

The Fighting in Dublin—At the General Post Office; Attempt to Blow Up Pillar; Attack on Dublin Castle; In the Trenches in Stephen's Green; Operations at T.C.D.; Battles at Lansdowne road; Fighting at Mount street; Gunboat Action at Ringsend; At Portobello Bridge; In the South Dublin Union; Attack on Magazine Fort; Fighting at N. C. road and Cabra; Glasnevin and Fairview; Bombardment of Liberty Hall	2
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THE BEGINNING.

The story of the Sinn Fein rebellion in Dublin begins a long way behind Easter Monday, 24th April, 1916, but for the purpose of giving a comprehensive narrative of the rising it will suffice to begin with the operations on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, 17th March. On that date the Dublin Battalions of the Irish Volunteers held a field day in the city. The different sections paraded in the morning at various city churches, and later the whole force assembled in College Green, where they gave a display of military manoeuvres, concluding with a march past Mr. Eoin MacNeill, the President, and the members of the Executive, who had previously inspected the men in the ranks. These operations lasted from 11 o'clock till one o'clock, and for two hours the tram and other vehicular traffic was veritably suspended by the volunteers, most of whom carried rifles and bayonets, and whose numbers on that occasion were estimated at 2 000. While the inspection was in progress the pipe bands of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions played music, and among the large crowd of spectators leaflets were distributed containing "Twenty plain facts for Irishmen." The following are extracts:—

"The natural right of the people of this nation to have the free control of their national affairs, and any body of the people is entitled to assert that right in the name of the people."

"The Irish people have not the free control of their own national affairs."

"Some of the Irish people do desire that freedom, and are entitled to assert the right of the nation."

"The Irish Volunteers (under the presidency of Eoin MacNeill) are pledged to the cause of the freedom of Ireland."

"In raising, training, arming, and equipping the Irish Volunteers as a military body, the men of Ireland are acquiring the power to obtain the freedom of the Irish Nation."

"It is the duty of every Irishman who desires for his country her natural right of freedom and for himself the natural right of a freeman, to be an Irish Volunteer."

This demonstration in the centre of Dublin on St. Patrick's Day was the first time the Irish Volunteers had taken aggressive action in daylight, but on several occasions during the early weeks of the year they had conducted night manoeuvres and practised street fighting in open spaces, generally between Saturday night and Sunday morning, and one night their operations consisted of surrounding the entrances to Dublin Castle. The police