# IIOPFPUL OU'LLOOK. 

## Interviow with Arohbishop Walsh

 of Dublin.THE: PRESENT PROSLECTS OF hOME. RULE.

The presence of the Arobbishop of Dublin in lome recently was availed of by the able correspondent of the pilot in that city to elicit the views of llis Grace on the present position of the Irish parties. His Grace sadd in reply to a question:
"I think," said the Archbishop, "it is inupossible to say how the elestions will turn out. The resuit must large Iy depend upon whether the present ruinous division is kept up in lreland. If it is kept up, I don't sce how we can anticipate a Home Rule majority at the next elections. The electoral strife between the two sections of our Irish Ilome Rulo representatives for a number of the seats in Ireland will keep all our more promment public men at home. This will tell heavily against the Homo Rule cause in Eng. jaudyand Scotland. There must be man constituencies in England and Scotand that will return their mem. bers, for or against Homo Rule, by very small majorities. There will probably be a suflicient number of such eonstitucncies to turn the scale one way or the other. It is easy to see how disastrously the result in such places, and thereiore the result all rounl, must be affected by the absence of the powerful aid that could be given by the many ablo and energetic workers that are to be found amongst the Irish menbers. In this way, those who are responsible for keeping up the
division, if it is division, if it is kept up, will be responsiblo for the defeat of the llome Rule cause if it is defented, at the uext general clections. I say nothing of the use that is sure to be made of this division amongat ourselves as an argument ayainst our fitness for Home Hule. In point of logic, that argument may not be a really conclusive one. But, for all that, it will tell heavily against us at the elections. There will be hundreds and thoussnds of waverers. This is just the sort of electioneering topic that is likely to determine the votes of many amongst them."
" Your Grace las made some strong arpeals in the cause of unity?
" Yes; especially on a recent oc. casion. I have tricd, at all events, to clear the air by making a public state. ment that the division. so far as we in Iublin have to do witi it as a matter of serious practical moment, is a
political matter, pure and simple. I political matter, pure and simple. I
know that this declaration of mine has set many people thinking. There is a growing feeling that something practical ought to be done for the restoration of unity. For my part, I nin yuite satisfied with that as a be. gimning."
"There 15 no longer any religious cloment in the dispute?"

- I recognize none of any practical inportance, since Mr. Parnell's death. I was absent from Ireland at the time. lint 1 took it for granted that tho diwision would at once disappear. I found on my return, after a fem days, that the prospects of reconciliation secmed absolutely hopeless. There is at leng th some sign of improvement in the state of opinion. Noone who rishes th aid in the cause of pesce will care now to reopen old sores by ataternents or discussions as to which side was in fault at that nost critical cima. But, undoubtedly, a great opportunity was lost. In spacaking of the prosent state of the casc. I am speaking, of course, only of Dublin. I leave out of account, too, the proceedings of a very smallnumber of moreor lese prominent
individuals who in one way or another have tried to turn the political difference to mischievous use as regarde religious interests. There is hardly a dozen of thom in all. Thoy have absolutoly failed in what they aimod at. Parnelliam, as wo have it in Dublin, is simply a political policy. Wise or foolish as that policy may be, it involves no necessary connection with any religious issue. 'The l'arnelliten, as they are callod, consider that sufficient pressure is not put upon the prosent Ministry by the Irish Pharliamentary party. That seoms now to be the practical point at issue '
- Your (irace says, tho Parnellites, as they are called.

Well, I lave alwass held that they have no real claim to tho designation. They repudiate that which was the corner stone, the very foundation, of Mr. Parnell's constitutional policy and his Parliamentary success-the Parliamentary Pledge. They refuse to become members of the Irish Parliamentary party on that basie, or to do them full justice, perlasp I ought rather to say that they refuse to bocome members of it on that as the only basis of reunion.'

Then there seems to be a deadlock ? How can there be any prospect of unity ?"

I think it clear that those wio repudiato the old basis of unity incur at all events this responsibility, that it lics upon then to suggest some other definite basis, and not merely to suggest it, but to submit it to the judgnent of the country, and to abide by that judgment. l'ntil they do this, statesmanlike and wise as they may think their policy to be, their policy can only be the policy of a section, and of a section in open conflict with the policy of the country as a whole. But you ask about the possibility of finding some common ground upon which all could unite. I do not despair of seeing it found before the elections come upon us. In a speech made since I recently wrote in the in. terests of unity, a prominent member of the l'arnellite section lass thrown out a suggestion which seems to me to contam the germ of something practical. It was not very formally stated, but it seems to me to come to this, that it might be found possible to work out a settlement on the basis of the Parliamentary Pledge, if an agreement were first come to, as to how long the present policy of the Parliamentary party, that 15 to saj, the policy of keeping the present Ministry in office, was ty go on. No one, 1 suppose, contemplates that it should be kept on very much longer; so here we seem to have something like solid ground to work upon. In chis aspect of the case the difference may be regarded as only a question of any irreconcilable opposition in point of principle. The euggestion seemed to me a very practical one, and I would say that it is by no means an unreasonadle suggestion, as I view the case.
$\because$ But how could that preliminary point be settled? Will the two sec. tions agree to meet, and abide by whatever the majority may decide? ?"

- Well, I would certainly be for making matters casier for the dissentient section, as I may call them, than what you suggest would seem to imply. It strikes me, at all events. that if it was once agreed to at both sides-I mean, of course, agreed to by a majority at cack side-that this was a possibly satisfactory badis of renaion the rest of the proceeding would be simple enough. For instance, a com. mittice, say, of five promment public men could be be formed, five men in whose joint decision all Irislumen at home and abrond would have confi. dence. I venture to say that such a conmittee could very easily be formed. The result of its deliberations as to the fundamental point should be switted for comsideration by both


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sides. I have little doubt that any schome drawn up by such a responsible committee would be adopted by both sections. Then, on the basis thus arrived at as a fundamental condition, all could be brought to work together under the bond of the Parliamentary Pledge.'

Would Your (irace act as a member of such a committeo of reconciliation ?"

- No, but I should be quite pre. pared, if the parliamentary difficulties were got over, to offer sugrestions as to the constitution of the committee. My ides is that the committer should comprise both members of Parhament and ou!siders, and that its constitution should be accepted as sufficiently satis factory by both sides before it went to work. 13 ut 1 fear we are getting too far into details. However, it may be useful to have some practical proposal put for ward in this way even in outime. Something may come of it. We must only hope for the best. For my part. I am not at all inclined to despair in the matter, or even to be despondent. On the contrary. I am rather hopeful."


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