



THE PHOENIX.

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PROSPECTUS

OF A

WEEKLY IRISH JOURNAL,

"THE PHOENIX."

Office, 6 Centre street, New York.

The proprietors of this enterprise desire to be as brief and explicit as possible, in stating the principles on, and the objects for, which it is undertaken.

The PHOENIX will be entirely different from all other Irish Journals. It will occupy a position of complete independence. It will announce its own doctrines, and enforce its own opinions, independent of preconceived views, interests and prejudices, to none of which it will ever cater.

The name PHOENIX suggests the principles and objects of the Journal that assumes it; being emblematic of a resurrection and a new existence. Its efforts will be mainly, if not exclusively, devoted to inculcate the belief, and elevate it into a conviction, that it is the paramount duty of Irishmen:

First.—To disconnect themselves from all English associations.

Secondly.—To abstain from any participation in the farce of electing members to the English Parliament.

Thirdly.—To enter into an extensive, sincere and brotherly combination among themselves.

Fourthly.—To base that combination on a stern resolution; to use all honorable means, and seize on every feasible opportunity to extirpate, root and branch, from Ireland, the English garrison, English government, English laws, English land tenure, and all the adjuncts of English usurpation; to restore the soil of the Island to the Irish people; and for this end make immediate and continuous preparation; and regard all legitimate weapons as fair, all aid acceptable, and every chance a pre-ordained opportunity.

In this will consist the first, last and chief object, duty, aim and ambition of the PHOENIX.

With the partizanship of American politics it will not interfere. From American factions and cliques, it will keep entirely aloof. It will not hesitate, however, to advocate the principles of genuine Republicanism here as well as at home; and it will be prompt and proud to uphold all good, generous and honorable men, who are true friends to human freedom, without reference to their political connection in America. It will especially sustain and encourage those whose sympathies are in favor of the liberation of Ireland, and expose and oppose the enemies and maligners of the Irish name and race wherever they present themselves.

With what ability THE PHOENIX will be conducted; with what interest its literature will be invested; and with what wisdom its policy will be conceived and vigor enforced; how far, and in what respects it will excel other Journals, and commend itself to the educated, high-minded and brave, this is not the place to say. Of its merits or demerits let performances and not promises be the test.

The policy which the PHOENIX will inculcate, and the principle of action it will recommend, will be under the sole direction and control of JOHN O'MAHONY.

MR. JAMES ROCHE, late of the *Irish News*, will be the Acting Editor, and to him all communications on literary subjects must be addressed.

For terms see fourth page.

New York, June 4, 1859.

LECTURE,

BY THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER,

IN IRVING HALL,

Corner of Fifteenth-street and Irving Place,

On Wednesday evening, February 20, inst.,

SUBJECT.

"Recent Events in Ireland—English Connection and French Invasion."

TICKETS

To be had at the Office of the PHOENIX, at Haverty's, corner of Dutch and Fulton streets, Hall & Sons, and Music Publishers, Broadway. fe9-3t

PHOENIX BUSINESS NOTICES.

Subscriptions of clubs and single subscribers will be promptly attended to by addressing Patrick J. Downing, at the Publication Office, No. 6 Centre street, New York.

The PHOENIX is published on Tuesday of each week.

Any New York or Brooklyn subscriber who is served with a copy later than two o'clock on the following day will oblige us by reporting the same at this office.

GENERAL HOCHÉ,

Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the Moselle and Rhine, of the Coast of Cherbourg, of Brest, of the West, of the Ocean, of the Sambre and Meuse, and of the troops destined for an expedition to Ireland.

From the Annual Necrology for 1797-8.

THE command of the armies and navies of France was formerly confided exclusively to the nobles. The great families under the monarchy might be fairly said to have been born admirals and generals; there were, indeed, no hereditary men-of-war, but there were many proprietary regiments. It cannot be denied that this system, faulty as it was, produced great men, such as the De Guesclins, the Colignis, the Condes, and the Turennes, of former days; and it will remain for posterity to decide, whether it has been improved by a contrary practice. Certain it is that a great and sudden change has taken place in the affairs of France, and that the most successful generals of the present day have been selected from the ranks.

Lazarus Hoche, a favorite of fortune, and a child of the Revolution, was born June 24, 1768, at the little village of Montreuil, in the suburbs of Versailles. His father, like most of his countrymen, had served during his youth in the army; he was afterwards engaged in several menial offices, being at one time employed as an hostler, and at another entrusted to feed the hounds of Louis XV. His mother died soon after she had brought him into the world.

Bereaved thus early of one parent, and the other being unable either to maintain or educate him properly, the boy would have been entirely neglected had it not been for the care and attention of his aunt, who kept a green stall at Versailles. This good woman, pitying his situation, and conceiving a great affection for him, took him home with her, and sent him to a little day school. There he learned to read and write, and is said to have distinguished himself, not only as his best scholar, but also as the wildest of all his companions.

The curé of St. Germain-en-Laye, perceiving him to be a fine lively youth, made him a chorister.

In the meantime, his kind relation supplied not only his little wants, but even anticipated his wishes in everything. He, on his part, is represented as giving early indications of talents; he was extremely desirous to receive information on every subject; his curiosity prompted him to interrogate those older than himself; he listened to their replies with avidity; and often embarrassed them with the ingenuity of his inquiries and remarks. As he approached, however, towards manhood, a sudden change is said to have taken place in his manners and dispositions. Instead of being loquacious as before, he became silent and thoughtful, and evinced by his conversation that he had meditated to some purpose.

His wants now increased with his strength and years, and, perceiving that his aunt could not afford to keep him any longer, he determined to earn his own livelihood. No situation appeared vile in his eyes, provided it enabled him to relieve the worthy woman from such a burden; he accordingly engaged himself as a kind of helper in the royal stables at Versailles.

The ardent character of Hoche could not long accommodate itself to such a degrading state of servitude. He had already become indignant at his situation; and having accidentally got hold of Rousseau's works, a passion for independence awakened in his mind. His character had at the same time taken a romantic turn, in consequence of two or three novels which he now read, and this circumstance at length fixed his destiny.

Having conceived a notion of bettering his fortune abroad, he determined to embark for the East Indies, and this spirit of adventure proving contagious three other stable-boys determined to follow his fortune. One of those crimps who infest all the great cities in Europe, and prey on the unwary, in order to gain a dishonest livelihood, depicted the pleasures of the voyage, and the certainty of attaining wealth, in such fascinating colors, that they were easily prevailed upon to enter into his views. This fellow, who assumed the part of a generous benefactor, not content with proffering them advice, forced them at the same time to accept of money, and then told them that they were

soldiers in the French guards, and had the honor to serve the *grand monarque!*

All remonstrance being ineffectual, Hoche, then only sixteen years of age, was sent to his regiment, at that time quartered in Paris. On arriving there, he found his whole fortune to consist of one hundred and twenty-five livres, (francs,) arising partly from the sum given him as a premium on entering the army, and partly from his own savings. Being now told that he must give a treat to his fellow-soldiers, he instantly complied, and a breakfast provided on the occasion, by absorbing the whole of his money, rendered him to the full as poor as themselves.

This new situation seems to have been perfectly accordant to Hoche's wishes; and we are accordingly told that he soon distinguished himself above the other recruits, by his promptitude in understanding, and his alacrity in practising the various military movements. In a single month the drill sergeants easily instructed him in what others spent a whole year in acquiring; in short, instead of remaining in the awkward squad, he was placed among the veterans, being attached to the colonel's company, called the *gibernes blanches*, from the color of their knapsacks.

The fine proportion of his limbs, the neatness of his dress, and the regularity of his conduct, soon distinguished him amidst the crowd; and the grenadiers having requested that he might be admitted into their corps, Hoche also became a grenadier. At this period he began, for the first time, to perceive that his education had been neglected, and, being ashamed of his ignorance, he himself determined to accomplish what the misery of his relations had prevented them from achieving for him. It was, however, indispensibly necessary for him to obtain books, in order to improve his mind, and to procure these, money was, of course, wanting. Neither his pay nor his family being adequate to furnish the means, he determined to have recourse to the vigor of his arms; in short, strength and industry were his sole resources.

No kind of labor disgusted him. He rose by break of day, and drew water, or trenched the ground for gardeners in the neighborhood of Paris; and, what will appear infinitely more strange to an Englishman, the same hands that brandished the spade in the morning, managed the needle at night; in fine, he embroidered vests and caps, which he afterwards sold at the *Cafe Cuisinier* near *Pont St. Michael*.

At the end of every week he divided his earnings into three parts, which were consecrated to three different purposes: the first he set aside to pay the substitute that mounted guard for him; the second he expended in company with his companions; and the third was advanced for the books borrowed by him. These, indeed, he seemed to devour rather than read, so eager was he to receive information.

This beardless grenadier began already to direct his studies so as to attain a better knowledge of his own profession; he attempted to discuss military subjects; pointed out the inconvenience of the then existing system of tactics, and already argued on the impropriety of many of the regulations that prevailed in the army.

Notwithstanding this serious turn, he did not debar himself from any of the pleasures incident to his line of life. No one enjoyed the company of his friends with greater glee; no one was more attached to them. Learning that one of his companions had been assassinated during a quarrel, in the neighborhood of the capital, he determined not to sleep before he had avenged his fate. He accordingly sallied forth at the head of a body of soldiers, and repairing to the house where the murder was committed, they broke all the windows, and destroyed the furniture. This violence was punished with three months' confinement in the *black hole*. At the end of that period he presented a spectacle deserving of pity; destitute of linen, clothes, and shoes, with a face pale and disfigured, he at length arrived at the barracks. His fellow-soldiers received him with transports of joy, and, being enraged at the severity of his treatment, determined to avenge his wrong by inflicting vengeance on the informer; but he entreated, and at length prevailed upon them to desist.

Soon after this, he had an affair of honor with one of the non-commissioned officers of his battalion. A corporal of the name of Serre oppressed

the whole regiment, and acted on all occasions in such a manner as rendered him extremely hated; but no one dared to oppose him. Hoche at length determined to revenge the common cause, and sent him a challenge. They accordingly met, and fought near the mills at Montmartre, on the 28th of December, 1783. The corporal, on this occasion, received a desperate wound, his opponent's sword being plunged into his belly, up to the very hilt; he, however, recovered, and being driven from the corps, emigrated with the nobility in 1790: as for Hoche, he received a deep cut on his forehead, which gave a more martial air to his countenance, and detained him during a fortnight in the hospital.

The despotism employed by the officers about this period towards the guards proved unfriendly to the monarchy. On the demise of Marshal Biron, the Duke de Chatelet was appointed his successor, and is said to have increased the discontent by avaricious speculations on the subsistence of the soldiery: if this was actually the case, it constituted one of the most cruel refinements in tyranny. The discontents of the capital, the disorder of the finances, and the miseries of the people, instead of procuring any increase of the comforts of the troops, formed so many specious pretexts for the exercise of new rigors. The French guards were confined to their barracks, and all communication between them and the citizens was interdicted. Punishments, some of them deemed cruel, all of them ignominious, are said to have been practised; such as the application of the flat part of the sabre, and the piquet. In order to occupy their minds, and prevent them from hatching treason, a novel system of discipline was invented, or at least practised, that thus, according to a Frenchman of some celebrity, "they might not have leisure to reason."

Hoche, being now well known as a good soldier, was selected to teach the new manoeuvres, and, after dedicating a month to the attainment of a theory replete with minutiae, he triumphed over every obstacle, and began to put it in practice. His conduct was so much approved of on this occasion, that he was honored with a *shoulder-knot*: thus he was destined to pass through all the immediate ranks, and be a corporal before he became a general. But he had not as yet attained the honor of a halbert. Indeed, he was on the point of losing his late preferment, almost as soon as he had obtained it, for the grenadiers, while locked up in their barracks, having thought fit to fall a dancing, this was considered as turning their captivity into derision, and Hoche was called upon to name the authors of this new crime, under pain of being degraded and sent to the *Albays* (prison). On this occasion he observed, "that, if all the culprits were to be ordered thither, the dungeons must be enlarged."

It was about this period that Sieyes published his celebrated pamphlet respecting the *Third Estate*, and all Frenchmen, as if electrified by the sound, were ready to prove that they appertained to it. Even the French Guards, hitherto considered as the satellites of arbitrary power, began at this period to side with the people, and on the 14th of July, 1789, Hoche and his companions were the first to assail and take possession of the Bastille.

Soon after this, these troops, hitherto so firmly attached to the monarchy, were organized by La Fayette, as the *Garde Soldee Parisienne*. In a short time they were once formed anew, under another name, being numbered the 102nd, 103d, and 104th regiments; and it was into the last of these that Hoche was admitted with the rank of second adjutant.

An occasion now presented itself of displaying his talents in a new point of view. The administration of the military hospital of the French guards having fallen into improper hands, he entered into a regular investigation of the accounts, which had been rendered obscure for the purposes of deception. At the same time he did everything in his power to increase the discipline of the regiment to which he now belonged, and his talents at length met with their reward. During a review in the Elysian Fields, in the vicinity (now in the midst) of Paris, Servan, then minister at war, observed a platoon that distinguished itself above all the rest by the neatness of its evolutions, and the precision of its movements.

TO BE CONTINUED.