelcome. The tract is well and at times brilliantly written. One feels inclined to quote passages wholesale. We have here the story of how certain men armed the Irish Volunteers, and the amazing forces which opposed them. And one feels that because Ireland contains such clean, clever, honest, unpurchasable men she may yet not only be liberated, but cleansed from the slave taint, and freed from her national degenerates, by the few who are publicly faithful and the many who are secretly in sympathy with them.

A. N.

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In my notes last week I endeavoured to direct the thoughts of our officers on the future of the organisation, and I asked them to seriously consider ways and means of developing and organising the Fianna throughout the country. It seems to me that if the Fianna is going to do the work set for itself in its constitution, and is not to remain a comparatively insignificant factor in the country, a more vigorous propaganda on our part is more necessary at the present time than it has been since the organisation began.

The present generation witnesses a turning point in the life of the nation. The age of oratory has passed, and no one bewails its ignoble passing. The heavy-weight politicians who little more than a year ago scoffed at our movement are now the champions if not the leaders of the physical force idea. A military training has now become an essential part of Irish citizenship.

We in the Fianna need no longer preach this doctrine. It is now accepted by our people, and the value of a boys' organisation which gives a sound preliminary education in the duties of citizenship will become more and more clear to our people as time goes on. We must, however, be loud and persistent before they will hear or heed us.

Now it is the object of the Fianna to organise in Ireland a great community of self-governing boys' clubs bound together by a common national faith, a common work, and a common discipline. To do this work well will

involve a vast amount of energy and enthusiasm, and we will need a great many more officers than we have at present. The number of officers in Dublin who are capable of doing propagandist work might be counted on one hand. There are, of course, a good number of boys in training who will in a year or two be equally efficient, but we cannot afford to leave this work over even for a year. Our organising must commence very soon, and be carried on during the summer.

There are quite a host of young members of the Irish Volunteers whose help in this matter would be most valuable at the present time. The work in the Fianna would not interfere with their Volunteer work, but on the contrary would give them an opportunity of developing, in a severe school, their military knowledge and ability to lead. Next week I will deal with the type of man which, in my opinion, would be most likely to succeed in governing and training boys.

The suburbs of Dublin have in the past but poorly responded to the call of the Fianna, and it is with great admiration we welcome to our ranks the young pioneers who have made the start in Banelagh. The new slough has secured a spacious hall in Cullenswood House, Oakley Road, and it is hoped that the slough will be recruited up to full company strength during the next few weeks. Classes are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8 p.m. Applications for membership should be made to Tomás O'Ruairc, secretary.

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