

Govt. B. 22.
June 25. 1934

The first thing I remember is my mother coming to see me. I was in America, so I was ~~under~~^{not} ~~his~~ & a half years old. An old woman from the same part of Ireland had the care of me, because, after my father died my mother went to work. I remember her coming to see me there. Then I remember the blue sea: the gunwale of a ship & the blue sea. That was when my uncle was bringing me to Ireland & we were coming out in to Cobh.

The first morning in my grand mother's house I made a tumble out. I remember the beds in the room in the old house. They were moving to a new house that day. "They are all up at the new house," somebody said to me. I remember that:

~~What I liked best in those days was playing Robin~~

I don't know how old I was when they first planned to send me to school. ~~I~~ I was in a velvet suit. I stood in the road ready, waiting for the boy who was to take me. He didn't come, & after that they decided - or I decided - that I would not go for ~~some~~ years until I would be old enough to go by myself.

~~What I liked best~~ when playing Robinson Crusoe. I remember reading it the book while

I minded cows. We used to have the cows on the road side & the Police would threaten to run us in. They were our great enemies, of course.

What I liked best was to go away & play in the stream. I had an island in it. I could get away from everybody. I used to play Robinson Crusoe there.

When my mother came from America to see me I remembered her, I remembered her black bag. It was a big black bag with a pocket on the under a flap.

I remember trying to get a Donkey cart through a gate. I couldn't manage it. I suppose I was very small. This one of the first things I remember at all. Long afterwards I thought about it & realized that I would have done it if I had taken the Donkey out of the shafts & got him through first! I suppose you'd say there was something symbolic about that.

When I was at school we used
to make & write maps. They
would give us a subject like
"Make a map of the Sun & Stars".
We were supposed to enlarge
on that. I hated it. It
seemed to me that the whole point
of writing was to confuse. And then
it was "Done"! "Make a map of the
Sun & Stars". It was beautiful!
It was everything! They go
spoil it all! My maps were
very good - good, in fact!

My uncle was severe; he was very young - too
young, really, to have the responsibility of my
upbringing; but he was a wonderful good
parent in his way; he had every high standard.
I gave trouble. I remember staying out
one day when I knew I should not.

All the boys of the school stayed out that day.
I remember saying to myself that I wasn't
be beaten in any case & I might as well
see what there was in it.
It was the 1st of the summer of, but I
played. I had two lovely sticks & I was
one standing in the corner & that he would
think I was not playing.

I wonder whether the people who get
thump down ~~and~~ are ~~in~~ there
who are blind a little blind to every
side of a question but the one side.
Some of us waste time are always
wasting time & beating on hearts,
contending whether the other fellow
may not be right, going into his
point of view, trying to demolish him -
trying to do the impossible.

How would you like if you could
simply dismiss all that. Say - this
is what I am for & do & that's all
about it.

part
The time when I enforced my own will
on people without listening to opposition
was in prison after the Rising. The
Men had all kinds of ideas - Some
of them wanted to hunger-strike. I told
them there was one thing to do & only
one - to smash all around us. We
might get the worst of it in the end,
but it was bound to be tremendously
effective. I got it started, but
in order to keep them about I had to
get men from outside - from

I got a message out early in the day
telling Boland a telegram. If he wanted
no hope on a Wednesday he was to
give "Uncle Tom is dead," or something
like that. I'll never forget the poor
Governor trying to reach the news to Harry, &
I never wanted so much to cheer!

Had I a rich name? Indeed I had! And
how I hated it! It was "Deliver-us."

11
"Young Naddy ~~Call~~ Cull", I was called at
Bellevue, & another name that made me
furious. I ~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~fellows~~ ~~gave~~ ~~I~~
~~gave~~ many a black eye over it. ~~Now I~~ ~~do~~
~~not~~ ~~know~~ ~~what~~ ~~it~~ ~~means~~. They
~~did~~ ~~not~~ ~~know~~ ~~themselves~~, of course.

The place was full of Culls ("Cull", it
was pronounced), so ~~to~~ to distinguish
them, the different families ~~were~~ ~~given~~
had nick names; my uncle was
called "Dane Cull." ~~I was~~ ~~young~~
~~Dane Cull~~. "Young Dane Cull" was
what they called me & I was wild, thinking
they were calling me by the name of the
Enemies of Ireland. I gave many a
black eye over it. It is only lately, when
a man looked into the history of the
Cull family for me that I found
there had been a Dane ~~in~~ ~~our~~
branch of the family. They pronounce
"Dane" Dane, here, of course.

It is an extraordinary thing that
all my life even thing that I really
wanted came to me. Small things,
I mean of course; personal things.
I could write an very curious sort of
book about that. It is frightening,
because if you think that the
balance ~~has~~ has the adjusted I am
going to have a terrible time!

In instance, when I was
a child I had a great desire for
a gold watch. I suppose I
saw one with the priest. I dreamed
one night that I had one in my
hand & I woke up with my
hand curled round it & to find
it empty was a grief. Afterwards,
in America, when I was given
a gold watch in honor to me
as President of the Republic it
seemed just like the watch in my
dream, it gave me as much
pleasure as I could have given
to the child.

And of course I wanted. even

more, & he a Red Indian Chief. But
I thought - that could never come
true. Even if I got ^{so} far I
some day I would never get there
just. Well, when the Chippewa
Indians in made me
a Chief of their tribe it meant
more to me than all the freedoms
of all the cities I was ever given.

No, indeed! It is not an "honorary
Chieftain" they made me! I am a real
Chief. Still he handed down to the
tradition of their tribe. They gave me
a belt & moccasins - various
presents, & I sent them a present
of rifles - seven rifles for seven
chiefs.

Harry Buland & Liam Hollors
were out with me. When
I was in bed that night they
came in with red paint on their
faces round their waists &
did a war dance & demanded
to be made Braves.

One thing I had when I was a child
that I loved playing with stone. I had
no one to play with. I was alone a good
deal. In the river I had a little
island, & I used to shape it &
make plans about it - This was Ireland
& I was the ruler of it.

And yet, though I dreamed a great
deal, I had no ambitions or expectations.
I had nothing but the spare. I
remember a boy who lived next us; he
was older than I, & he was going
to be Draper's assistant. I thought
that was a big world from which I
was forever shut out. To be a
labourer was what was before me.

~~I remember well what first made
me determined to go on to the Christian
Brother School.~~

I remember well what first made
me determined to go on to the Christian
Brother School. It was Pat O'Shea.
I ~~never~~ had measured myself against
him at the National School, & when
he went to Charleville & got an

exhibition. Here I said to myself, "Who
could Pat Shee could do I could do."

The school in Charleville was
seven miles away. It was not easy to
manage. But I told my uncle I must
go. I told him I'd either go to the
school or go to America. I was
fourteen or fifteen years old. He
believed in me, but he told me to
talk to the old man. He made
me shy, praising me. The old man
gave me a Pat Shee's ruin a
thousand. "Doubt him, because he has
done it. He'd get to do it & do it."
But he asked me, "What is the
cube root of a - h (?)

I did not know it! It is complicated,
I did not know it! I felt - much
fervently.

Anyhow, I told my uncle that
if he would send me to Charleville
he would only have to pay the
train journey for me one way. I
would walk back; so he agreed.

It was hard - I used to get up at
about half past six & light the fire
& make my breakfast, get the
train about eight o'clock & then walk a
mile to the school. If I missed the
train I walked the whole way. I
had a penny bun with me for my
lunch. It would be half past nine
or four when I started home & then
somebody coming that way gave me a
lift. I walked the seven miles. I
remember the weariness, the terrible
weariness! I would lean against a
wall for a few minutes & sleep.
I remember walking falling asleep
while I was walking. It would
be seven o'clock when I got home
& then there was a bucket of water
to be brought in & a pair of ~~the~~ turnips
to chop, maybe, for the

I did no studying.

The second year, however, I got
my initiation. It was in '98. I remember
being pleased because the photograph was
taken of the boys who passed that year & they
were all in the school & some one
underneath - 'The Year of '98'.

I liked reading about '98 & all those
old fights for freedom, but I used to
feel sad because I thought nothing
of that sort would ever happen in
our time.

Then I went to Blackwell College. I
was up in a bed in the dormitory &
I realized that I was here on an
equality with the others, with the same
chance of studying as they. It seemed
to me to be Heaven. There were boys
who felt that coming back to school
I could understand that at all. It
was Heaven open to me, to be there.

We had a teacher of English, — a ~~wonderful~~
~~teacher~~, I will never forget his lessons. He
was an old fellow with a splendid
head, like Thompson. He used to walk up
& down with his head down on his chest
& his umbrella in his hand, like this! He
was so poor, but I was not allowed
to touch the ground. He was a magnificent
old fellow. I admired him. I will
never forget the way he would read to us,
yet he was not a good teacher. That
man died of starvation. He died in a
room he had in the city, without any
comfort. When I heard it, I could have
lain down & cried for hours. I would
have gone to him & been his slave.

It was in Rock Hill that I became
healthy & strong. The life there was easy.
I used to wake at about six & go
out for a run. I drink a cup of milk &
go back & bed until it was time to
get up for the fish class! They
used to ~~laugh~~ laugh at the way I
put on weight & say they could see
the fish growing on me. I went
up for 102 to 222 stone in weeks.

The life suited me so well there
I had to leave. I realized that. I realized
that I could settle down there & do
nothing else for the rest of my days. It
was hard to make up my mind to
leave it, but I did.

I was walking along College Green one
day in a hurry when an old
fellow ran up to me -

He said, Have you read ?

I thought no one I ever met had read
that book.

He then said the old man again.

When I was in prison
No former brought
to me - He was a mother's son -

When I was young life looked
ages long to me. To be as long
as I looked to me then, I would have
to last for a thousand years.
Now I am learning how short life
is.

As we lose some of the joy
of life. And we lose power. I
have no self confidence
I used to have.

1913. At Rotunda - In front of the the press-tribune
 he used to come in - Borne. Didn't speak - P. Sherry.
 Afterwards, in 1917, was cycling, saw P. S. would
 have liked to speak, but was shy because felt
 a bit 'subversive' with name in papers.

At Rotunda - Didn't enroll there. Went out &
 walked & thought. Had named. "This means a
 fight". Asked, are there enough in numbers here?
 No. "Made believe cause for myself
 to go".

Malley in his uniform with his cap at a tilt.

1914. The parade at Bodensham.
 For Charles & the D. Borne's the
 process was. I didn't know what he meant!

1914. Our first march with rifle. I was in command -
 I don't know when the rifles.

I lived in Tronhampton Road. Bodensham
 & I were together in the Downybrook company.

1914.
Jan 26 On the way to Hawthorne I suddenly thought —
'We are going for guns.'

There were posters about a European war.
I thought 'We are getting the guns ~~but~~ too
years to late'. I thought we were not organizing
trained enough to make good use of them.

At the fair I was very angry. There were
rushed like a rabble to the fair beside the
boat, grabbing the guns. I held my men back,
according to orders. I told them 'You stay where
you are & you'll get guns'. I threatened them.
I don't know what I said I would do to
them if they moved. But I was anxious.
I thought I would be fearful of the ~~one~~ man
who disobeyed the orders for guns &
that got more. McNeill panned & said to
him 'Now look here, I'll suspect you
to see that there are guns for my men!
'There are too many many for us'. McNeill
said, so told the men 'You to get guns all
right'. At last I got very uneasy, but
a column was passing that had guns &
I said to 'You what is here.'

They took the place of my men & I ran my
army men down at the docks. They got the last
guns landed. My own was the last of all.

June 26
1914

I have no clear recollection of what happened when we met the police. There was a wall of bayonets facing the party in front. ~~The men scattered. I was~~ We had no ammunition for bayonets. The men scattered. Some of them threw down their guns under ledges or anywhere. I was wild. I went back & collected as many as I could & we got in to a house with them.

I remember only for the 1st had nothing but since early morning. I got my motor cycle & ~~left~~ went back wards & forward all night, taking a couple of men each time. Each man with three guns for his charge, & different places. I had their names.

The next day a man with a red mark on his face he had left again under a hedge & I saw it. I took him out at night & returned it.

1714. Redmond split.

I knew John MacNeill & Macdermott. I thought Redmond's party were handling the thing very badly. When I heard about the speech at Woodbridge I spoke to the Volunteers under me. I told them their place was in Ireland.

That was the worst with Redmond. I had before the week reported I had my

Then we started to build up the Volunteers again & it was great work.

The Germans - I think they never thought of us seriously as being of any use to them. They had ~~Napoleon's~~ ~~view~~ they thought they could not keep up supplies to Ireland & so on. ~~but~~ That was Napoleon's view, but he was wrong. He didn't realize how much Ireland could have done at that time.

The Irish matter was different from Germany's point of view. Civil war there would have split the British parties.

Castle of Amthor

It is extraordinary the change that comes over
people ~~you~~ are in office. I see it in myself. I
watch it. Once you are satisfied that the
welfare of the country is served by your
retaining power you feel impatient of all opposition —
inclined to think it is all factions.

If Asquith had felt that about the
Home Bill I would have seemed to him
intolerable — the end of all democratic government —
that the decision of the Parliament should be
opposed by force.

When I remembered I was not sent into the city
but into the Ballbridge, I was kept there
four days. That's how I am alive now.

It was not until the Thursday & Friday
that I was taken to Richmond Barracks &
the others had been court-martialed by Mel-
liss. They had been tried as they came
in & sentenced. There was the delay
about my wife & Thomas Ashe. There seemed
to be no chance that he would not be
executed because he had led the attack
at Ashbourne & police were killed there.

But quite at the time we were brought
to trial public opinion was rising; Asquith,
Iris said, gave a promise that there should
be no more execution except of the ringleaders.

It is very likely that America was the first
general protest against further executions?
Because there was strong feeling in the
States, & the English were anxious to placate
America at the time. Some people told
my wife that she should see the American
Consul & tell him I was an American citizen.

Naturally enough she did so & he may have used
that argument, though it should not have made any
difference, as it had broken English law. The point
never occurred to me. Anyway, Ashe & I were sentenced

1914. Det. was a Captain of North Gun-running.

1915. D. D. and Rose funeral - He was a
Brigade Major.

He made Bellahy's Commandant?

1916. In Holy Week - ~~was~~ Collecting guns
hidden in the vaults of St. Nicholas.

1916. ~~On~~ Easter Sunday night -
There was a concert. He was there in
order to divert suspicion.

1916. His first plan was to barricade St.
Mould St & make it appear that
all the resistance was there. The
British troops would then turn down by
the canal. He meant to leave
that open & stand on position
above them. There he would open fire.
Every bullet would have killed three men.
The thought of it was horrible. The
soldiers would be taken unaware.

July 24 1934
"He don't call you,
Dawley"

Michael Collins

Thinking back over the difficult groups
of colleagues I have had I would say
that Michael Collins was the master
in Killybegs.

Did you know Michael Collins well?
Whenever I went to a delegation
Michael Collins had to go. He didn't wait
to be asked to go. He was there. He was
a man with the punch and intelligence.
He had energy. When a piece of work
had to be done he was the one who went
& did it. He used to get good workers
under him. Sometimes, I know, you
get - He had fun people by trying testing
them hard. He would ask things I would
not dare to ask & they would be done.
If I could not be present myself
at a conference I would like to have them.

Arthur Griffith was a silent man:
a good companion for a talkative
man like myself. He would never
cut across one & ^{create} an appearance
of discussion. He was a good

Journalists here and there saw things in a
different way. He wrote in the old
style.

About Michael Collins I thought that
he had committed himself to the Republic
so absolutely that there could be no
danger of drawing back for him.

There was an incident about a gown. It
was a trivial personal side incident, but
some people have tried to make a great deal
out of it.

It had all been decided whether
he was to appear on the platform at the
Gaelic celebration in the ~~last~~ ^{last} ceremony
University gown or in the ordinary gown.
Both ^{my} gowns had been sent down to the
Mansion House for me. Myself
told me that the man who had arrived
was wearing the plume gown so
that was the one I put on. I
had known at once I was
a teacher at Conyngham in 1916. The

Dust of the chalk was still in the folds.
The fall of the book was back to that
time before our big effort shipper had
begun. I could not help wondering
whether this night did not mark the
end of it. I remember saying to some one -
"I can 'Perhaps the best thing for me to do
after this will be to quit'. I can see
myself back there, ready, again..."

I have lost the self confidence that
I used to have. In those days my
second thought was the same as my first.
Whatever I thought again, to me that
seemed the only thing to be thought & said
on the subject: it was finished with.
Now, if someone puts forward a
different point of view from mine I am
inclined to think that is probably right.

That is, I had to find that
my second thought, now, is usually
different from my first.

But how I lack as much self-
confidence, Giraud, as Vivian has now?

You had plenty when we first married!
Do you remember go out on Blackrock
to my meet for our first meal. I had
never cooked food in my life & I don't
know what to ask for. You knew. You
told me to order a shoulder of mutton for
five people right.

But Lewis who always so
forgetful. Before that, he went out
to my furniture for the home. He
said he would do that better than
I. He came back with a camera that
would take photographs for
him & he calls that he could play.

I'd like to take some sort of holiday. I
am tired. I haven't had one for years.
If I were a free man I would go to the
South of France for the language. It
makes me angry to find I can't
talk in French fluently, although I
can follow talk in it quite fairly
well. But now, wherever I go I
have the ~~following~~ ^{same} ~~problem~~
surrounded by a lot of people. It's
impossible. If I could take a
holiday here my wife would be & do
housework. I can't get working then.
Doesn't know, I might even get to
the point of neglecting a despatch!
But at the end, I shall be well
with myself. I shall be eating
myself, which just does it. Do?
What use is it to anyone - my working
at this? I can't get away
from that.
Over love

sky signs.

Roger Casement was hanged in Brixton Prison
on 9/16

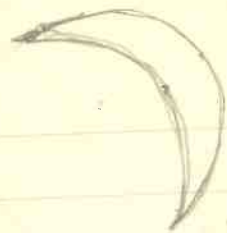
Det. Smit. I remember that morning. It was a glorious morning - beautiful clear air. I was out at about six o'clock. (It was in Brixton Prison.) I remember thinking about panthers. A thing happened that was unparalleled. Nothing like it ever happened in any experience at least. There used to be sparrows flying about. That morning they came in thousands & settled on the roofs. There must have been hundreds of thousands of them; they settled on the slates in ranks & battalions; they were so close that I could not see the slates behind them; the whole roof face of the camp was covered. I had seen swallows in great flocks before, but never sparrows.

Another thing I saw that day was beautiful. It was the truest emblem in the sky - the star & crescent. There was a ~~very~~ crescent moon & Venus, very bright, close by, just outside the dark part of the moon.

The signs & portents

In 1916, before the Rising, Mass was
blood-red. I remember it, so remarkable
in the heavens and I called some one
to look at it.

I remember too, in 1922, when I was
going down to the South by Train I saw
the hedges of black thorn & holly that I had
ever seen them in my life. I never saw
the hedges so white with blossom
before or since. & the people were saying
'There will be blood shed in the country'. They
have always thought that. But
it meant blood shed if the thorns were so white.



Mass so blood red
so remarkable in the heavens

Rails & bell-chimes - could be seen the day
happened

22nd day drawing.

hedges so white with thorn - blood shed?

MacVell being brought into prison —

I was sitting on my bed & I could hear the
new prisoners being brought in. The warden was
asking them questions. I heard "So you're MacVell?"
Well, I thought — "The unfortunate man,
what sort of atmosphere shall we be long
going to fight here? I thought it would kill
him. Then I got the idea of what I could do.
I was delighted. I thought I could kill
two birds with one stone — showing them
our military discipline too. I was
angry about the way they were treating the
Irishmen. I was to hear them sneering
at the men, giving them about their
boots, & I knew to some of these country
boys their boots are the best they ever had."