

*Freeman's Journal*  
September 8, 1881

AN EMEUTE AT THE HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL

Her Majesty's Foot Guards, the same who carried by storm Tim Quinlan's castle and returned the Widow Dolan to her homestead, were on the evening before last called upon to subdue a batch of obstreperous school boys who thought that cheering in the quadrangle of the Hibernian Military School was a much more manly and independent *métier* than walking quietly to bed when told to do so by their superiors. The story of the emeute and the subsequent interference of the Guards and police as gleaned from outside sources is shortly told. The little fellows of the Hibernian School, heretofore so docile and orderly, have lately grown not only intractable, but to a boy mutinous. This is either owing to there being some leading spirits for evil amongst them or they have been led away by bad example on the part of their monitors, who are themselves ex-Hibernian School boys. However, be the cause what it may, these well-fed, well-housed, and well-dressed boys, for whose comfort so many plans were laid, have grown anything but contented with their lot. Some weeks ago several of them ran away, but finding "no place like home," returned in a few hours. Then the well-wishers of the institution were shocked to learn that for the maintenance of order in the school it was necessary to place one of its pupils in the criminal dock of the police courts, and from it he went to fourteen days' imprisonment and five years in a reformatory, where, no doubt, he will discover before long the difference between the breed of a criminal and that of a son of a soldier. This summary justice of the police court appears to have only added fuel to the fire of insubordination in the school, and the struggle between anarchy and order culminated on Tuesday night in a general mutiny of the 400 boys taught within the walls of the school. When, after evening play-hour, the bugle was sounded, a signal for the boys to go into the house to prepare for bed, no one was found to answer the call but with sullen looks and without a word the boys formed a solid square in the centre of the playground and refused to move an inch for their officers. For some time the game went on, the boys holding their ground, and the officers at their wits' end to discover by what means their resolve to stay out when they should go in could be broken, and at last General Steele, the Commander of the Forces in Ireland and one of the governors of the school, had to be communicated with. The boys still held their ground, but as the evening wore on they were astonished to see marching into the quadrangle a number of Guardsmen with bayonets and busbies, and behind three surly members of the Metropolitan Police Force, lead by a "Pirate of Penzance"-looking sergeant of commanding presence. This display was too much for the boys, who, unlike Mr. Bradlaugh yielded to a show of "superior force" and retired to their quarters, leaving the Guards and the police masters of the field. Yesterday the boys went about their daily play and duties in the ordinary manner.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN.

SIR-Will you permit us to trespass on your valuable space for the purpose of drawing public attention to the internal state of the above institution. The boys, goaded to open rebellion by the severity of the treatment they receive, break out of the institution; become, through desperation, insubordinate and almost uncontrollable, except. however, while they are actually engaged in school work, during which they become quite obedient. owing to the good core and management of the masters and their assistants, the monitors, those so-called leaders of the recent " Emeute at the Royal Hibernian," who never for one moment during the whole time the " emeute" lasted lost control over the boys. Three or four of the boys having absconded from the institution one Saturday morning, were apprehended by the police, brought back-, and contained in a detached part of the institution. Of course some one was required to mind these boys and instead of having some particular person to do such duties, some of the teaching staff were ordered to do it. This duty entailed sleeping in a large and very draughty hut. The monitors refused to do this duty, it being entirely out of their department, besides taking from some of them Saturday evening and Sunday, usually their leisure hours, but on consideration of the military rule of obeying orders first and complaining afterwards they withdrew their refusal and apologised to the Commandant. He accepted the apology of five of them, but selected two for punishment. We were unfortunately these two. After being suspended for aa days, i.e. confined to the institution for 11 days, our cases were brought before a board of governors, consisting of 11 military officers and 3 civilians. We had always believed hitherto there were but 8 military members, but how even Chief Baron Pallas, Judge Fitzgerald, and Dr Duncan could outvote 11 we cannot tell. We were sentenced to summary dismissal, being quietly informed, after we made what defence we had, but before any words passed among the members, that the board had so decided, which they must have done before we came in or had been asked a word. Comment upon this is needless. Not content with this, one of the military officers rode up to the institution and ordered a full parade. This was immediately done, everybody connected with the institution, besides a guard of "Tim Quinlan's Castle" heroes, being present. He addressed the boys, and informed them of our dismissal, insinuating that we were 'the cause of all this recent mutiny. He said that the commandant had full permission to birch and cane the boys at his discretion, and also that he had more power now than ever he had. We have accordingly left, but the result of the general's remarks blaming the monitorial staff may be seen from the fact that five others have reigned. The charge is utterly unfounded, and the general must have been completely misled and misinformed, for it is a well- known fact inside the institution that the monitors never for one instant lost control over the boys, and that at all times they were on the side of order. But when the board abandon their functions as a court of appeal and hand over supreme authority to Colonel Cotton, whose administration they themselves condemned to the Secretary of State for War, it is high time that public attention should be called to the place and its management. It is unfortunate that Parliament is not sitting or perhaps one of our Irish members would again take up the cudgels for the sake of justice. If they would they should insist on a complete and searching Inquiry by some outside, not military, tribunal into the strange doings there.-Apologising for this long trespass on your valuable space, but in the hope the sacrifice of our humble selves may secure for our successors in the school a little more fair play, we are, &c.,

VICTIMS.