

SOLDIERS IN THE STREETS

LETTER FROM MR. ALFRED WEBB.

With reference to the question of the soldiers in the streets which is to come before the Corporation on Monday, the following letter has been written by Mr. Alfred Webb to Mrs. MacBride: —

Orwell Park, Rathgar,
Dublin, 25-5-1904.

Dear Mrs. MacBride — You deserve great credit for the efforts you are making to free some of our principal thoroughfares from being occupied to such a large extent by the military, and their too often foolish companions, or worse, in the evening, and far on into the night. I do not believe such a scandal would be permitted in any chief town, much less in the capital of any free country. I have often had occasion to remark on the difficulty thereby and in the way of ordinary outings, especially ladies not escorted going about their business or attending lectures and places of amusement, and I trust your efforts will be properly backed up. Nothing but the fact that wealthier citizens, men out of town for the most part, could lead to the toleration of such a state of affairs. Very truly yours,

Alfred Webb

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL

As President of *institiúe na hÉireann* I have received letters from parents of children attending the language, history, singing, and dancing classes held in various parts of the city in connection with the Society as complaints from members on the difficulty of attending the classes and meetings because of the condition of the streets through the disgraceful conduct of the British soldiery.

Parents hesitate to let their children run the risk of hearing the foul language, or seeing the sights which those who have to cross O'Connell street or Westmoreland street of an evening are liable to hear and see.

A short while ago, to post for the American mail, I had to go to the General Post Office at about ten o'clock in the evening. I was intentionally jostled against by soldiers and screamed at by the poor unfortunate girls whom the soldiers seem to incite to insult any respectable woman who ventures on what they consider, and what the police consider, their side of the street.

Would such a state of things be tolerated in any Continental city or in any English city either? That it is tolerated in Dublin is one of the most humiliating evidences of foreign rule, and the demoralising effect on men's character of foreign rule is shown when men, who, because they uphold the English connection, insist on looking at what is a moral question from a party standpoint, find it necessary to defend a public scandal because it is the English soldiers who cause it.

I trust that Irish public opinion will be sufficiently strong on this subject to insist that if the English soldiers cannot behave themselves, the whole of O'Connell street and Westmoreland street, and not only one side of them, as at present, shall be declared out of bounds. I cannot believe that Irishmen will tolerate that the chief streets of Ireland's capital should be unfit for women and children to walk in. I remain, sincerely yours,

MAUD GONNE-MacBRIDE
26 Coulson terrace, Rathgar

General Post Office

**Sackville
(O'Connell)
Street**



**Westmoreland
Street**