

than the charge itself. The charge, moreover, has been made in clear and explicit terms, and has been coupled with a series of other charges almost as grave. It cannot be pretended that there has been any mistake or misunderstanding. A fac simile of the letter itself has been given to the world, with Mr Parnell's signature appended thereto. If Mr. Parnell is innocent he has no option. He must indict the *Times*, and bring to bear upon it the utmost rigour of the criminal law. If he is guilty, it is high time for the world to know him for what he really is.

THE BEST KIND OF LIBERALISM.

THE munificent liberality of Sir Donald Smith and Sir George Stephen, in devoting half a million dollars each to the founding of an hospital for the sick in Montreal, is a matter deserving of hearty recognition on the part of the entire newspaper press of Canada. There are few citizens of our young Dominion who are financially in a position to emulate such a princely example as this, but the endowment can hardly fail to stir up some of our wealthy men to acts of charity and benevolence on a scale more commensurate with their means. It cannot truthfully be said that such an example was wholly unneeded. Most readers will remember the case of a very rich man who died in Toronto not many years since. He probably left behind him more wealth than either Sir Donald Smith or Sir George Stephen can call their own. Yet he was never known to do a really kind or generous deed. Nobody, not even himself, was the better for his great possessions, and hundreds were considerably the worse. He died and was buried, leaving dry eyes behind him. A grey granite mausoleum was erected over his remains, and there was an end to him. Nobody bears him in tearful remembrance. The widow, the orphan and the incurable invalid do not rise up and bless his name. Such an incarnation of utter greed and selfishness is not often met with, but he turns up sometimes, and when he does he makes us all the more ready to do justice to such truly princely benevolence as has been displayed by the two magnates of Montreal.

THE IRISH COERCION BILL.

It may pretty well be taken for granted that the Coercion Bill will be carried through the Imperial House of Commons, and that its provisions will be strictly enforced in Ireland for some time to come. It has already passed its second reading, and the black charges brought by the *Times* against Parnell and his coadjutors are not likely to decrease the majority by which it will be supported when it comes up for final consideration. For the present it would seem that Home Rule is doomed, and that Mr. Gladstone is not likely to re-ascend to power upon the shoulders of his Irish colleagues. All things, it is said, come to those who can afford to wait. Mr. Gladstone is old, and cannot afford to wait indefinitely; but Home Rule is a strong plant, and English Toryism may be sure that the world has not heard the last of it.

THE SHERIFFALTY OF YORK.

By the death of Sheriff Jarvis, Toronto has been deprived of one of her best known citizens, and the County of York has lost one of its most highly respected officials. The place thus left vacant is one of the most lucrative and in every way desirable of all the choice things at the disposal of the Ontario Government. The emoluments are large—being anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year—and the duties, in so far as the sheriff is personally concerned, are not very onerous, being for the most part performed by deputy. It is therefore not strange that there should be a good many persons desirous of being installed in such an office, and if common rumour is to be trusted, the number of applicants is very large. The list, as currently discussed on the street, includes the names of at least half a score of people who have not commonly been regarded in the light of office-seekers. The fact is that the office is such a fat and easy one that it has attracted persons who are not in the ordinary sense of the term waiters upon Providence. The position, however, is about to be shorn of some of its pecuniary attractions. The sheriffalty of York is to be separated from that of Toronto, and there will henceforth be a separate and distinct sheriff for the county and city respectively. The emoluments of each, however, will still be large, and the Government will simply have two fat offices at its disposal instead of one. This is better than leaving the matter as it stands, inasmuch as it tends towards equalization; but it does not strike at the root. There is no reason on earth why one man, with his subordinates, should not properly discharge the duties incidental to the position of Sheriff of York and Toronto. Nor is there any reason why he should be paid more than \$2,500 a year for so doing. There are scores of honourable and thoroughly competent men in Canada who would gladly undertake the duties for that sum, and who would discharge them at least as efficiently as a political appointee who will really do little or nothing himself, but leave all the real work to be done by his deputies. Mr. Mowat might do worse in his own interests, and in the interests of the province, than take this view of the matter; but we have no idea that he will do so.

DR. McCAUL.

DR. McCAUL has also been summoned to his rest. For some time past the doctor's figure has not been a familiar one on our streets, as, independently of his advanced years, he has been a confirmed invalid, and not in a condition to take his walks abroad, as he was so fond of doing in the days of his vigorous manhood. But he has not been forgotten during his seclusion, and his death will be regarded in the light of a bereavement by many persons unconnected with him by ties of blood. He will be held in remembrance by hundreds of somewhat university students to whom he was once a guide, philosopher and friend. His life's work may be said to have ended about ten or twelve years since, but he has left an abiding mark behind him, and his name is not likely to sink into oblivion for many a generation to come.