

**SIR DONALD A. SMITH.**

There are few public men in any country animated with a more patriotic and generous spirit than is the worthy representative of Montreal West, Sir Donald A. Smith. He is a man of enormous wealth, but unlike many other millionaires, he gives what is best and noblest in the country the benefit of his accumulated means. Scarcely is there a deserving institution in Canada that has not in some way benefited by the open-handedness of the venerable and princely friend of art, science, literature and education. His home is a veritable gallery of rare and costly gems of art; the societies of benevolence and literary advancement are ever the recipients of his gifts; the homes of education reap yearly the fruits of his generosity. We have heard it remarked that he can well afford to make such numerous and important donations; it is very true—but he could as well afford to keep his money and tie it up railways, banks, or other commercial establishments, leaving the country to shift for itself and our institutions to paddle their own canoes. In so doing he would be simply following the example of the other wealthy men of the day. But Sir Donald is not of that build. He seems to value money only in as far as it enables him to do good. The exceptional gift of one hundred thousand dollars, bestowed the other day on McGill University for the purpose of establishing and supporting an important chair in that institution, is but one sample of his countless acts of public generosity. There is a lesson that could be drawn from this man's public spirited actions, and one that cannot fail to be potent in its good effects if properly taken to heart.

Proportionately speaking—of course not to the same extent but certainly in a very great degree—we have a vast number of wealthy Irishmen in this city. It is a matter of wonder that we never have heard of any such movement being made—in regard to our national and religious institutions—by these possessors of abundant means. There are not less than fifty to whom a thousand dollars or more would be as little as the hundred thousand in Sir Donald's case. They would never miss the sum from their large fortunes. There are sufficient of these rich personages to have long since erected some real monument for the benefit of our people. With a little of Sir Donald's spirit they could easily give us a splendid hall, a magnificent library, something that would be an honor to the donors and a credit to our people. What have we? The different literary, benevolent, and national associations do their utmost; with the means at their disposal they build halls for their respective societies; but no great, central, important establishment exists—nor is there any in contemplation.

Look at that old and honorable body, the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal; it possesses nothing but the small and dismal room on McGill street. While the members of that body and other Irish societies are thus confined to such narrow space, our French Canadian friends are erecting the magnificent structure on St. Lawrence Main street, which is a credit to their enterprise and a real monument of national sentiment. It seems to us that with the model laid down by the French Canadians, on the one hand, and the example set by Sir Donald Smith, on the other, there should be a sufficient incentive to stir our wealthy citizens into activity and inspire them with the ambition of leaving something, far more lasting than marble mausoleums, to perpetuate their memories in the hearts of the people.

All are not as wealthy as Sir Donald, but all can participate—in the spirit that animates the patriotic member for Montreal West. He gives, and without ostentation; he gives, and without any hope of political or other reward; he gives, and without any desire for a return—he needs it not; he gives, simply for the pleasure of making the country prosperous; and in giving, "he learns the luxury of doing good." We hope the day is not far distant when some of our richer friends, men of Irish blood and Catholic faith, will learn a lesson from the acts of generosity performed by Sir Donald, and that some day Montreal may be the happy possessor of a monumental institution worthy of the forty thousand Irish Catholics that pride themselves in the greatness of this grand city and in that of this land of their future.

**A PUBLIC NECESSITY.**

There are certain subjects, which, while of vital importance, are avoided simply because they require to be most delicately touched upon, otherwise the feelings of the over-sensitive, the hyper-modiste might be shocked. It is the duty of the Press to call the attention of the authorities, in some way or other, to important matters affecting the health or well-being of the public, and to do so in language sufficiently plain to be understood. We ask the temperance people of Montreal to carefully consider the following. We give it in the language of a writer in the "Montreal Medical Journal." No more delicately, plainly and effectively could the case be explained than by the author, who is an eminent medical practitioner of Montreal, and who kindly allowed us to use the advance-sheet of portion of his article. Once more; temperance men, and health department, listen!

"A writer in the Doctor's Weekly estimates that not less than fifteen thousand dollars is spent daily in the saloons and taverns of New York by persons who, but for the privilege of using the urinals, would not enter such places. The mere fact that such an amount of money is thrown away, nay worse, spent upon something which is absolutely harmful, should make health boards think and temperance societies get up in arms. What is true of New York is true of all other large cities. For instance Montreal, with a population of about one-tenth that of New York, is paying some fifteen hundred dollars daily for the privilege of relieving nature. The only reasons ever given for not having public urinals are: firstly, the aesthetic one that such places do not look pretty, and secondly, the question of expense. In view of the pressing demand the first reason is not very weighty, and might be overcome by putting them in secluded places with a finger-post to direct applicants for relief. The second reason fades into nothingness before the figures given.

The lavatory attached to the ordinary saloon is usually in bad sanitary condition, and thus another reason why public urinals should be provided is added to the list.

In many shops we find toilet rooms for ladies, but the male population must either go into a saloon or else run the risk of arrest for committing a nuisance in a corner. Again, the mere knowledge that a harbour of refuge is at hand if required would be a comfort to many a good citizen, although he may not actually require it.

The consideration of this question we commend to our Board of Health as a measure conducive to health and morals, and to our Total Abstinence Societies as a means of preventing indulgence in intoxicating liquids. We hope that too much time will not be spent in considering the question, but that some action may also be taken."

**DYSPEPSIA CURED.**

Gentlemen,—I was troubled with dyspepsia for about four years. I noticed an advertisement of Burdock Blood Bitters, so I started to use it and soon found that there was nothing to equal it. It took just three bottles to effect a perfect cure in my case. **HEAT J. REED,** Wingham, Ont.

**THE HOME RULE BILL.**

**THE FIGHT COMMENCES IN EARNEST.**

The Second Reading: Chamberlain's Desperate Effort; Justin McCarthy's Strong Stand; Mr. Redmond's Views.

LONDON, April 8.—The hard fighting against the Home Rule bill will begin in the House on Monday. How long it will last is uncertain. Mr. Gladstone hopes to get a division next Friday, but the Unionists talks of a fortnight's debate, which will probably prove an accurate prediction, though the Ministerialists will leave all the speaking to the Opposition after Thursday next. Mr. Gladstone has returned to Brighton to recuperate from the exertions of his efforts last evening. His vigorous and eloquent speech lent interest to what otherwise was a dull opening to the second act of the Home Rule drama. Half the members are still absent on their holidays.

The Opposition front bench has been deserted, as Messrs. Balfour and Goschen, Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Chamberlain are still stumping the country. Lord Randolph Churchill, speaking at Liverpool yesterday, said that if the Home Rule bill, by some malice of the infernal powers, were to become a law all the loyalists of Ulster would fight against its operation. Was Mr. Gladstone aware that an Irish parliament would mean civil war in Ireland, and did his hearers believe that in the event of such a war British troops would be allowed to shoot down the Protestants of Ulster? Ulster would be within her legal rights in resisting the enactments of an Irish parliament?

LONDON, April 10.—There was but a thin attendance in the House of Commons to-day when the discussion was resumed on the motion for the second reading of the Irish Home Rule Bill. The first speaker was Herbert W. Paul, Liberal. When Joseph Chamberlain arose the members hurried in and the House assumed an aspect of interest and attention. Mr. Chamberlain said that the people of England would probably accept the bill if they believed it would enable them to get rid of the Irish question, but he feared it would do nothing of the kind. The whole of the property classes, he continued, whatever their religion, were opposed to the bill. Had the Prime Minister ever known any state to succeed when the government was opposed by a majority of the classes owning property. Even the Nationalists in accepting the measure did not think it was a finality. He challenged the Irish leaders to say whether they accepted the principles in the bill affirming the veto of the Crown on advice of the British ministry and preventing the Irish parliament from dealing with external trade. Were these taken as final or were the financial clauses rendering Ireland liable to increased taxation for war and other purposes connected with the Imperial policy accepted as final? There was absolutely nothing final about the bill. As soon as an Irish parliament should be formed they would require it to be patched up again. (Hear, hear.) Did anybody consider the so-called safeguards in the bill worth anything if the Irish majority was determined to disregard them?

**CIVIL WAR WOULD DO IT.**

True the British Parliament could enforce them by civil war, but not otherwise, (Conservative cheers.) The only safeguard the Government had was the good feeling and generosity of the Irish leaders and people, and if the Government had the courage of their convictions they ought to sweep away the so-called safeguards in the bill. But probably Mr. Gladstone still suspected the good intentions of the man to whom he was manoeuvring to give the Government of Ireland. These were the men about whom he formerly said that they preached the gospel of plunder, and were marching through rapine to the dismemberment of the Empire. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer had denounced them as preaching the doctrines of treason and murder. The present Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster had said that if the police should be

**NO OTHER** Sarsaparilla has effected such remarkable cures as **HOOD'S** Sarsaparilla, of Scrofula, Salt Rheum, and other blood diseases.

placed in the hands of an elective body the landlords might whistle for their rents, and be glad if they escaped with a whole skin, and the present Secretary for Scotland had once declared that he would rather remain a private citizen throughout his life than consent to confide the lives and liberties of a law abiding population to a Parliament composed of such men. These were the utterances of four ministers who now led the way in proposing to establish such a parliament. (Conservative cheers.) He would not say that Ireland, if England should be engaged in war, would take sides against England, but it was possible that the sympathy of the Irish might be with England's opponent, thereby exposing England to the risk of a simultaneous civil and foreign war. Mr. Gladstone professed abundant faith in the Irish people, but it was a faith of recent growth. They were asked to stake the honor and dignity and the life of the nation on the assurance that a miracle would be wrought, changing the hearts of man and altering the springs of human action. The danger was too great and the possible gain too small. If the bill should pass and they escaped disaster and disgrace the Government would still fail to find a plausible reason for risking so much with so little corresponding advantages.

**MR. MCCARTHY SPEAKS.**

Justin McCarthy, leader of the anti-Parnellites, ridiculed Mr. Chamberlain's prophecies of disaster. The Irish people, he said, hailed the bill as a pledge that their aspirations would be satisfied. They would accept it as a message of lasting peace. The predictions that they would misuse it to foment disloyalty could be made only by those mistaking the present mood of the Irish nation. He could not say that the Irish party were quite satisfied with the financial clauses of the Home Rule bill; nevertheless they accepted the bill generally as an honest settlement of the question. (Cheers.) As far as the Irish party could foresee it might prove a final settlement. If the bill were carried the Prime Minister would win the gratitude of millions. (Prolonged cheers.)

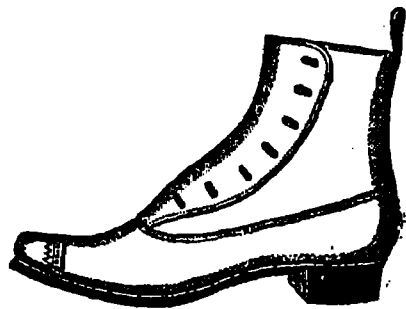
Win. Redmond, leader of the Parnellites, said that the bill had been discussed sufficiently by the House. Nothing was to be gained by prolonging the debate, and a division was now needed to give effect to the wishes expressed by the nation at the last general election. Mr. Redmond ridiculed the idea that Ulster had anything to fear from Catholic Ireland. If disturbances in Ireland should follow the passage of the bill, they would be due to the conduct of the Opposition leaders, who had not hesitated to excite the worst passions of both Catholics and Protestants.

Ashmead Bartlett (Conservative) denied that the general election was contested on the Home Rule issue. The country had been bulldozed, he said, by the Newcastle programme. In closing Mr. Bartlett prophesied that the present bill would be rejected as was its predecessor.

AN American girl was once shown some cannon at Woolwich Arsenal, the sergeant in charge remarking, "You know, we took them from you at Bunker's Hill." "Yes," she replied; "I see you've got the cannon, but I guess we've got hill."

**MARRIED.**

**KING-McGRATH**—In this city, on the 10th inst., at St. Anthony Church, by the Rev. J. E. Donnelly, P. P., Peter Francis King, son of the late Frank King, to M. E. McGrath, eldest daughter of John McGrath—all of this city. No cards.



**T. C. O'BRIEN,**  
231 ST. LAWRENCE ST.,  
(Near St. Catherine.)

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