

This lurid picture may be overdrawn in the blindness of strong national sentiment, but it shows, as the dark clouds scurrying across a sullen sky, the storm—the storm of feelings, too bitter to be acridly enough written, that was the consequence and the curse of centuries of misrule with its concomitant evils. This is only one page of Glenanaar, and a verry dark and repulsive, though easily comprehended, page it is. In the rest of the work other characteristics of the Irish people, more natural and more pleasing, are drawn into relief from the hazy indefinite back ground of the everyday actions, that make a nation's life.

S. E. L.

Development of Free Institutions in England

The English people did not come upon the liberty, they now enjoy all at once, nor did they always have what might even be called a pretence at liberty; we cannot say in a true sense "Britons never have been slaves" whatever of the "shall be." The institutions as they exist to-day, which mean justice, peace and prosperity to the people that enjoy them, are the outcome and development of a conviction long upheld by the people in the most bloody wars against tyranny and oppression. Government by the people has been proven to be the success that it is, in our own century only. It is shown by the wealth and contentment of the nations of the globe that have representative governments and therefore liberty; as compared to the condition of the nations that live under the iron rule of an absolute sovereign. The gradual decline of autocracy is held to be the result of a more advanced civilization, in which the people recognize and rightfully demand their rights.

The evolution of English liberty may be traced from the foundation of the Monarchy in 827. At this epoch was formed what is known as the council of Wise men, "Witana-gemot". The councillors were selected from the people to advise the king, who had supreme power. In account of his admitted supremacy, the king was under no obligation to act upon the advice of these councillors, so that in this council nothing more is shown than a feeling of good will between the sovereign and his people; but this was a beginning.

These conditions existed until oppression grew so severe that the nobles were unable to support the tyranny of the king and ac-