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## THE IRISH BUILDER.

### THE CORK HARBOUR BOARD AND CORNISH GRANITE.

WHO would bring coals to Newcastle? Who? Why those, to be sure, who would bring granite to Ireland! Where are we to look for patriotism, if not to Cork, the country of the O'Donovans (of Skibbereen and Ross, or Rossa, as Jerry loves to call himself), the O'Learys, Desmonds, Downings, *et hoc genus omne*? Where shall the love of their country's prosperity be found, if not in the breasts of the home rulers? Even the men of peace, the Society of Friends in Cork, have not been slow to exhibit their love of home and fatherland when occasion required; and we know of a house in Nile-street, down the steps of which a royal duke was made to hurry by the impetus of anything but a "quaking" toe, for not knowing how to behave himself with the propriety that Cork, ever true to its instincts of patriotism and its synonym virtue, demanded.

But we fear that a cloud is coming over the spirit of this dream, and the city which has produced members of the building trades second to none in the world, with the master minds of Notter, Deane, Harry, Hogan, G. R. Paine, R. R. Brash, and a host of others, is now begetting another sort of animal—a harbour commissioner who can wander to Cornwall in search of 400 ft. of granite coping. Now, we have nothing to say about an individual's acts; if a half-paid engineer should wish to make friends with the Cornish mammon of unrighteousness, that is his affair; but we consider it our duty to remind the Cork Harbour Commissioners that there is granite in Ireland—that 80 per cent. of all the Irish lighthouses are built of granite, the exception being limestone from Carrickacrumph, Milverton, Foynes, and Ballintemple. That most of the public buildings in Ireland, the Thames Embankment in London, the great north and south walls of Dublin, and the O'Connell Monument in Glasnevin, are all of Irish granite; but 400 ft. of coping for a quay in Cork must be got from Cornwall. Prodigious! What could the architect of the Tusker Rock Lighthouse be thinking of, who, in 1813, built that noble structure of Killiney or Dalkey granite; or that other architect who, in 1867, permitted the dwellings to be erected on the Rock with granite from Aughrim in the County Wicklow, and Cornwall, as one may say, "just opposite?" Did he not get all the granite with which to fill in the monster chasm of the Fastnet Rock from Carroll, of Kingstown? whilst the limestone for the Calf Rock dwellings came from Walsh, of Foynes. The greater part of Trinity College is built of County Dublin granite, and we must not forget Kingstown Harbour; but then who could expect Cork to follow Dublin? Have we not heard inhabitants of the "Beautiful Citie" laugh at the Dublin brogue; and we were not a little surprised at the engineer stating in his report "that the Cornish stone is at present employed in the construction of the docks at Glasgow, and on the new (?) bridges at Dublin," as some apology for recommending it.

We are not of those who would accept of Dean Swift's advice to burn everything English excepting her coals. Should we require material from England, or even Cornwall, we would be as proud to embrace the help as to contribute our assistance to her prosperity; but, without belonging to any political extreme, we are home rulers so far as looking at home goes, and insisting (but not in mere frothy declamation) that there is where charity should begin.

Whilst acknowledging that there are many good specimens of granite to be had in Cornwall, as a rule the product is very uncertain and variable in quality; and although stone of a reliable structure can be got near Falmouth, in other parts of the county or duchy it is soft enough to be used for kaolin—a circumstance that should suggest caution to the inexperienced architect or engineer—a profession not acquired by intuition, although some members of harbour and other boards may be oblivious to the circumstance.

The Dublin Four Courts are built of Dalkey granite; but it is a strange fact that our non-professional readers may not be acquainted with, that the gate entrances were erected with granite from the quarries of Lamorna, the only large quantity of Cornish granite ever used in Dublin. We can all remember how these portions became in course of time ruinous, and some few years ago had to be rebuilt; and we would caution the Corkonian Harbour Board against a saving of three pence in the foot that may result in an ultimate expenditure of as many hundred pounds.

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