

**THE UNITED EMPIRE MINSTREL : A
SELECTION OF THE BEST NATIONAL,
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LOYAL ORANGE
SONGS AND POEMS; WITH A LARGE
NUMBER OF TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS,
AND A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE**

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The United Empire Minstrel : A Selection of the Best National, Constitutional and Loyal Orange Songs and Poems; With a Large Number of Toasts and Sentiments, and a Chronological Table
by William Shannon

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WILLIAM SHANNON

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NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LOYAL

ORANGE SONGS AND POEMS;

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TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS,

AND A

Chronological Table,

SHewing THE PRINCIPAL INNOVATIONS AND APOSTACIES OF THE
ROMISH CHURCH—HER PERSECUTIONS OF OUR PROTESTANT
FOREFATHERS—AND THE MOST PARTICULAR EVENTS
CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF THE
UNITED EMPIRE AND THE
ORANGE INSTITUTION.

BY WILLIAM SHANNON.

TORONTO:
HENRY ROWSELL.

1852.



TO
THE LOYAL ORANGEMEN,
OF THE UNITED EMPIRE,
THIS SELECTION OF SONGS AND POEMS
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
WITH THE WARMEST WISHES OF THE UNDERSIGNED THAT
IT MAY BE THE MEANS OF EXTENDING THE
PROSPERITY, HARMONY AND USEFULNESS
OF THAT RIGHT LOYAL BODY,
THE ORANGE INSTITUTION,
BY THEIR BROTHER, FOR PEACE, LAW AND ORDER,

WILLIAM SHANNON.

INTRODUCTION, AND AUTHORSHIP.

The title page of this work sufficiently explains itself. At the request of a number of the most influential Officers and Brethren of the Orange Institution, its publication has been taken in hand, and it is now presented to all those who earnestly desire to maintain the existing connexion between Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies thereunto belonging.

The publisher abstains from making any personal "Prefatory Remarks." As to himself, how far he has done his duty will be best proved by the volume itself. But, in justice to the authors from whose writings selections are made, a brief statement respecting each will, no doubt, be found interesting, by those who seek to know something of the Advocates who have so strongly urged their claims to the consideration of the truly good, great, and noble, as "The Saviours of Ireland," in 1798, 1848—and of Canada in 1837.

THE REV. JOHN GRAHAM, Rector of Magilligan, in the Diocese of Derry, departed this life in the winter of 1843-4. In his day and generation, he was Master of a subordinate Lodge, County Master for Derry, Chaplain to the G. O. L. of Ireland, and First Grand Master of the G. O. Lodge of Ulster. Besides a large volume of original "Songs and Poems," he wrote

the "History of the Siege of Londonderry;" also, "Annals of Irish Popery;" "History of Ireland, 1688—1690;" "Ireland Preserved;" and at the period of his death was engaged in publishing "*Disiderata Curioso Derriana*." His history of the Siege of Londonderry passed through six editions in Ireland; three in the United States (by Graham, of Philadelphia); and one in Canada (by Brewer, McPhail, and Co. Toronto). Most of his songs are sung in the family circle of almost every Yeoman and Orangeman in Ireland, and in the Orange Lodges of the United Empire. And, if we were indebted to him for his pathetic and beautiful "*Derry Walls' Array*" only, his memory should everlastingly be had in honour.

ROBERT YOUNG, ESQ., the "FERMANAGH TRUE BLUE," is at present a resident of the "UNTAKEN CITY." His first work, the "Orange Minstrel," had a very extensive and influential circulation. His second, the "Ulster Harmonist," has twice been published. I regret that I was unable to obtain a copy of either before going to press.

CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH, through her works, is well and widely known. For her the "Apprenticed Boys" of Derry, under James William Gregg, Esq., waved the stringent rules of their club, (which deny membership to any but true and veritable descendants of the defenders of Derry,) and presented her with the freedom of their city. A valuable exception truly! It is a remarkable fact, that, loving "Religion and Loyalty—

God and the Queen" as sincerely as she did, her death should have occurred at a season truly dear to her, viz. —the Sabbath Day, and the commemoration of that great event which secured the succession of the throne of England on the illustrious House of Brunswick. She fell asleep in Jesus on Sunday, July 12th, 1846, at Ramsgate, in Kent.

COLONEL BLACKER, who resides on the Bann side near Portadown, Co. Armagh, composed the thrilling Poem, entitled "Oliver's Advice," which was originally published in the *Dublin University Magazine* for 1835. The gallant Colonel is one of the oldest Orangemen in Ireland, and was a member of the Trinity College Lodge when a Scholar in T. C. D. At a subsequent period he was the principal in seizing a numerous band of Ribbon Conspirators, sitting in conclave and conspiring against the Government of the country. They attempted to swallow their treasonable documents, but he forced them from their throats, and succeeded in lodging them in a place where ample time was given to them for the most deliberate reflection !

OGLE ROBERT GOWAN, Esq. the father of the Orange System in British North America, at present resides in Toronto. His father, Captain John Hunter Gowan, and his god-father, the Right Hon. George Ogle, M.P. distinguished themselves during the Rebellion of 1798. Mr. Gowan was for many years Secretary for the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, and it was under his auspices the present Grand Lodge of British North

America was first formed. Besides being known as the "Father of the System" here, Mr. Gowan is also admitted to be the father of the Press in Canada. His song, the "Crimson Banner," almost every Orangeman knows. His "Annals of Orangeism," it is hoped, he will republish, as it is the best work on the subject ever got up.

MRS. HEMANS, the wife of a British Officer; SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART. the Scottish Novelist; and T. B. MACAULAY, ESQ. M.P., the English Historian, are too well-known to be noted here. The Poem of the latter, entitled "The Battle of the League," is a convincing proof that in France, as in the United Empire, in open, honest warfare, our Protestant forefathers have been more than a match for their Popish enemies.

WM. MCCOMB, Belfast, is a respectable Bookseller. His verses on the death of Charlotte Elizabeth are worthy alike of the poet and his theme. He is known to the philanthropist as the chief spirit in getting up the beautiful building used as an institution for the deaf, dumb, and blind, at Belfast. It is one of the most attractive edifices of the northern commercial metropolis.

Of the minor writers with whom we have to do, we have little to say. Some we honour,—others we may never know. The names quoted are already "household words," of which any people might justly be proud. Let, then, those whom we have overlooked, owing to time, or place, or ignorance, sympathise with the

publisher, who claims no merit to himself, but that of endeavouring to discharge his duty. Of "*doggerel*" songs, bearing on our society, but few are given; and even those, only by reason of their antiquity and popularity, and at the request of parties whose good wishes are desired. And now in conclusion:

" *Britannia's* sons lift up your voice,
Let all your harps with joy be strung,
Let every hill and plain rejoice,
And praises now employ each tongue.
Religious freedom still shall reign,
Through every part of your domain,
For William gave to British laws,
The fair impress of Freedom's cause!"
