

WHERE THE BEAUTIFUL RIVERS FLOW.

BY REV. C. P. RYAN.

Oh, I'll sing to night of a fairy land, in the lap of the ocean set,
And of all the lands I've travelled o'er, 'tis the loveliest I have met;
Where the willows weep, and the roses sleep, and the balmy breezes
blow,
In that dear old land, that sweet old land, where the beautiful rivers
flow.

But Oh, alas! how can I sing?—'tis an exile breathes the strain,
And the dear old land of my youthful love I may never see again;
And the very joys that fill my breast must ever change to woe
For that dear old land, that sweet old land, where the beautiful
rivers flow.

But I'll sing of the lonely old churchyards where our fathers' bones
are laid—
Where the cloisters stand, those ruins grand, that our tyrant foes
have made;
And I'll strike the harp with a mournful touch, till the glistening tears
will show
For that dear old land, that sweet old land, where the beautiful rivers
flow.

And I'll sing of Emmet's lonely fate, and of his lonely grave—
Of his early doom, and his youthful bloom, and his spirit more than
brave;
But ha! how blest and calm his rest, tho' his grave be cold and low,
In that dear old land, that sweet old land, where the beautiful rivers
flow.

And I'll sing of Tone and the Geraldine, proud Edward the true and
blest—
They won the crown—the martyr's crown—and they sleep in shade
and rest;
In heavenly mould their names are rolled—they died in manhood's
glow,
For that dear old land, that sweet old land, where the beautiful rivers
flow.

And I'll sing of Ireland's ancient day, when her sires were kingly
men,
Who led the chase and the manly race, thro' forest, field, and glen;
Whose only word was the shining sword—whose pen, the patriot's
blow,
For that dear old land, that sweet old land, where the beautiful rivers
flow.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

ORIGIN OF FASHIONS.—The origin of many fashions was in the
endeavor to conceal some deformity. Patches were invented in Eng-
land in the reign of Edward VI. by a foreign lady, who in this manner
ingeniously covered a wen on her neck. Full-bottomed wings were
invented by a French barber for the purpose of concealing an elevation
on the shoulder of the Dauphin. Charles VII. of France introduced
long coats to hide his ill-made legs. Shoes with long points—full two
feet in length—were invented for Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Anjou,
to conceal a large excrescence on one of his feet. When Francis I.
was obliged to wear his hair short, owing to a large wound received on
the head, it became a prevailing fashion at court.

"SENT TO COVENTRY."—Two explanations of the expression
"Sent to Coventry," have been offered—one, that the inhabitants of
Coventry were so averse to holding any communication with the mili-
tary quartered in the town, that they were confined to the interchanges
of the mess room. The other is that the day after Charles I. had left
Birmingham in 1642, the Parliamentarians seized all messengers and
suspected persons, and sent them prisoners to Coventry. [We have,
however, heard another, and a far more likely one. During the
threatened invasion of England by the Spanish Armada, persons who
were suspected of cowardice were ordered to Coventry, as farthest
from the enemy, it being the most central town in England. Hence
its application to a person who is to be tabooed.]

THE SAD TRUTH.—The rose of Florida, the most beautiful of
flowers, emits no fragrance; the Bird of Paradise, the most beautiful
of birds, gives no song; the cypress of Greece, the finest of trees, yields
no fruit; dandies, the shiniest of men, have no sense; and ball-room
belles, the loveliest creatures in the world, are very often ditto. Per-
fection exists not under the sun.

THE BEST BED.—Of the eight pounds which a man eats and
drinks in a day, it is thought that not less than five pounds leave his
body through the skin. And of these five pounds, a considerable per-
centage escapes during the night while he is in bed. The larger part
of this is water, but in addition there is much effete and poisonous
matter. This, being in great part gaseous in form, permeates every
part of the bed. Thus all parts of the bed—mattress, blankets, as
well as sheets—soon become foul, and need purification. The mat-
tress needs this renovation quite as much as the sheets. To allow the
sheets to be used without washing or changing three or six months,
would be considered bad housekeeping; but I insist, if a thin sheet
can absorb enough of the poisonous excretions of the body to make it
unfit for use in a few days, a thick mattress, which can absorb and
retain a thousand times as much of these poisonous excretions, needs
to be purified as often, certainly, as once in three months. A sheet
can be washed. A mattress cannot be renovated in this way. Indeed,
there is no other way of cleansing a mattress but by steaming it or
picking it to pieces, and thus in fragments exposing it to the direct
rays of the sun. As these processes are scarcely practicable with any
of the ordinary mattresses, I am decidedly of the opinion that the good
old-fashioned straw bed, which can every three months be exchanged

for fresh straw and the tick washed, is the sweetest and healthiest of
beds. If in the winter season the porousness of the straw bed makes
it feel uncomfortable, spread over it a comforter, or two woollen
blankets, which should be washed as often as every two weeks. With
this arrangement, if you wash all the bed covering as often as once in
two weeks, you will have a delightful healthy bed. Now, if you leave
the bed to air, with open windows during the day, and not make it up
for the night before evening, you will have added greatly to the sweet-
ness of your rest, and, in consequence, to the tone of your health. I
heartily wish this good change could be everywhere introduced. Only
those who have attended to this important matter can judge of its
influence on the general health and spirits.

SHOES.—The early Britons wore coarse bags of hide, made all of
one piece, and tied round the ankle, but the Romans introduced
daintier foot-gear, and from them the Anglo-Saxon learned to make
both boots and shoes of leather, both being generally of one piece
laced from the toes all the way up with strings, and sometimes pro-
tected at the sole with a sort of wooden clog. A pair of shoes worn
by Bernard King of Italy, and grandson of Charlemagne, were recently
found in his tomb. "The soles were wood, and the upper parts of
red leather," says an Italian writer. "They were so closely fitted to
the feet that the order of the toes, terminating in a point at the great
toe, might easily be discovered." Finer, neater, and greater ornamen-
tation came to be employed in latter times. Some one with a de-
formed foot is said to have first had shoes pinched at the toe, and the
innovation was so much admired that, in spite of the denunciation of
monks and priests, it was widely followed by courtiers and gallants of
the Middle Ages. There were scorpion-tail shoes and ram's-horn
shoes; the long curly points being stuffed with tow as well as of toe.
Shoe-toes became more natural, but high heels, then called chopines,
were introduced in Elizabeth's reign. This fashion also came from
Italy, and Coryate reports that in his time the chopine was so common
that no one could go without it. The changes of fashion in shoes and
boots during the last two or three centuries may be traced in familiar
paintings, such as Hogarth's.

HOW HOT IRON MAY BE HANDLED.—About the year 1809, one
Lionette, a Spaniard, astonished not only the ignorant, but chemists
and other men of science, by the impunity with which he handled
red-hot iron and molten lead, drank boiling oil, and performed other
feats equally miraculous. While he was at Naples he attracted the
attention of Professor Sementem, who narrowly watched all his opera-
tions and endeavored to discover his secret. Sementem's efforts, after
performing several experiments upon himself, were finally crowned
with success. He found that by friction with sulphuric acid, diluted
with water, the skin might be made insensible to the action of the
heat of red-hot iron; a solution of alum, evaporated until it became
spongy, appeared to be still more effectual. After having rubbed the
parts which were rendered, in some degree, incombustible with hard
soap, he discovered on the application of hot iron that their insensi-
bility was increased. He then determined on again rubbing the parts
with soap, and after this found that the hot iron not only occasioned
no pain, but that it actually did not burn the hair. Being thus far
satisfied, the professor applied hard soap to his tongue until it became
insensible to the heat of the iron; and having placed an ointment
composed of soap mixed with a solution of alum upon it, boiling oil
did not burn it. While the oil remained on the tongue a slight hissing
was heard, similar to that of hot iron when thrust into water; the oil
soon cooled, and was then swallowed without danger. Several scien-
tist men have since successfully repeated the experiment of Professor
Sementem.

AN HISTORICAL TREE.—At the corner of the Place de l'Hôtel-de-
Ville and the Quai de Grève, Paris, in a garden attached to Baron
Hausseman's old residence, stands a weeping willow. A slip from the
famous tree over the Emperor Napoleon's tomb in St. Helena; it was
brought to Europe by Doctor Corvisart. The cutting struck root, and
was planted over a basin constructed expressly, and had a very pictu-
resque appearance. At the time the municipal palace was burned
down by the Commune, this tree, by some miracle, escaped the flames,
and is now as flourishing as ever. In order to preserve it from injury
during the rebuilding of the Hôtel-de-Ville, M. Alphand is about to
have it removed to Passy, to the garden of the Muette, until it can be
replaced with safety.

INFLUENCE OF FOOD.—An excellent hint is given in the following
item: Dr Hall relates the case of a man who was cured of his bilious-
ness by going without his supper and drinking freely of lemonade.
Every morning, says the doctor, this patient arose with a wonderful
sense of refreshment, and feeling as though the blood had been literally
washed, cleaned and cooled by the lemonade and fast. His theory is
that food can be used as a remedy for many diseases successfully. As
an example, he cures spitting of blood by the use of salt; epilepsy,
by watermelon; kidney affections, by celery; poison, by olive or sweet
oil; erysipelas, by pounded cranberries applied to the part affected;
hydrophobia, by onions; etc. So the way to keep in good health is
really to know what to eat.

DANGER OF WET CLOTHES.—A person immersed for half an hour
in the cold water of a bath tub, would not be chilled as much as if
water were continually thrown on him for that length of time.
Evaporation from the surface would carry off heat faster than it could
be diffused through the water in the tub. In the latter case, if the
person lay perfectly still, the water immediately around him would
become, to a certain extent, warmed. In the former case, as water in
a state of vapor contains nine or ten times as much heat as when liquid,
every pound of water evaporated on the surface carries from the body
heat enough to raise a gallon of ice-cold water to the boiling point.
It is plain from this how dangerous it is for people to sit in wet
clothes. As, however, woollen is a bad conductor of heat, as compared
with cotton, i. e., does not allow the heat to pass through it so rapidly,
it is much safer to sit in wet woollen clothes than in wet cotton.

Cremation is prospering in Germany. There are now 82 cities
with cremation societies.