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Ancient Order of Hibernians (United States)

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1874

## Rhode Island

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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**Bishop Hendricken's Decision and How It is Received by the Order.—Early Opposition Movements.—Two Thousand Hibernians in Rhode Island; 800,000 in the Whole Country.**

426 1874 p. Journal

The report in the JOURNAL and BULLETIN of St. Rev. Dr. Hendricken, at the Cathedral on Sunday, 12th inst., in regard to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, has stirred the members of that Order to a very considerable degree, and the comments are general but of the same tenor, viz.: An emphatic non-concurrence in the views taken by the Bishop. A reporter had an interview with a leading Hibernian, Saturday, relative to the disagreement, and learned his views of the character and standing of the Order. He expressed himself greatly surprised that at this late day Bishop Hendricken should pronounce his disapprobation of the Order which has existed for years and years, not alone in this country but in Ireland.

**REPORTER**—It has been stated that at a previous period the Order was unfavorably alluded to, and its out-growth from the "Molly Maguire's" charged.

**HIRERNIAN**—True, the order encountered some opposition heretofore, but its origin is wholly mistaken. Father Fitzpatrick, of Westerly, was the first clergyman to condemn the order, and then it was because of some local differences.

**REPORTER**—Is Bishop Hendricken the first Bishop who has spoken against the order?

**HIRERNIAN**—No. Bishop McFarland once time condemned this order, and such was the effect of his action at the time that the divisions here disbanded. On another occasion one of the clergymen in this city positively refused to allow a division of the order to enter his church with their regalia on; they might enter as individuals in citizens' dress, but not as a society in their regalia. An appeal was taken to the Bishop, but there was no deviation from the course. Even last St. Patrick's Day, the Divisions of the Order would not be allowed within the churches with their regalia and paraphernalia.

**REPORTER**—Has not the Order been recognized by the clergy on the occasions of public demonstrations and religious festivals?

**HIRERNIAN**—Yes and welcomed, too, when their presence gave prestige to such turnouts and afforded substantial assistance to the church authorities in their respective enterprises.

**REPORTER**—The Bishop and clergy seem to base their opposition to the order upon its alleged secret nature. Is it of the character they charge?

**HIRERNIAN**—In nearly all cases of opposition to our institution, there has been a misapprehension as to its true nature, and but few understand its workings. It is totally opposite to the "Molly Maguires," an organization of the past, for they existed in Ireland, and their movements were rather of an aggressive nature, for the protection of the people against the merciless persecution of unjust landlords and other tyrants under the English government. The main feature of our Order is mutual benevolence, a brotherly desire to help one another, and at the same time to cherish the memories and associations of Fatherland. Our constitution expressly states that no one but a Catholic Irishman or son of Irish parents can join the order and it is exclusively of this character. We have our signs in token of recognition, but no such secrecy as that which exists among Free Masons or other associations condemned by the Church. Organizations of like nature in the past have been oath-bound, but no oath is taken by the members of this order.

**REPORTER**—How many members of the Order are there in this State and to what extent is the membership throughout this country?

**HIRERNIAN**—There are probably about 2,000 members in this State and in the entire country; the Order numbers about 800,000. The mutual benefit of the Order is seen, when a member can secure recognition and aid in any part of the country where there is a division established. Sick and destitute cases are relieved, and all burials attended to by the Order. With a sign for recognition known only to the Order, no member can be imposed upon.

**REPORTER**—What, think you, will be the probable effect of the Bishop's decision?

**HIRERNIAN**—In the present advanced state of the order I am of the opinion that the Bishop will attempt to break it up, or seriously interfere with its workings. Should he persist in his adverse attitude the only remedy would be an appeal to higher authority, the Archbishop of New York, who has not placed himself in opposition to it. An examination of our constitution will reveal that which must not only be in accord with the teachings of the Catholic church, but must not be in opposition to the approval of all Christians.

BOSTON, APRIL 25, 1874.

GIVE Catholics their full rights; ask nothing of them you would not willingly concede if you were in their place.—Journal of Commerce, a leading non-Catholic daily paper of New York.

## The A. O. H. Condemned for Secrecy.

At High Mass on Sunday, the 12th inst., the Rt. Rev. Dr. Hendricken, Bishop of Providence, stated that inquiries having been made to him as to whether a Catholic could belong to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, he wished to publicly announce that Catholics cannot without violating the rules of the Church, belong to the Order, such as exists in Ireland, branches of which are established in this country, on account of its secret character. The Church has condemned all secret associations, and cannot consistently countenance or tolerate this society, known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Providence Journal says: "This announcement of the Bishop has caused a great sensation in the Catholic community, the order thus virtually condemned being here very widespread and powerful. It has been privately hinted, and even by some openly asserted, for some time past, that the Bishop was opposed to the existence of this Order, with its secret regulations, but it was confidently stated by many members that while he could not conscientiously recognize the Order, yet he would not go so far as to publicly speak against it, because of its Irish and Catholic nature. This feeling became so generally prevalent that some persons, disposed to join the order, resolved to get the Bishop's opinion as to it before taking this step, and the statement made at the Cathedral is regarded as an authoritative and final answer to these inquiries, and settles the standing of the Order in relation to the Church. There are no less than four teen Divisions of the Order in Rhode Island, several of these being located in Providence, and the decision of the Bishop, it is believed, will have the ultimate effect of disbanding them or causing the removal of the injunction of secrecy imposed upon the members. The Order is national and benevolent in its character, and extends throughout the country."



4/14/1874

April 16 1874

MAY?

**THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS CON-  
DEMNED BY BISHOP HENDRICKEN FOR SE-  
CRET.—**At High Mass, Sunday, Rt. Rev. Dr.  
Hendricken stated that inquiries having been  
made to him as to whether a Catholic could belong  
to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, he wished to  
publicly announce that Catholics cannot, without  
violating the rules of the Church, belong to the  
Order, such as exists in New York and Ireland,  
branches of which are established in this State, on  
account of its secret character. The Church has  
condemned all secret associations and cannot con-  
sistently countenance or tolerate this Order  
known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

This announcement of the Bishop has caused a  
great sensation in the Catholic community, the  
order thus virtually condemned being here very  
wide-spread and powerful. It has been privately  
hinted, and even by some openly asserted, for  
some little time past, that the Bishop was opposed  
to the existence of this order, with its secret regu-  
lations, but it was confidently stated by many  
members of the order that while he could not con-  
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go so far as to publicly speak against it, because of  
its Irish and Catholic nature. This feeling became  
so generally prevalent that some persons disposed  
to join the order, resolved to get the Bishop's  
opinion of it before taking their step, and the  
statement made at the Cathedral is regarded as an  
authoritative and final answer to these inquiries,  
and settles the standing of the order in relation to  
the church.

There are at present no less than fourteen  
Divisions of the Order in this State, several of  
these being located in Providence, and the de-  
cision of the Bishop, it is believed, will have  
the ultimate effect of disbanding them or  
causing the removal of the injunction of  
secrecy imposed upon the members. The  
Order is national and benevolent in its char-  
acter and extends throughout the country.

#### A. O. H.

To the Editor of Providence Journal and Bulletin:

In the BULLETIN of last evening I noticed an  
article relative to the Ancient Order of Hibernians  
as being denounced by the Roman Catholic Bishop  
here, for secrecy, &c., and as a society acting in  
non-conformity with the rules of the Roman  
Catholic Church establishment. Now, sir, if the  
Bishop of Providence regarded the A. O. H. as an  
organization detrimental to the interests of the  
Roman Catholic Irishmen, why, as none others can  
be admitted, did he not straightforwardly two  
years ago state that the order was not one which  
a Catholic could consistently belong to? Why did  
not Cardinal Cullen, of Dublin, refer to the order  
in his last pastoral. He denounces Masons,  
Odd Fellows, Fenians and Ribbonmen, but never  
alludes to the A. O. H., and they are as plenty in

Dublin as in Providence. No, sir; but we received  
the sanction and approbation of him through his  
priests at fairs and festivals, such as that upon  
his return from Rome, &c. When money was  
required, the A. O. H. were a fine body of Irish-  
men, but our treasures being drained almost,  
after a hard winter, doing what no other Society  
in the State could do in uniting Irishmen in  
friendship and brotherly love, we are now told  
we are an organization contrary to the laws of  
the Roman Catholic Church and its doctrines.  
A short time ago, previous to St. Patrick's  
day, the Rt. Rev. Bishop also made unplea-  
sant allusions to the order, and yet on St.  
Patrick's day, we had the pleasure of  
being reviewed by him at his residence,  
together with several of the clergy. On the occa-  
sion referred to, in speaking before St. Patrick's  
day, he said that when in Ireland he made in-  
quiries and found that the organization was one  
that sprung from a gang of men known as "Molly  
Maguires." Now these, Mr. Editor, were nothing  
more than a band of desperados who never had  
the sanction of true Irishmen, and who took their  
name from the woman in whose house they used  
to meet in White Hall, county Roscommon. It  
originated in the commencing years of this  
present century, and was extinct in 1855 or 1856.  
But the A. O. H. were in existence for centuries,  
and wherever there is a descendant of a true  
Irish family you will generally find a member of  
the order. Most of your readers well remember  
when, thirty or forty years ago, railroads were  
then fast building and Irishmen largely employed,  
the Corky and the Fardown and the Connaught-  
man were distinct and separate nationalists in  
spirit and conduct, with feelings bitter as gall one  
to the other. The progress of the A. O. H. in  
this country has brought these men together in  
friendship and brotherly love and clasped  
the hands of Irish Catholics more firmly  
together than they have ever been before.  
for in each division of the order, you will find rep-  
resentatives from every county in Ireland, work-  
ing hand-in-hand for the advancement of one an-  
other, for their religion and the common cause of  
their down-trodden and unfortunate country,  
they being now firmly impressed with the truth of  
the motto, "In unity there is strength." Take,  
for example, the precept of some of our dead  
heroes, or our living martyrs for Ireland's cause.  
What is their motto? "Irishmen unite," was the  
advice of the great Father Matthew, of Emmett,  
Wolfe Tone, Smith O'Brien, Meagher (whose  
bones the Almighty God was pleased to commit to  
the sandy bottom of the Mississippi, and whose  
valor during the late rebellion will long be re-  
membered after we shall have passed to eternity).  
Then look at the life-long labors of O'Connell,  
who traversed the length and breadth of Ireland,  
cementing and uniting Irishmen, to try by unity of  
action—to obtain from a foreign government that  
which was their right liberty to govern themselves  
—but which was lost to them by the disunion  
of clans, never to be recovered if we now forsake  
what has taken centuries to accomplish. We  
are no less Catholic and will not forsake it  
for further proof that we should be united, look  
at what was said by O'Donovan Rossa, Burke,  
McManus, Luby and O'Leary. And to-day look  
at Ireland and see the star of the Irish bar, Isaac  
Butt, with the Catholic bishops and priests, Protest-  
ant and Presbyterian ministers, and all working  
assiduously for the unity of Irishmen of all creeds  
and denominations, live as one people, and bury  
forever all religious animosities beneath their feet,  
and this is what we Irish in America must come  
to, a blessing which I hope is not far distant when  
the banners of the A. O. H. may be proudly up-  
held to wave in the free and independent breeze  
of America.

AN IRISH CATHOLIC HIBERNIAN.  
Providence, April 14th, 1874.



# The Courant

Saturday Morning, April 25, 1874.

President Grant did another excellent act Wednesday, in addition to his veto, in his telegram to Governor Baxter of Arkansas, advising the disbanding of the troops and a resort to the legislature or the courts for a peaceful settlement of the political troubles in the state.

The wide-spread disaster caused by the overflowing of the Mississippi calls upon the sympathy and humanity of the whole nation for the immediate relief of the thousands of sufferers. To be effective the assistance should be furnished intelligently, and for this purpose a more detailed account of the needs of the sufferers would be desirable.

The *Hitchfield Sentinel* renews its onslaught upon the registry law. It frankly says that after beginning its attack it was induced to haul off until after election on account of the timidity of the *Hartford Times* and *New Haven Register*, which feared that votes might be lost by agitation. Now that "meeting is out," however, and the democracy are to run the machine, the *Sentinel* announces that it will be satisfied with nothing but the annihilation of the law.

Bishop Hendricken of Rhode Island, is in disfavor among some of his Catholic people for having expressed his disapprobation of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a benevolent secret organization which has existed for years and has its membership extended throughout this country. The order was condemned several years ago by Bishop McFarland at Providence, and in consequence the divisions in that city were disbanded. At present there seems to be no intention of disbanding, but rather, if Bishop Hendricken persists in his opposition, an appeal will be made to the archbishop of New York, who is supposed to be not hostile to the order.

There is yet no official indication concerning the President's action on the finance bill, but the general impression in Washington is that he will approve it.

Ninety nine years ago yesterday, the event took place at Concord and Lexington, which Emerson thus described in 1836:

By the rude bridge that arched the flood  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

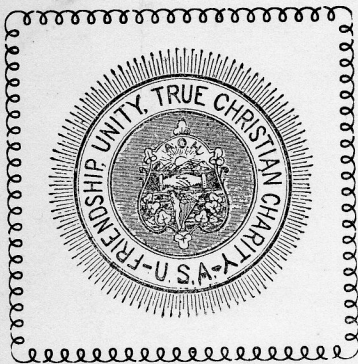
James Stetson, long time the landlord of the Astor House, in the days when it was the leading hotel of New York, and the rendezvous of many of the eminent men of the country, was borne thence to the "narrow house" yesterday.

The members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in New York are disturbed by Bishop Hendricken's recent declarations that membership in the order is inconsistent with duty to the church. They threaten an appeal to Rome.

The annual report of the Board of Managers of the Home for Aged Women is printed elsewhere in this paper. No one who peruses will be willing that this excellent charity shall languish because of a falling off in subscriptions.

Prin Jones  
Scenery  
Bullfinch  
4/20/1874





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., May 8 1903

James P. Brew, Esq.

Dear Sir & Bros

Am May 14 ✓

Find enclosed circular 120, signed as requested - with thanks for the extra one. I remember of receiving the original but mislaid it somewhere. I have made mention of the 103 members in Dir. 14 in the Circular and trust in doing so I have done right.

Very fraternally yours,

Thos. J. Mathews,

Secy. R. I.

P. S. I ordered 200 constitutions about 10 days ago and have not as yet received them. Will you kindly send same also bill for which I will have the State Treasurer remit.

TJ M



## OFFICE OF THE STATE SECRETARY.

155 Main Street, Pawtucket, R. I.

August 19, 1900.

At a meeting of the State Board of Directors of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of the State of Rhode Island, held in the Journal Hall, Providence, R. I., held for the purpose of considering the troubles existing in and among the membership of the Ladies' Auxilliary of the A. O. H., and referred to the State President for settlement by National President Keating of Chicago and by State President Quinn to the State Board of Directors, the entire Board was present, consisting of State President, John F. Quinn; State Secretary, Thomas O'Brien; State Treasurer, Thomas Madden; County President, John Dillon; County President, Patrick R. Condon and County President, Dennis F. Moore.

After an exhaustive hearing of the evidence presented by both sides to the controversy, lasting from about 11 o'clock in the forenoon until 8 o'clock in the afternoon, and the evidence of the former and present State Presidents, the former and present County Presidents, the State Secretary, some members of the County Board, the Presidents of Divisions 1 and 6 and such others as were presumed to have knowledge of existing disputes.

As a result of the hearing the following was unanimously voted by the members of the State Board of Directors.

*Resolved*, that the organization of Division 6, of the Ladies' Auxilliary, A. O. H. in the month of May, 1900 be, and the same is hereby recognized as legal from and after that date.

*Resolved*, that the standing of Mrs. Bridget Finley, former County President of the Ladies' Auxilliary to the A. O. H. in Providence County be, and the same is hereby declared to be legal, as the acceptance of her resignation in the manner in which it was done was null and void, the body which attempted to accept it not having authority to do so.

*Resolved*, that ex-County President, Mrs. Bridget Finley be, and is hereby directed under pain of suspension to turn over forthwith all money in her possession on account of the first state Convention, to the State Secretary, for the purpose of paying bills of Convention, as ordered by Woonsocket State Convention.

*Resolved*, that the present State Board of Directors of the Ladies' Auxilliary to the A. O. H. be authorized and directed to collect from the Divisions the necessary amount to liquidate all bills incurred for expenses for State Conventions, and pay the same as soon as collected.

*Resolved*, that we recommend that all charges provoking suspensions, growing out of the present troubles, be dismissed within thirty (30) days after notice. In case of failure to comply with this recommendation, the State Board of Directors of the A. O. H. in America reserve the right to make such further recommendation to the National President as they may deem proper. Division Presidents shall report their action immediately to the State President of the A. O. H. in America.

*Resolved*, that County President, Miss B. E. Victory be, and is hereby directed and instructed to transmit to all Divisions in good standing financially in her jurisdiction, the current Merchandise, and failing to do so this State Board reserves the right to advise the National President to take such action for her removal or suspension as may be deemed advisable.

*Resolved*, that copies of the above be printed and mailed to the State President, State Secretary, State Treasurer, County Presidents, ex-County President Mrs. Finley and all Division Presidents of the Ladies' Auxilliary to the A. O. H., in America of the State of Rhode Island.

By order of the State Board,

THOMAS O'BRIEN,

State Secretary, A. O. H.



STATE OFFICERS:  
JOHN F. QUINN, STATE PRESIDENT, PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
THOMAS O'BRIEN, STATE SECRETARY, PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
THOMAS MADDEN, STATE TREASURER, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Office of State Secretary,



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, State Secretary,

PAWTUCKET, R. I.,

June 24<sup>th</sup> 1902

Am July 1

You James P. Bree  
National Secretary A. O. H.  
New Haven. Conn.

Dear Sir & Bro: I greatly to request I return the inclosed list of those entitled to go to the National Convention at Denver. The three state officers at the present time expect to be present, but it is doubtful if any of the County Presidents will attend. I beg to thank You for your promptness in replying to the request of State President Quinn for a ruling about the status of a State or County Officer. I wrote a similar request and I presume you getting both confused you somewhat. Your promptness in bringing the matter to the attention of the National Board and their promptness in deciding has settled the difficulty. It brought the recalcitrants to time and the President signed the report. Bro Dillon accepted it and the Division is reinstated. Now that it is all over I am free to say that it was the Division to which I belong which was affected. I did not want to say so before, as I did not want any decision upon personal grounds. I was glad to notice by the note you wrote the State President that you had decided to be a candidate for National Secretary again. I shall be pleased to vote for you and





Office of State Treasurer,

# ANCIENT ORDER of HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

STATE OFFICERS:  
JOHN F. QUINN, STATE PRESIDENT, PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
THOMAS O'BRIEN, STATE SECRETARY, PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
THOMAS MADDEN, STATE TREASURER, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

THOMAS MADDEN, State Treasurer,  
140 Dodge Street,

PROVIDENCE, R. I., June 25 1902

Mr James P. Bree N. S.

Dear Sir & Bro,

I am sending the money for the  
goods for Rhode Island

Hopeing you  
are well I remain yours fraternally

Thomas Madden

note from  
6-26-02

recd sent



Am Aug 6

Westerly, R.I.  
July 20<sup>th</sup>/02

Dear Sir & Bro

Our Boy of Div 1.  
would like to have  
some A.O.H Buttons

Could you send me  
a sample of your  
nicest & best. at as  
low a figure as you  
can & Advise me

Truly  
Michael Higgins  
Pres





OFFICE OF  
JOHN W. DORSEY,  
County President.

PRESIDENT—JOHN W. DORSEY,  
1025 Avery Avenue, Syracuse, N. Y.  
VICE-PRESIDENT—JAMES H. HUXFORD,  
Skaneateles, N. Y.

TREASURER—JAMES HAYES,  
614 Lodi Street, Syracuse, N. Y.  
SECRETARY—THOS. J. RYAN,  
668 Madison St., Syracuse, N. Y.

# Ancient Order of Hibernians.

ONONDAGA COUNTY.

Syracuse, N. Y., August 14, 1902

Mr. Janus P. Birr. Natl Secy  
Dear Sir—

I wish you would kindly enlighten me on a question which has caused considerable discussion. It is in reference to that amendment to the Constitution recognizing the County Officers<sup>(5)</sup> in the State Conventions and the State Officers<sup>(5)</sup> in the National Convention. When does that amendment go into effect? Before the coming conventions or after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. I have the impression that you offered a substitute that the above mentioned part of that article should take effect after the State Conventions and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> was finally agreed on. Your State President rules that all County Officers (President, Vice P., Secy, Treas. & Chaplain) are entitled to seats in the coming State Convention. Kindly let me know as soon as possible and greatly oblige  
Yours fraternally  
John W. Dorsey.



STATE OFFICERS:  
JOHN F. QUINN, STATE PRESIDENT, PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
THOMAS O'BRIEN, STATE SECRETARY, PAWTUCKET, R. I.  
THOMAS MADDEN, STATE TREASURER, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Office of State Secretary,



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, State Secretary,

PAWTUCKET, R. I., Aug 18" 1902

Hon James P. Bree  
National Secretary A.O.H.  
New Haven Conn.

Dear Doug 19

My Dear Bree: ~ I am glad to note by the issuance of blanks by the New Haven Evening Register that you arrived home safely from Denver and have brought to book that prejudging member of the Board of Arbitration H. J. Ives. That is the way to follow them up. I congratulate you on your promptness. I inclose you return of State officers of the A.O.H. elected at the State Convention held at Newport last Wednesday. You will observe that they have made a "clean sweep" of us. I met Brother Thomas Madden yesterday at the Unity Convention and he desired me to ask you to send him a copy of the Resolutions of the National Convention as I told him I was going to write to you today. On account of the pleasant official relations between us for the past two years or more I regret that this note will be the last occasion I will have to correspond with you in such capacity. I hope though that when occasion demands from time to time that will be enabled to keep in touch with each other. I will always have a kindly remembrance of your courtesy and generosity in your dealings with me and I trust that in my two years I may have done nothing that would cause you to wish



for a termination of our official connection.

While I did not succeed during my term of office in the State Secretariate in getting you down here to Rhode Island on account of your throat trouble as you explained to me in Denver. I hope that when you are relieved by your physician from the obligation of "keeping your mouth shut" that you will let the memory of State Secretary D'Brien intercede for Bro D'Brien to get you over here when we can arrange time and place satisfactory to you and us. As a slight reminder of my existence I send you under another cover a photo which I think is more polished than I am actually. I remain

Fraternally yours

Thomas D'Brien

P. S. I recently forgot to report to you that a new Division of the Order was formed in Providence R.I. in July which is known as Division # 19. This makes twenty (20) divisions now in the State.

Yours

Thos D'Brien

State Secretary



## CONSCIOUS IN WATER

*Aug 29.*  
**rd Fanning Has Narrow Escape From Drowning.**

ard Fanning, who lives at 39 Mc-  
gh street, and is employed at the  
al and Providence mills on Valley  
narrowly escaped drowning yes-  
afternoon. He was at work near  
r back of the mill and accident-  
ell into the water. In falling he  
in contact with some heavy object  
s rendered insensible. He sank  
the surface and was almost  
ed when rescued by a bystander.  
of Fanning's ribs was broken and  
s attended by Dr. N. C. Milan.

## BIENNIAL COUNTY CONVENTION.

**H. Ladies Auxiliary Met Thurs-  
Afternoon in Wanskuck.**

5 o'clock Thursday, immediately  
the state convention of the ladies'  
ary of the Ancient Order of Hi-  
ans, at Wanskuck, the Providence  
y convention of the order was  
to order. County President Miss  
Victory called the convention to

s B. E. Victory then made a re-  
covering a period of twenty-seven  
hs, showing that the total mem-  
in Providence county is 279. The  
ce of cash on hand in the joint  
on treasury funds is \$1,112. The  
pts of the county board during that  
were \$202.96, and the expenses

. election of officers for the ensu-  
two years followed and after a  
lively contests resulted as follows:  
y president, Miss B. E. Victory of  
city; county vice-president, Mrs.  
ley of Woonsocket; county secre-  
Miss Nellie Keneally of Provi-  
; county treasurer, Miss Murray  
oonsocket; county board, Mrs. Pe-  
Finley, Mrs. Thomas Moran, Mrs.  
ey and Miss Annie Doherty of  
idence, and Miss Buckley and Mrs.  
psey of Woonsocket. The election  
haplain was left in the hands of  
county officers till after the mem-  
receive copies of the new constitu-

P. John Dillon of Valley Falls, S.  
Thomas J. Mathews and County  
ident Terence P. Oates acted as  
rs at both conventions.  
ate President Mrs. Patrick J. Ken-  
y installed the new officers of the  
ty and state conventions and the  
O. H. men had the pleasure of es-  
ing them to their respective posi-  
s.

was decided by unanimous vote  
the 1904 convention of Providence  
ty be held at Newport.  
the conclusion of the session in-  
sting addresses were delivered by  
y of the members of the new  
ty officers, after which the con-  
tion adjourned till August, 1904.  
the proceedings of the state conven-  
which took place yesterday after  
Telegram went to press, were as  
ows:

the new officers were installed by  
te President John Dillon in a very  
ressive manner.  
ewport was selected as the place  
ere the next biennial state conven-  
a will be held in 1904. Thanks were  
dered Miss Annie Doherty for her  
vices as secretary of the convention.  
hanks were also tendered State Pres-  
nt John Dillon, County President  
rence P. Oates, State Secretary

reckoned as a second-class battleship.  
The old Maine was destroyed Feb. 15,  
1898.

*Aug 23 1902*

## DAUGHTERS OF ERIN DISAGREE.

**Two Members of the Organiza-  
tion Are Involved in a Suit  
for Alleged Slander.**

A suit which had its origin in an  
organization known as the Daughters  
of Erin, has been entered at the clerk's  
office of the Common Pleas Division of  
the Supreme Court, and Bridget Finley  
seeks to recover from Margaret Duffy  
the sum of \$1000 for slander.

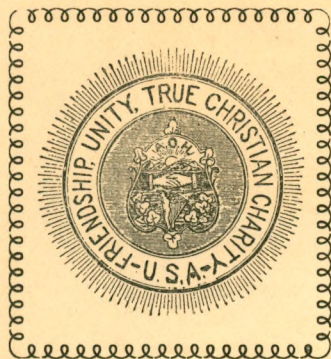
The declaration filed with the clerk  
alleges that the plaintiff was a member  
of the society or association known as  
the "Daughters of Erin," an auxiliary  
of a society known as the "Ancient  
Order of Hibernians," and had been  
Treasurer of the same. That the de-  
fendant, "contriving to injure the plain-  
tiff in her good name, fame and reputa-  
tion, and to bring her into public scan-  
dal," etc., on the second day in August,  
caused it to be believed that the plain-  
tiff was guilty of larceny in accusing  
her of robbing the "treasury" of all but  
four cents.

The plaintiff brings suit to recover  
\$1000 damages through P. J. McCarthy  
of this city.

## AT HUNT'S MILLS.

**Annual Outing of Councils of De-  
gree of Pocahontas.**





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

IN AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, County President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND.

Valley Falls, R. I., Aug 14 1902

Ans Aug 15

Hon James P. Bree

Dear Sir and Bro

As the County Convention of Providence County is to take place on Next Sunday I would be pleased if you will inform me by return mail what offices we should elect at that convention. Can we elect six members of a county Board as we have in past years. please give me all the information you possibly can in that line Bro Bree. I was certainly pleased when I heard of your unanimous re-election as National Secretary please accept my congratulations trusting higher honors await you we held our State Convention Aug 13th in Newport and there was a complete change of officers the following Bros. been elected to the respective offices

State President John Dillon Valley Falls R. I.  
State Vice President Michael J Burke Westerly R. I.  
State Secretary Thos J Matthews 1851 Westminster Providence





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

IN AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, County President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND.

Valley Falls, R. I., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

State Treasurer John Bannon 427 Prairie Ave Providence  
State Chaplain Rev M P Cassidy Valley Falls R.I.

Trusting you are enjoying good  
Health I remain

Yours Truly  
John Dillon



BUSINESS CARDS

BILL HEADS

ENVELOPES

LETTER HEADS

J. H. &amp; T. J. MATHEWS.

COMMERCIAL AND SOCIETY PRINTERS,

1851 WESTMINSTER STREET.

COUPON TICKETS

BALL PROGRAMS

DODGERS

CIRCULARS



Providence, R. I., Aug. 25 1902

Mr. James P. Brew,

Dear Sir Bro:-

Find enclosed list of Division 11, Members as handed to me by the Fin. Sec. William Ford. He states that many of the members are not receiving a copy of the *Hibernian* regularly. Constitutions received.

Fraternally Yours,  
Thomas J. Mathews  
State Sec.





Division 14  
Providence R.I.  
Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 1902

Mr Jas P. Bree Nat. Secy,

Dear Sir A. Bree

I would be very thankful to you if you would send me one of the new constitution before Sunday Sept 7 we meet on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sept.

Yours sincerely  
Truly

OWEN MCGOVERN

Finn. Secy,  
114 Hospital St

sent  
Sept 4



Am. S. S.

Providence R. I.  
Sep 4 - 1902

James P Bree. Esq

Dear Sir & Bro.

Kindly Forward to me a copy  
of the new constitution. I have  
been instructed by my Dir  
to write for a copy. we have by-  
laws drawn up. ready to be printed  
but we are anxious to see what  
changes has been made before  
Printing

Please send me a copy as soon  
as possible

And oblige.

Yours Fraternially

Michael J Flynn

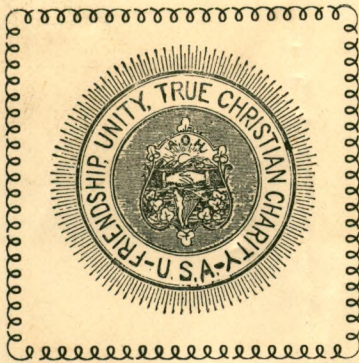
Fin Sec

Dir 18. a OH

Providence R I

53 Lockwood St





OFFICE OF

# Division 18, Ancient Order Hibernians,

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND. *See Sept 9*

REGULAR MEETING SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

IN LIBERTY HALL, 27 MARKET SQUARE.

Providence, R. I., *Sept 8* 1902

James P. Bree Esq. National Sec.

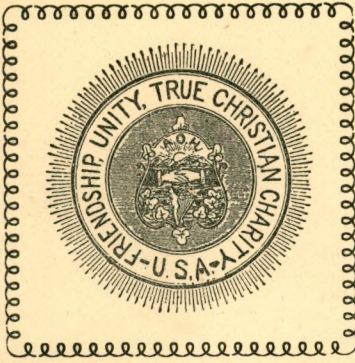
Dear Sir & Bro

I have been instructed by my Dir to order  
# 300 New Constitutions for its members.  
I am in doubt as to where to procure them  
whither is it through you or our State Sec  
or will this order be sent C. O. D. or otherwise  
will you please inform me

and oblige yours Fraternally

Michael J. Flynn  
53 Lockwood St. Prov R I  
Financial Sec. Dir 18 AOH





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., Sept. 17 1902

James P. Drew, Esq.,

Dear Sir & Bro:-

*Am Sept 18 apply paid.*

In your last letter you stated that you had secured the agency for this section of a surety company for the issuing of bonds for State and County officers. I have consulted with the County Officers and we have decided to have you secure the same for us. Namely:-

Thomas J. Mathews, State Sec. 1851 Westminster St. Prov.  
John Bannan, " Treas. 427 Prairie Avenue. Prov.  
Terrence P. Cates, Co. Pres. 964 Branch Avenue, Prov.  
William Doyle, Co. Treas. Saylesville, R.I.

Constitutions, Resolutions, Etc received. would prefer to have you correspond to my business address if agreeable as I can handle it better. If you need any further information kindly advise me. Very Fraternally yours.

Thos. J. Mathews, State Sec  
1851 Westminster St.  
Prov. R.I.





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., Oct 20 1902

Mr. James P. Boce

Dear Sir an Brother  
enclosed you will find ten dollars for  
the State dues I am late in sending  
it will soon come again

Yours Fraternally  
John Bannan  
State Treas

rec'd  
sent Oct. 21.



WILLIAM M. P. BOWEN  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

GENERAL AGENT AND ATTORNEY FOR RHODE ISLAND OF  
THE AMERICAN BONDING AND TRUST COMPANY  
OF BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND.  
STANDING MASTER IN CHANCERY, NOTARY PUBLIC,  
CORPORATIONS. ESTATES. COLLECTIONS.

TELEPHONE 3688-4 UNION.

CABLE ADDRESS,  
BOW.

ROOM 941 BANIGAN BUILDING, 10 WEYBOSSET STREET,

PROVIDENCE, R. I. Nov. 9, 1902.

James P. Bree, esq., National Secretary A. O. H.,  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Your favour of yesterday is received.

While the money part may not be so important, yet I would like to again call attention to my suggestion that the last State Convention not having been held so as to give Division 6 an opportunity to participate, would it not be proper - in having another State Convention now - to hold it without charging Division No. 6 with ALL the expense.

The partial adjustment may be all right as far as it goes, but it leaves Division No. 6 unrepresented for the next two years and its existence in view of that fact and it not having received proper treatment at the last State Convention, is somewhat problematical, if the injustice cannot be fully corrected.

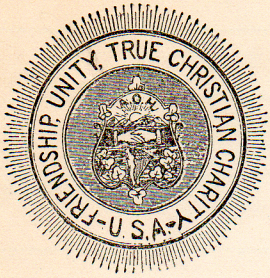
I remain, very truly yours,

*William M. P. Bowen*



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.



JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., March 25 1903

James P. Bree, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Find enclosed list of Division Officers also list of members of Newport and Westerly Divisions for the "Hibernian". Division 6 of Worcester has not as yet sent their list of Officers, will forward as early as possible. In my report which I sent in a separate envelope you will notice where the deficit in members occur, namely: Division 14, it seems that they gave in the total number that had been initiated up to the time of sending in their report whether in good standing or not, some did not say anything except their Initiation Fee. Your statement coming with the Mase. as to our leaving a balance of \$5.75 on account of the above will be filed until the next National Convention as you suggested unless acted upon sooner by the National Board.

Fraternally Yours,

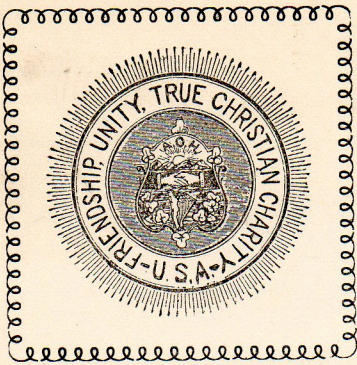
Thomas J. Mathews

T. J. Mathews



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.



JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., *April 7* 1903

*James P. Burr, Esq.*

*Dear Sir!*

*Find enclosed names of officers of Division No. 6 of Woonsocket just received for the Directory. I would like to have a set of Rituals as we expect to form a new Division here this month. also a few for 3 officers of old Divisions who have changed Degree offices - and have no Rituals for them.*

*24 Rituals  
sent 4-18-03*

*Fraternally Yours,  
Thos J Mathews.*



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

TERRENCE P. OATES, County President.  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN N. CONROY, County Vice-President,  
Central Falls, R. I.

JOHN J. REVENS, Jr. County Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
WILLIAM COYLE, County Treasurer,  
Saylesville, R. I.

Providence, R. I., April 23 1903

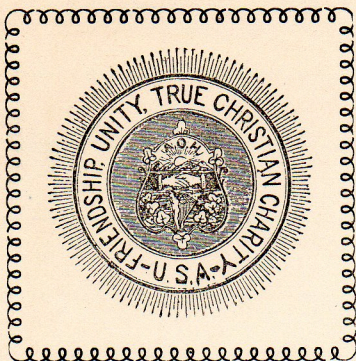
*Ans 4/25*

*James P. Bru Esq U.S.*

Dear Sir Brother

*Respectfully*  
request you to send me by return mail the following  
Information as I have been asked the question by  
Several of the Officers of Divisions and want to be in a  
position of answering correctly on next Sunday Evening  
In the Organization of a Division by a County President  
what portion of Ritual shall he read to the Candidates for  
membership for in the new ritual the obligations of the  
first degree is supposed to be given by the Patrician  
the matter does not seem clear to me. And also what word  
should be given the brothers so Obligated is it the regular  
current pass word of the order or of the first degree  
By sending me this information you will Oblige very much  
Respectfully & Internally Yours  
Terrence P. Oates C.P.





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.



THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., *May 9* 1903

*Am May*

*James P. Brew, Esq.*

*Dear Sir & Brother:-*

Your letter requesting the filling out of Circular 120, in reply would state that I have been unable to find the Circular you mention. But if you will be kind enough to send me one I will attend to its filling out at once. Hoping this will be satisfactory I am

*Fraternally Yours,*  
*Thomas J. Mathews*



THOMAS RILEY, JR.,  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,  
210 MAIN STREET.

PAWTUCKET, R. I.

May 15, 1903.

Hon. James P. Bree-

National Secretary,

New Haven, Conn.

*Done May 25*

Dear Sir & Brother:-

Enclosed please find copy of charges which have been preferred by Terence P. Oates, County President of the A. O. H. for Providence County, against James J. Aldsworth, President of Division 1, A. O. H. of Pawtucket. The charges speak for themselves, and save a sentence therein which has been taken from the constitution of the order contains nothing which would apprise the brother who has been suspended of the charge upon which his suspension has occurred. Upon said charges if such they can be called, the brother cannot safely proceed to trial as he cannot know what charge he will be called upon to disprove.

We claim that the action of the County President in this matter is illegal, inasmuch, as no charges have been presented to him, that no charges have been presented to the brother who has been suspended, and that the time for the hearing of the pretended charges has been fixed by the County President and not by the County Board as the constitution would seem to require.

Would it be asking too much if we should request you to inform The County President, that he must proceed in the way the constitution points out, and not upon his own initiative.

Fraternally yours

*Thomas Riley, Jr.  
Division 1, A. O. H.  
Council for James Aldsworth*



HUGH J. CARROLL,

..ATTORNEY AT LAW..

SLATER BANK BUILDING,

Pawtucket, - - R. I.

Sub. June 11  
ref. to N.P.

June 10<sup>th</sup>

1903

✓  
Jas. P. Bruce Esq.  
Nat. Sec. A.O.H.  
Mr. Harry Ann.

Am June 20

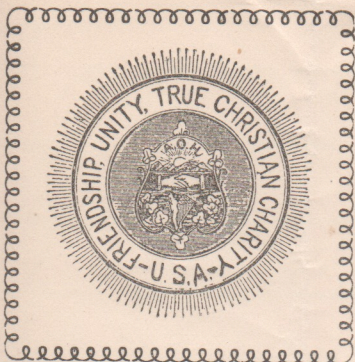
re Dolan letter  
of June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Dear Sir & brother:- A question has arisen in Div. 1, here as to the right of the division to write with other Irish National Societies and other divisions of the A.O.H. in a public commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Emmet, by a lecture or something of that kind. My opinion having been asked, I advised that, as the Preamble states the "intent and purpose of the Order" to be amongst other things, "for the advancement of the principles of Irish Nationality" and as the commemoration of Emmet's sacrifice would certainly tend to such advancement, the division had a right to join in the matter if it desired to do so. But members pointed out the provisions of Art. XV. of the Constitution, which provides that "no Div. shall hold a public entertainment... for any other purpose than the legitimate business of the Order, without the consent of County Officers. My opinion in reference to this was that it is the legitimate business of the Order to "advance the principles of Irish Nationality" and therefore no such permission was needed.

Do you think I am right?

Yours truly & fraternally  
H. J. Carroll





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., June 12 1903

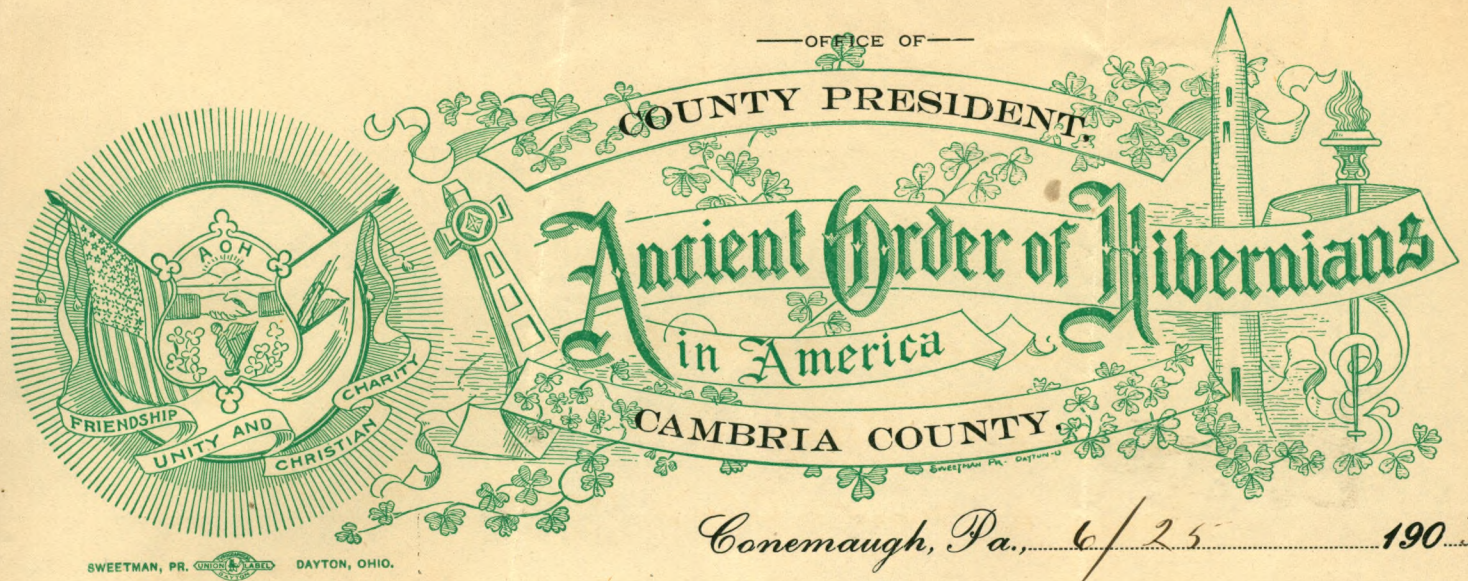
Abr James P Bree, Nat. Sec.

Dear Sir & Bro:-  
enclosed you will <sup>find</sup> check for  
ten dollars and 50<sup>cts</sup> \$10.50  
on account of dues.

Fraternally Yours  
John Bannan State Treas

receipt sent  
June 14.





Mr James P. Bree National Secy.

Dear Sir & Bro. I received Charter but Buttons  
has not arrived

I was at Post Office and Express today inquiring  
about them

hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours Fraternally

James O'Farrell C.P.

Buttons sent  
June 29.



COUNTY BOARD OF NEWPORT,

P. R. CONDON, County President.  
JOHN FAGAN, County Vice President.  
EDWARD SULLIVAN, County Sec'y.  
WM. H. FINN, County Treasurer.



# Ancient Order of Hibernians,



IN AMERICA.

*See July 1  
card sent*  
Newport, R. I., June 30 1903

James P. Bree National Sec. A. O. H.  
Dear Sir & Bro.  
Please send me 2 Doz Transfer and  
2 Doz. Traveling Cards  
and Oblige yours in A. O. H.

P. R. Condon  
County President  
Newport Co.

"M O no 3"





2

1c



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.

# POSTAL CARD.

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mr. James T. Bree,  
# 902 Chapel St.,  
New Haven  
Conn.



PROVIDENCE, R. I. *July 13* 1903.

Your favor of *July 10th* received. Order  
will have prompt attention and forwarded within *7* days.

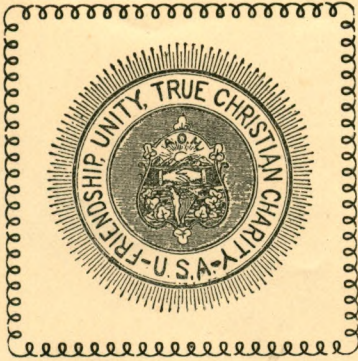
Thanking you for favors received, we are,

Very respectfully,

THE W. J. FEELEY CO.

Per *C. B. S.*





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., July 13 1903

James T. Brew, Esq.

Dear Sir & Bro:-

State President Dillon

and myself will call on you Wednesday  
of this week about 11-30 or 12 providing,  
you will be at home. Kindly let us know  
by wire if you will be out of town.

Very fraternally Yours,

Thomas J. Mathews

*S. Sec*

Per. G. J.



Copy of Letter Received Feb 23 - 1904

Pawtucket R.I

February 22 - 1904

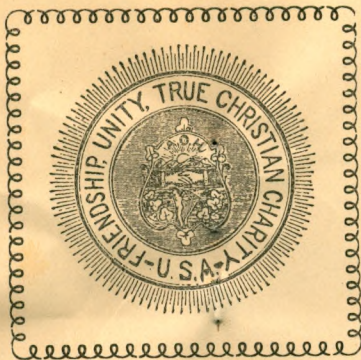
Mr. Terence P Oatis

County President A.O.F.

Dear Sir and Brother

Your  
Communication of February 16<sup>th</sup>  
received and contents carefully  
noted. I would say in reply  
that our annual Report has been  
sent to National Secretary Bree  
about the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1904  
acting under instructions from  
National President Dolan he says  
for the present you may correspond  
direct with the National Secretary  
or with this Office. forwarding  
such reports and Communications





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

TERRENCE P. OATES, County President,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN N. CONROY, County Vice-President,  
Central Falls, R. I.



JOHN J. REEVES, Jr. County Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
WILLIAM COYLE, County Treasurer,  
Saylesville, R. I.

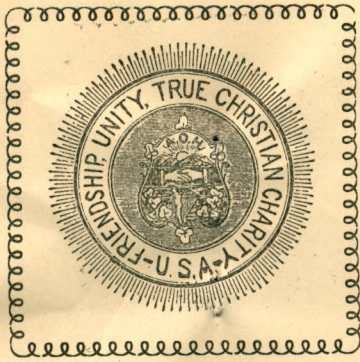
Providence, R. I., February 26 1904

Mr James P. Bruce National Secretary A.O.H

Dear Sir & Brother

Your Communication received calling for an assessment of 30¢ on all members in Providence County. Why you should send me such a notice is beyond my comprehension, I have no authority to issue such a call in this State unless indorsed by the State Officers of Rhode Island. all such Communications in the past have come through the regular channels and have always met with prompt action. I shall be most willing in the future as in the past to do my duty, but must insist that my first duty is to my Superior Officers of this State and when instructed by them that this call has come to Rhode Island in a proper manner with their endorsement, I shall hasten to comply. You see by the enclosed copy of a letter how things are being carried on owing to business not being done in the regular manner





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

TERRENCE P. QATES, County President.  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN N. CONROY, County Vice-President,  
Central Falls, R. I.

JOHN J. REVENS, Jr. County Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
WILLIAM COYLE, County Treasurer,  
Saylesville, R. I.

Providence, R. I., \_\_\_\_\_ 190

2

I cannot complete my report as you can readily see. I cannot hereafter do any business unless coming directly from those in authority in this State. The A.O.H. in this state insists that by a unanimous vote at the last Convention the State officers are in full authority and no other member has the right to do any business connected with their office without their sanction and approval. If you will send this Communication calling for the 30¢ per Capita through the regular Channel it undoubtedly will receive prompt attention from those entitled to it. When I in turn will be properly notified and I assure you Sir that I will gladly aid the State Officers in collecting the same at the earliest date possible. I would also state that should you desire a proper Annual report to be made out for this State you will see that the reports are sent to the proper Officer.

Believe me

Very Fraternally Yours

X no 2

Terrence P. Qates C.P.



\$2. cash.

receipt  
4/9/4  
make for affn.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROVIDENCE

Providence, April 7, 1904.

Mr. James P. Bee,

Dear Sir & Bro. —

Enclosed find  
annual report of Div. S. C. & H.  
of Pawtucket, Providence County,  
R. I. This report is sent  
you in accordance with  
instructions received from  
National President James E. Dolan.  
You will also find en-  
closed the sum of two  
dollars, for which we  
would request you to  
forward us a national  
charter. We would be  
greatly obliged to you



Joseph L. Hughes  
President of Div 8. G.O.P.  
271 Main St  
Providence, R.I.

"M." No. 2.

if you could find it  
convenient to send the  
charter so that we may  
have it for Sunday the  
17th inst as that is our  
regular meeting for this  
month and we intend  
to have an interesting  
meeting on that date and  
expect to initiate quite  
a number of candidates.

Extending to you the  
best wishes of our division  
and trusting that difficulties  
existing in this state may  
be speedily and satisfactorily  
adjusted I remain

Fraturnally Yours



# American Insurance Company,

OF NEWARK, N. J.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, AGENT.

Pawtucket, R. I. April 11, 1904.

For James P. Bree

Nat Secy A. O. N. New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Ans  
4/13 -

As you have undoubtedly been advised by Nat. Pres. Dolan I have been appointed by him as Acting State Secretary for Rhode Island, pending the suspension of the State officers. The Acting State Board met yesterday and elected Michael J. Flynn, 229 Richmond Street Providence as Acting County President, pending the suspension of County President Oates. The Acting Board directed me to communicate with you and find out what Divisions in the State have filed their annual reports with you, paid for the same, and for what quarters, and what assessments if any were levied by the National Officers in 1903. No Division in Providence County have had any notice sent them relative to any although I am informed that a 30¢ per capita was levied at your meeting last August. If that is so send me about 25 Copies of the assessment notice. <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ State Board thinks you should officially notify the suspended State officers to turn over their Books ~~over~~ to the Acting State officers. You can consult with National President Dolan on that point as I intend writing him on the matter. I would like to have two keys for the Mdec, one for ~~State~~ Acting State Treas and



# American Insurance Company.

OF NEWARK, N. J.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, AGENT.

Pawtucket, R. I.

one for the Acting County President and one County Copy  
of the ~~Adm~~ for Bro Flynn, unless it has to come through  
Bro Dolan. You will please forward me five copies  
of the National Directory so that we may know whom  
to correspond with in the discharge of our duties.

Hoping you are well, and regretting the foolishness  
(not to use a harsher term) of those who caused all this  
trouble and turmoil over nothing almost, as it did not  
ever reach the dignity of a tempest in a teapot until  
the first trial was held before the County Board.

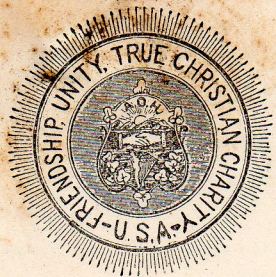
Believe me sincerely and fraternally yours

Thomas O'Brien

Acting State Secretary  
A.D. 187 R.I.

"M. to. 2"





# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.

MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.

JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I., *March 19 1904*

*Mrs. James P. Boee*

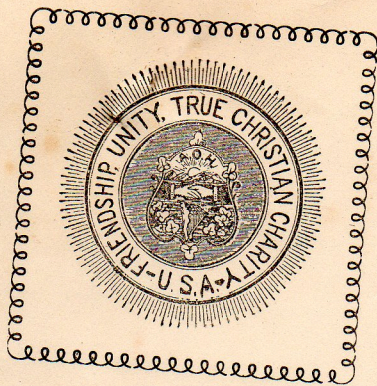
*National Secretary*

*Ans &  
check nt  
4/6/04*

*Dear Sir and Brother Inclosed  
you will find Check for <sup>4</sup>ten dollars  
for the next Merchandise*

*Yours Fraternally,  
John Bannan, Treas.*





# Ancient Order of Hibernians OF AMERICA.

JOHN DILLON, State President,  
Valley Falls, R. I.  
MICHAEL J. BURKE, State Vice-President,  
Westerly, R. I.

THOMAS J. MATHEWS, State Secretary,  
Providence, R. I.  
JOHN BANNAN, State Treasurer,  
Providence, R. I.

Providence, R. I.,

Mr. James P. Bree

Malley Building

New Haven Conn

Dear Sir and Brother

I enclose you will find  
check ten Dollars for next quarters  
mdse

Fraternally yours

John Bannan

190  
Am & chub  
ut. 4/6/04



# American Insurance Company,

OF NEWARK, N. J.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, AGENT.

Pawtucket, R. I. April 22, 1904.

You James P. Brew  
Nat Secy A. I. O. F. New Haven. Conn.

for  
4/23

Dear Sir & Bro's ~

Your kind favor of 20<sup>th</sup> inst received this morning. I am glad to note that you say you have had no official, or, as you put it yourself, no communication with any of the suspended officers, other than the exceptions noted.

I am sure, and I hope you believe, that I would be one of the last persons to try to bring you into this controversy, if it was against your will. My relations with you I always considered were of the best and most friendly character, and I hope they will continue to be so. During the two years that I had official correspondence with you I always found you prompt in giving me any information that I stood in need of, and I hope you will not imagine that any word I may put into any of my correspondence at the present time, in the very unpleasant state of affairs at present is for any purpose except to inform you as to what was being made of your name here, in my opinion, to your detriment, so that you may be on your guard in the future. Bro John A. Quinn, Acting State President is my informant as to the letter referred to in my note of 20<sup>th</sup> inst. It was read at the request of Bro Bates in the meeting of Div 9, Central Falls R. I. on Sunday last and Bro Quinn and Bates were both present. If he has made up a letter as coming from



You I should suppose you would be glad to know it so that you could put a stop to it. Otherwise it will appear to the rank and file of the organization as if the National Officers had no settled policy and were as much divided, as the ranked partisans on the ground here. I recognize the fact that National Officers as well as other people have a right to disagree, but not to carry their disagreements through the organization. I trust this will explain my position in the matter to your complete satisfaction, and that you may not consider me tiresome if I may have to write you more frequently for information than if matters were running smoothly here, or in the ordinary channels.

With kindest regards I remain

Fraternally Yours

Thomas W. Hien

Acting State Secy



Ans 4/29  
with 0.10 am  
and check



Central Falls

April 28. 04 R.I.

M<sup>r</sup> James P Bree N.S

Dear sir & Brother

I am instructed by  
our President John McKenna  
to Forward the National  
Assessment to you as  
There is so much trouble  
among the officers of  
Rhode Island

Enclosed you will find  
an order for \$21.00

Yours faithfully  
James Robinson  
Treas

552 Dexter st  
Central Falls  
R.I.





T. H. CONDERMAN Vice Prest  
WM. MUIR, 2nd Vice Prest

E. C. IRVIN, President.

BENJ. T. HERKNES, Secy  
M. G. GARRIGUES, Asst Secy

# FIRE ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA.

Providence R.I. May 4 " 1904

For James P. Tree

Nat Secy A.O.U.

Dear Sir Bro: ~ Your favor of April 30. inclosing  
cheque in liquidation of Per Capita Tax for Div. 9.  
A.O.U. Providence Co. located in Central Falls. was duly  
received. I thank you for your attention to it, It may be that  
you may receive others and of course you will treat them accordingly.  
Some of the Division Officers find it hard to lower their "pride"  
all at once although they are coming around to see the  
necessity of complying with the orders of the National President's  
orders and the recommendation of the National Directors as  
expressed last August in Philadelphia.

It is amusing to me to hear the pleas of the suspended Officers  
to the different Divisions, telling them that they have a right  
to continue to exercise their functions, because forsooth  
they filed an appeal with you as National Secretary  
immediately after 7 o'clock P.M. on Nov 7. 1903.

Of course I may be mistaken, but I never knew of an  
appeal from a suspension, but only after trial. They claim  
they were convicted without a hearing, when as we all know  
their trial has not yet come before the National Directors.  
The suspended officers are urging such Divisions as they  
have influence with to not only withhold reports but also



payment of Per Capita Tax, assessed by National Board  
and I greatly fear that it will be late when I will be  
able to complete a satisfactory return for your office.  
National President Dolan has made demand on them  
for Books &c to be turned over to Acting State Officers  
but as yet <sup>it</sup> has not been complied with.

Personally, I wished the choice of Acting State Secretary  
had fallen on some other Brother, but as the National  
President (whom I never met only in Denver, and then only had a casual  
introduction to) saw fit to ask me to assist, I felt it was my  
duty to help to keep the organization intact until the  
matter was adjusted by the National Directors or the  
National Convention, if an appeal should be taken there by  
either side.

Brother Quinn and myself are visiting every Division it  
is possible to reach. Bro Madden visits some of the  
Divisions in Providence. The nature of his employment has  
changed during the past year so as to prevent him doing  
any more than Sunday visiting of Divisions. Bro Dulles  
attends as many meetings as he can, but he is at liberty only  
one other week in the evenings.

Trusting this explanation will be satisfactory as far as it goes  
as you asked me some time ago to let you know how  
things were progressing. I remain

Fraternally yours

Thomas D. Quinn  
Acting State Secy.



Recd - 6/8  
2nd Vch 60 Birm

Prov R9 June 7-04

Mr James P. Bree Dear Sir and Bro,  
In compliance with a Wish of Div 18 of this  
City i forward you the Sum of thirty one  
and one half Dollars in payment for  
100 Members at 30 cents a piece and  
one and one half Dollars in payment  
for this Quarters Merchandise making  
a total of  $\$31.<sup>50</sup>/<sub>100</sub>$  as far as we know at  
present all other bills are paid

hoping you are enjoying good health i  
remain yours Fraternally

Thomas F. Murphy 306 Public St- Prov R9



Providence RI May 9-04

Mr James P. Bree N.S Sir and Brother  
I am directed by a vote of Div 18 AGH of  
Providence to write you a letter of enquiry  
concerning the payments of moneys due  
the national assessments and the money  
due for merchandise for this quarter  
Knowing as well as you do the trouble that  
exists amongst our head here and the  
orders issued from head quarters to pay no  
more money to the same We are confounded as  
to what to do to pay through the proper channel  
all moneys due.



i am sorry to say that a feeling exists against  
paying to the newly appointed officers any  
money now due and i have been requested  
to write you and ask your advise as to what  
to do to clear our selves of all trouble  
whether to send all money on to you or to  
pay to who ever you direct

hoping to hear from you at your  
convenience, I Remain yours fraternally

Thomas H. Murphy

306 Public St-

Pro R.R

Treasurer of Div 18 A.H.  
(Thomas P. Scott President)



Adm - 5/25  
sent my checks  
to cutting \$5

Providence R. I.  
May 20. 1904  
James P. Burr. N. S.

Dear Sir and Bro  
Enclosed please find P. O. order  
for 50¢. for April Quarter for  
the Pass word.

All previous Goods came  
from. County President.  
Terence P. Oats. and I  
have paid all bills. for the  
Goods. up to April though His  
Office. also find a check.  
for National Rev Capitol Tax  
amounting to \$27.50

Yours in Friendship  
T. J. Coleman, Treas.  
Div. 12, A. O. M.



for 5/25

Prod RD May 20-04

Mr James P. Bree N S Sir and Brother  
again i Write you a letter of enquiry concerning  
the payment of the national assessment which  
was levied at our last meeting of the division  
which took place Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>  
owing to the fact that we received a communication  
from the national head that all money paid  
must be paid through the national Secretary  
since we received a communication from the newly  
appointed State directing that we might pay  
them the division in which i am Treasurer of  
instructed me to Write you and find out



What to do so that we might do it right -  
i wrote you on the instant and up to this writing  
have received no answer now i dont want  
you to think for a moment that there is any  
thing personal in my waiting you if i hadnt  
been instructed to do so i should not do it -  
i dont believe i done any wrong by doing it -  
and why we should be ignored i dont understand  
you may have good reasons for ignoring my letter  
but i can assure you of the fact that we  
had no intention of doing a wrong and hope  
that we havent all we ask of you is  
to direct us what to do for the best interest  
of all concerned we are not looking for  
trouble and our hope is that a speedy  
settlement will be made in our little

State and City that harmony will again  
prevail

trusting that you will make a  
speedy reply i remain yours  
fraternally

Thomas L. Murphy  
306 Public St -  
Prov R.I

Thomas P. Scott President  
Thomas L. Murphy Treasurer  
Division 18 4th of Prov R.I



# American Insurance Company,

OF NEWARK, N. J.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, AGENT.

Pawtucket, R. I. May 27, 1904

For James P. Brew  
Nat Secy A. O. B.  
New Haven. Conn.

Ans  
5/31

Dear Sir & Bros:

Yours of yesterday just received inclosing cheque for \$28.00 received by you from Division 13 of Providence R.I. I am willing to turn over the amount of \$27.20 to the Acting County President Bro Michael J. Flynn but decline to give any credit for Mdse. as you well know 50 cents does not pay for that. Their bill for Mdse was three dollars, which was for the Jan'y & April Quarters. I cannot for the life of me see how you could accept 50 cents as a payment for such matter. I hold cheque for the present in order that I may hear from you whether to return same and have one sent me for \$27.50 or not, as we will not recognize a 50 cent payment on Mdse ofc. National President Dolan's instructions & decisions on this matter were explicit and in my judgment imperative. As to your query in the foot note of your letter about a report I might say that I cannot at present make a report. I have only received the report of one County, yet in full. One County practically refuses to forward their report. We will take care of that however in due time. Providence County of course is in a chaotic condition. We have received the reports of several



Divisions, but some are holding out on the ground of being neutral until the National Convention meets.

In visiting the Divisions, when the National President's letter transmitting the Address was read I noticed a paragraph which was substantially as follows: ~ "I am informed by the National Secretary that Divisions in your state have not responded to his call for Reports, payment of assessments &c &c" I would like to ask you when you issued such a call to the Divisions. I know such a call was not received by my Division, and ~~truly~~ every Division where I could make inquiry on the matter denied receiving such. Can you inform me relative to this matter?

The Acting State Board will submit a report from such data as is in their possession very shortly to be followed by such supplementary report as they may be enabled to forward by the receipt of reports from such Divisions as recover their senses in the meantime.

Fraternally yours

Thomas W. Brien

Acting State Secretary



# American Insurance Company,

OF NEWARK, N. J.

THOMAS O'BRIEN, AGENT.

Pawtucket, R. I. June 1, 1907.

For James P. Bree

Nat Secy A.O.U.

New Haven Conn.

Dear Sir & Bro: ~ Your favor of May 31. just received; You evidently misinterpreted my letter of May 27 as I did not find any fault with the acceptance of the money from Division 12 only as far as the 50 Cents for Mdee was concerned. Of course I am aware that the National Organization only receives 50¢ per quarter from each Division for Mdee, but I was also aware that you have been previously serving in the capacity of a State and County Officer in your State and that it is customary to charge more than the 50¢ required by the National Organization for the Mdee. That was the reason I wrote as I did. I will correspond with the President of the Division as I am of the opinion that the Treasurer has not followed the instructions of the Division, as I was present when he was instructed to pay the Mdee a/c. Upon closer investigation I see that \$27.<sup>50</sup> cannot be correct for the National Assessment as it is not divisible by 30¢ the amount of the tax per member. Hoping you are enjoying good health I remain

Fraternally Yours

Thomas O'Brien  
Acting Nat Secy.



82 Lippitt St.

Jan. 5, 1904

Pro. P. I.  
Feb 1/15  
not OK

Mr James P Brew. National Sec.

Dear Sir and Bro

I have forwarded to you the sum of  
\$27.50 for the National top since I  
have found that \$1.60 more is due which  
you will find within, as it was a  
mistake on the Sec part. I done as  
I was ordered by the division. and  
in reference to the mistake above  
I would like to inform you that I  
do not wish any troubling letters  
from the Filing State sec. as my  
reputation either as a man. or a



Hibernian. does not call for any  
reproach. from men who have no  
principle. that would bring them  
on a level with honest men  
or good hibernians. I have stood  
by their order and fought their  
battles with my own. Time and  
money and as every thing was  
prospering in R. I up to this latter  
trouble which I hope will soon  
be settled. I wish they would  
keep their place and I will  
keep my own and if they give  
as good an account as I can  
at the end of their Term of  
Office. then can command respect  
from the A O U.



Yours in Friendship

P. J. Coleman

Treasurer

Nov, 12. A. O. H.





EDW. T. CAMPBELL, } Vice Presidents.  
DAVE RORICK, }

F. (ANK B. CHAM, } Ass't Sec'y.  
CONRAD ROEDER, }

560

THOS. O'BRIEN

Resident Agent,

Pawtucket,

R. I.

Pawtucket R.I. June 10. 1904.

For James P. Bree  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir & Bro; ~

Yours of June 8<sup>th</sup> remitting cheque  
for \$315<sup>00</sup> on behalf of Division #18 of Providence Co.  
just received. The Division will receive credit  
for the same.

I note paragraph in regard to your candidacy for  
re-election as National Secretary, and I was somewhat  
surprised. The suspended state officers here talk and  
assert with confidence that you and John V. Keating  
have practically assured them of being seated. Of course  
if that result is attained I would have nothing to say  
about who would have the position, as I would not have  
a vote if Bro Mathews is seated. Should I see there I am  
present know of no ground upon which I could withhold  
from you any support that I might be able to give.  
I do not like to "count chickens before they are hatched" and  
so I do not count upon voting for anybody this year  
until I know whether I will be a "qualified voter" or  
not. I presume ~~the~~ right of the Acting State officers to sit in  
the Convention will be contested by the suspended state officers.  
They say so anyway.

Yours truly  
Thomas O'Brien Acting State Sec'y





560

THOS. O'BRIEN

Resident Agent,

Pawtucket,

R. I.

Pawtucket R.I. June 14<sup>th</sup> 1904

For James P. Bree  
 Nat Secy A.O.W.  
 Dear Sir Bro: ~

Your favor of June 16 inclosing cheque for three dollars ~~for the~~ please give for Div. #19 of Prov Co. R.I. just received. I will forward receipt to said Division through the Acting Co. President. I also received your cheque yesterday for \$1.00 for Div #12 of Prov Co. R.I. You did not say what it was for, so I have written the President of that Division to ascertain. If I do not get an answer by Sunday I will attend the meeting of that Division on that day, and find out whether Bro Coleman can send out cheques without any indication of what they are for. Trusting you are enjoying good health I remain  
 Fraternally yours  
 Thomas O'Brien



Copy-

Providence, R. I. May 12, 190

Mr James Aldworth

Dera Sir & Brother

I have received sufficient complaints from Officers and members of Division 1, A. O. H. of the manner in which you have been conducting the business of the aforesaid Division, to warrant me to take some action to protect the honor and Dignity of this Grand Organization So I therefore feel Obligated to take this action and that is to Suspend you as President of the said Division No. 1 Pending a hearing before the County Board which will take place on Sunday May 24th 1903 at 2 P. M. at 27 North Main St this City on top floor at which time and place you are requested to be present with such evidence as you may wish to present

FRATERNALLY  
Fraternally yours

TERENCE P. OATES  
Terence P. Oates C. P.



Catholicism in Rhode Island  
and the  
Diocese of Providence  
1780-1886

by  
Robert W. Hayman

CORTICAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Providence, R.I. 02904

Diocese of Providence  
1982



expenses and giving assistance in finding jobs. During these years the Vincentians in Providence worked closely with the overseers of the poor who could provide additional relief generally in the form of fuel, shoes or other goods. Given the task the societies faced, the personal dedication of a few could not sustain the organization. For funds the Vincentians relied on the charity of their fellow Catholics, the zeal of their priests in offering lectures and preaching charity sermons, and the regular contributions of their own members.<sup>421</sup>

During 1876 when the depression was at its worst, the needs of the people came perilously close to exhausting the treasuries of the societies. Although economic conditions began to improve after 1876, winter continued to aggravate the sufferings of workers. In January 1879, Bishop Hendricken announced in the cathedral that henceforth all that was derived from the collections above what was needed for the actual running expenses of the church would be devoted to the poor.<sup>422</sup> During that winter, the poor could obtain bread and meat every Monday and Thursday afternoon at the bishop's house.<sup>423</sup> That the bishop and the Vincentians were able to answer the many calls for aid was an impressive tribute to the Catholic people of the diocese who gave what they could even if they themselves had little to spare. In several parishes the pastors organized women into sewing societies that provided both an outlet for the generosity of the parishioners and stretched even further the resources of the parish to aid more people.<sup>424</sup>

Of course the entire Catholic community in Providence and the diocese were not committed in the same way to the relief of the poor. Beginning in 1874 and continuing each year the effects of the depression persisted, the various religious, benevolent and fraternal societies that paraded each March 17th in honor of St. Patrick debated the question of whether or not to celebrate the day or give the money they would spend on the day's festivities to aid the poor. The Ancient Order of Hibernians, which was bound by its charter to celebrate the day, consistently advocated public celebrations while the temperance and benevolent societies generally withdrew or muted their participation.<sup>425</sup> On at least one occasion Bishop

<sup>421</sup>*Ibid.*, December 15, 28, 1878; March 8, 1879; February 7, 1880; McColgan, *A Century of Charity*, II, 234-35.

<sup>422</sup>*Weekly Visitor*, January 19, 1879.

<sup>423</sup>*Ibid.*, March 1, 1879.

<sup>424</sup>*Ibid.*, April 8, 26, 1876; January 27, 1878.

<sup>425</sup>*Providence Evening Press*, January 20; February 6, 1874; *Providence Journal*, January 31, 1876; *Weekly Visitor*, February 3, 1877; January 26; February 5, 1879.

Hendricken stayed out of the city so as to avoid the St. Patrick's day procession.<sup>426</sup>

Since the 1860s many bishops and priests had spoken out against membership in the Hibernian Order because of the violence associated with it, and they refused to allow its members to wear their regalia in church at the funerals of their members. Bishop Hendricken, for one, felt that for a Catholic to be a member of the order was to violate the rules of the Church against secret societies. Sensitive to the bishop's criticism, the Hibernians took pains to point out the benevolent nature of their order and the difference between themselves and other associations condemned by the Church that cloaked their activities in secrecy. They were at pains also to disassociate themselves from the violence that some Hibernians had reputedly been guilty of in the past.<sup>427</sup> While Bishop Hendricken refrained from an outright ban on membership in the order, the depression effected a sharp decrease in its membership because many working men lacked the ability to pay dues.<sup>428</sup>

While the Catholic church throughout most of the nineteenth century consistently required its clergy to refrain from making public statements on political affairs, the clergy and laity did challenge the Catholic community itself to a life of self-discipline and personal morality. Many within the Catholic community, including Bishop Hendricken, saw the abuse of drink as a major cause of poverty and immorality. The Catholic temperance movement, which had regained strength after 1869, continued into the early 1870s as an important part of parish life. The societies held rallies and regular business meetings to stir up and sustain dedication to the cause of temperance. They also served to meet social and recreational needs that their members might have ordinarily sought in the local taverns or rum shops. Many temperance societies formed military companies of temperance cadets for the young men of the parish.

In 1874 the Rhode Island General Assembly, in response to the pressure of individuals and temperance societies within the entire state, passed a law prohibiting the sale of liquor as a beverage and providing for a force of state constables to enforce the ban. Bishop Hendricken felt such a law was necessary, at least for a time, so that a habit of temperance might develop within the state and especially among the young.<sup>429</sup> When, in the fall of the same year, the bishop

<sup>426</sup>Bishop Hendricken, "Diary," March 17, 1875.

<sup>427</sup>*Ibid.*, October 12, 1873; *Providence Evening Press*, April 14, 1874; *Rhode Island Country Journal*, April 24, 1874; *Weekly Visitor*, June 14, 1879.

<sup>428</sup>*Weekly Visitor*, June 3, 1883.

<sup>429</sup>*Providence Evening Press*, February 23, 1874.