

Humorous.

A Letter Worth Reading.
We will back the following piece of composition against anything ever produced. It was written half a century ago by Sir Boyle Roche, a member of the Irish Parliament in the troublous times of '08, when a handful of Wexford men struck terror into the hearts of many gallant sons of Mars, as the worthy writer himself. It was addressed to a friend in London.
*My Dear Sir:—*Having now a little peace and quietness, I sit down to inform you of the dreadful bustle and confusion we are all in from these bloodthirsty rebels, most of whom are, thank God! killed and dispersed. We are in a pretty muss, can get nothing to eat, nor wine to drink, except whiskey; and when we sit down to dinner we are obliged to keep both hands armed. What I write this, I hold a sword in each hand and a pistol in the other. I concluded from the beginning this would be the end of it; and see I was right, for it is not half over yet. At present there are such things going on that everything stands still. I should have answered your letter a fortnight ago, but I did not receive it till this morning. Indeed, scarcely a mail arrives safe without being robbed. No longer ago than yesterday, the coach with the mails from Dublin was robbed near this town; the bags had been judiciously left behind for fear of accident, and by good luck there was nobody in it but two outside passengers, who had nothing for the thieves to take. Last Thursday notice was given that a gang of rebels were advancing here under the French standard, but they had no arms, and no drums except bagpipes. Immediately every man in the place, including the women and children, set out to meet them. We soon found our force much too little; we were too near to think of retreating. Death was in every face, but to it we went, and by the time half our little party were killed, we began to be all alive again. Fortunately the rebels had no guns, except pistols and pikes, and as we had plenty of muskets and ammunition, we put them all to the sword. Not a soul of them escaped, except those that were drowned in an adjacent bog; and in a very short time nothing was to be heard but silence. Their uniforms were all different colors, but mostly green. After the action we went to rummage a sort of camp, which they left behind them. All we found was a few pikes without heads, a parcel of empty bottles full of water, and a bundle of French commissions filled with Irish names. Troops are now stationed all around the country, which is the price with my illness. I have only time to tell that I am in great haste.
P. S.—If you do not receive this, of course it must have been absorbed; therefore I beg you to write and let me know.

PICKETING.
While on my lonely bed, about an hour ago, a light tread attracted my attention, and, on looking up, I beheld one of several pickets standing before me.
"Soldier," says he, "you found me of my great father, who expired before I was born; but this unnatural war has made us enemies, and I must shoot you. Give me a chew tobacco."
He was a young man, my boy, in the prime of life, and belonged to one of the First Families of Virginia.
I looked at him, and says I: "Let's compromise, my brother."
"Never," says he, "The South is fighting for her liberty, her firesides, and the pursuit of happiness, and I desire most respectfully to welcome you with bloody hands to a hospitable grave."
"Stand off ten paces," says I, "and let's see whose name shall come before the coroner first."
He took his place, and we fired simultaneously. I heard a ball go whistling by a bare foot half a mile on my right, and when the smoke cleared away, I saw the second picket approach with an awful expression of woe on his otherwise dirty countenance.
"Soldier," says he, "was there anything in my head before you fired?"
"Nothing," says I, "save a few harmless insects."
"Well," says he, "just listen now."
He shook his head mournfully, and I heard something rattle inside of it.
"That," said he, "is your bullet, which has penetrated my skull, and is rolling around in my brain. I die happy, but there is one thing I should like to see before I perish. Have you a quarter about you?"
Too much affected to speak I drew the last one I had from my pocket, and handed it to the dying man, who clutched it convulsively and exclaimed, "How beautiful how bright, and good for four drinks!"
The dying soldier then laid down his gun, hung up his cap and coat, blew his nose, and expired. The sight so affected me that I turned my head and walked a short distance away. When I returned the corpse was gone—and my quarter too!
Perhaps they both want to Heaven?

THE SENTINEL

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