

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled Literary Club Papers 2, 1886 – 1887 June 5, '86 to May 21, '87)

## The Tailors Of Tooley Street

Mr. Editor:

It is a well-worn saying that History repeats itself, and one of the authenticated scraps of history hand (sic) down to us, is that once upon a time, not many centuries ago, a number of tailors in Tooley London, (the exact number has never been settled, some historians placing the number at three, and some getting a higher number), concerning that the English government had sorely wronged them, met in solemn conclave, and fulminated a proclamation against the crown, beginning the recital of their grievances with majestic phrase: – "We the people of England." Doubtless the good people of Cincinnati and the members of the Literary Club in particular, owing to their aversion to the prevailing type of news paper journalism in our fair city, are unaware that the Tooley Street incident has been replicated in our midst. I refer Mr. Editor to the meeting held in Milodian Hall last Monday evening, assembled as we are advised by the flaming headlines so characteristic of the modern Western journalism, for the purpose of "Denouncing the Irish Coercion Measure" now pending in the British Parliament, and in which meeting according to the same doughty headlines "the British Lion has his Tail pulled by some vigorous resolutions!! We are informed by the enterprising [ ] that "the meeting was a large one, that it was as enthusiastic as it was large, that it was presided over by his Honor the mayor of the city; that on the stage set the usual number of familiar ex-governors, Honorable generals and colonels some of whom have held office in the past. The real live Governors of the states sent letters of heartfelt sympathy and deeply regretted absence. The report goes on: "In calling the meeting to order Mayor Smith made a very graceful and clever speech. He said that he was glad to see such a large representation of the citizens desired to express their sentiments in regard to the opprobrious coercion Bill of the Tory administration. The liberty loving people of the world over were watching with interest and approval the struggles of the Irish people to attain home rule, a struggle with which the sympathies of the American people at large agree heartily with. There was no country on the face of the earth that would rejoice more to see the [ ] of Ireland than America, a country for which Irish blood in Irish energy had done so much for. The mayor then presented Mr. Blank made a ringing speech that aroused cheer after cheer." "Mr. B – – – – said amongst other good things "we met here tonight, irrespective of party ties, to protest against the outrages of tyranny, and by the action and voice of this meeting of the free people of Cincinnati, to say to Gladstone, the generous, grand Godlike Glenstone that behind him stands the solid column of Cincinnati freeman in his contest with Salisbury the servile, Satanic, savage Salisbury so far as his coercion bill is concerned. (Applause)

This is an old contest" Mr. B continued "between the grasping greedy hungry tyrannical people to eat out the life & substance of those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. It is a contest that commenced in Ireland in the sixteenth century, and which has not yet ceased. It is a contest on the part of the Irish people to regain the land and liberty that was stolen from them simply by the power of might." It would be highly entertaining no doubt, to prolong these quotations. But enough has been given for your reader to catch the strain. Other speeches followed by the Sgt. Buzz fuzzes, the Draw – can – sirs, and Editors of the "Eagle Scream. More letters of regret followed, and therefore "the secretary was instructed to cable Mr. Gladstone of the sentiments expressed at the meeting." But this paper would be incomplete without the whereases and resolutions adopted at this wonderful meeting. And here they are:

"Resolutions."

"Whereas, the Tory administration of England is about to enact for Ireland tyrannical coercive measures that will have the effect of abolishing trial by jury, suspending the habeas corpus act imprisoning in the foulest dungeons thousands of innocent people deprived of the privilege of appeal or redress, transporting suspected persons to an alien country to go through the farce of a trial, suppressing the press & free speech, and in a word, robbing the people of Ireland of all those rights which mankind holds dear and civilization demands: and "Whereas, the Irish people have always been steadfast and faithful friends of American liberty, fighting for its achievement and dying for its preservation, and so bound up by ties of blood and honorable memories that our hearts are greatly moved by their noble struggle for human freedom – be it therefore "Resolved. That we, the citizens of Cincinnati in mass meeting assembled emphatically condemn & energetically protest against the infamous policy of the British Government which we stigmatize as an outrage on liberty justice and humanity. "Resolved. That we cordially sympathize with the people of Ireland in their efforts to secure home rule, in their brave resistance to coercive and spoilitive measures that the Government of Great Britain has been executing upon them, and in their deep and unconquerable purpose to achieve for themselves the rights and privileges of a self governing people for the discharge of the high responsibilities of which history abundantly attests they are fully qualified. "Resolved, That as a people deeply interested in peace and in methods of calm reason, rather than those of material nature & power, we beseech and admonish the present Government of Great Britain to withdraw this cruel & repugnant bill; to desist from their coercive and spoilitive measures, lest they excite to deeds of terrible retaliation a people who have already proved themselves remarkably capable of the great virtue of patience under years of wrongs, yet whose patience may become exhausted. "Resolved. That while we admire the wisdom, bravery and patriotism of the Hon. Chas. Stewart, Parnell and other Irish leaders in their great cause, we desire to express our unqualified approbation of the generous &

noble course of the Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone & other English Liberals in sacrificing power for principal, and in taking the side of right against might. "Resolved. That copies of these resolutions be sent to Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone, Hon. Chas Stuart Parnell & Hon. Lord Salisbury. And may the present Government of Great Britain not prove a signal illustration of the truth of the proverb, Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.""

Observe, Mr. Editor, the sublimity of the first resolution: – "Resolved that we the citizens of Cincinnati, in mass meeting assembled, emphatically condemn" etc. etc. the compiler of this review was not present at the meeting of the tailors in Tooley Street, but we venture the assertion that the tail of the British Lion has not in many a day ached as hard as it did ache on the night of April 25th A.D. 1887, when "We the citizens of Cincinnati pulled that tail. Melodian Hall well filled will seat about 650 persons. On the night in question according to reliable authority, not more than 350 were present and the majority of those were the Irish nationality. Quite a number of the "citizens" present have at some time held the office. Before closing my communication, Mr. Editor, I would in all seriousness inquire: What right has the Mayor of Cincinnati to attend & preside at a meeting of such a character? What right has any public official to give countenance to such ill-tempered & bombastic fulminations? What right has any citizen of the United States to be a participant in such expressions? Perhaps the best answer that can be made, is to place them all on the same plane with the "Three Tailors of Tooley Street."

April 30th 1887 Aaron A. Ferris

Budget

Wald Editor  
April 30, '87