



SpeedPoets

vol. 8.8

Dublin Impressions

Rain
Daffodil scent in window boxes
Dublin Castle walls trumpet bright pastel paint

Celts.
Vikings and Normans invaded, yet
Michael says, the Celts never moved

Soft
weather and rain
and the wind whips sharp up the Liffey.

Crowds.
Busty blonde pale girls
with cigarettes being sophisticated

Accents
broad, hard to understand.
All the waiters from somewhere in Europe.

A chippy,
With a white-tied waiter on his sign-board
Up-market smoked haddock in batter with chips.

A decision
to prohibit smoking in pubs
and a high charge for plastic bags are

Poor recompense
For the scribes and scholars,
Who returned culture and learning to Europe

© Michael E. Stone

The Devil's Breath

On the flight from Sydney to Melbourne
great swathes of burned land
blackened, shrivelled
by the Devil's breath.

People touched by that breath
could only talk of flames,
the worst since the 1880's,
incinerated cars and contents.

The flames, the great burn,
seared land and soul.

Suddenly
settlers seemed temporary

© **Michael E. Stone**