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A Letter from Ireland

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A LETTER FROM IRELAND

READERS of this quarterly will remember that, just a year ago, after Mr. James A. Healy of New York City had presented an inscribed and autographed set of first editions of the books of James B. Connolly to the library, Mr. Connolly himself visited the Colby campus and was present when the Library Associates observed his eightieth birthday. Dean Marriner delivered the memorial address on this occasion, and we were able to present to our readers an abbreviated version of some of the dean's remarks. His entire address was eventually published by the Colby College Press, together with a detailed bibliography of the published writings of Mr. Connolly. Printed by the well-known Anthoensen Press of Portland, this little book carried on its title-page a specially-drawn sketch of a Gloucester fishing vessel, and two portraits of Mr. Connolly, one showing him as the athlete who won the first Olympic contest in modern times, the other as the octogenarian author who came to Colby to see for himself where the Healy Collection was housed.

The bibliography appended to Dean Marriner's book will prove of immense help to those who, having read his comments in these pages, wish to improve their acquaintance with the Connolly books. Readers who wish copies of *Jim Connolly* should address Librarian Humphry.

In the course of the year that has followed, Dean Marriner has received many a compliment on his little book, but none of the letters that have come to him have had for him quite the appeal that a holograph letter from the President of Ireland has had. We are here privileged to share this letter with our readers:

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UACHTARAN NA HEIREANN
(President of Ireland)

BAILE ATHA CLIATH
(Dublin)

Dean Ernest Cummings Marriner,
Colby College,
Waterville, Maine. U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

July 30th 1949

I hope I may be permitted to offer you my very sincere thanks for your great kindness in presenting to me an autographed copy of your excellent appreciation of "Jim Connolly and the Fishermen of Gloucester" with its valuable bibliography.

This welcome gift brought me real pleasure. I have read your appreciation with the keenest interest and much enjoyment. If I may say so without impertinence, I found the quality of its writing quite distinctive.

I was made happy too by the knowledge that our friend Jim Connolly was receiving this splendid tribute while still spared to us—so many such tributes are unfortunately delivered when those to whom they should bring most pleasure have been called to their reward. Certainly your touching words must have brought much joy to the octogenarian heart of Jim Connolly.

Be assured, kind sir, that we here in Ireland, the land of Jim's forebears, are grateful to you and those of your friends of Colby College who associated themselves with you in this gracious gesture to this noble hearted, high minded child of our blood, whose gifted writings have won him such fame in your Land of Liberty and home of generosity.

With apologies for this intrusion,
I have the honor to remain
gratefully and sincerely yours,
SEAN O'KELLY



A VISIT TO MAX GATE

By WALTER PEIRCE

IN the summer of 1909 I found myself for the third time in Casterbridge. In 1906 I had first visited it and had explored the ancient town itself, and Pummery Camp and Maiden Castle and the Ring. I had tramped Egdon Heath and discovered Bloom's End and Mistover and Rainbarrow and the cottage in the pines where Clym and Eusta-