

The Catholic Weekly Review.

Vol. IV

Toronto, Saturday, Nov. 29, 1890.

No. 43

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Notes.

MODERN enterprise stops at nothing. Least of all does it know any such word as reverence. The word comes that engineers are busy surveying the line for the proposed railway from the coast to Damascus. At present they are at work in the mountains immediately north of the Sea of Galilee. The actual laying of the railway, they think, will begin at Acre in three or four months. The concession includes permission to run a steamer on the Sea of Galilee. To our way of thinking it all sounds very uncanny.

THE *Daily Telegraph* and other leading London journals, are urging that it is time steps were taken to put a stop to the absurdities of Guy Fawke's Day. The original purpose of the "festival" has long since been forgotten, and the "Guys," as a rule, are caricatures of some unpopular personage of the moment. The occasion is used now for exhibitions of the most offensive character, its recurrence there, as in Toronto, being made a pretext for every variety of hoodlum revelry.

THE re-election of Mr. Parnell on Tuesday last to the chairmanship of the Irish Parliamentary party, and his determination, which met at the time with the concurrence of his followers, to remain in the leadership, has caused a grave complication in the political situations. The resolve of the Irish members to stand by Mr. Parnell, speaks well for their loyalty to, and their personal attachment for their leader, nevertheless the sentiment of personal fealty comes too dear when, as in the circumstances of the present hour, it imperils the interests of a country, and is arrayed against a united public feeling. The fact appears to be that at the Nationalist meeting on Tuesday, very few of the members present had any knowledge of the stand that Mr. Gladstone would take in the matter. The result is that a day later they had to seriously reconsider, and in a day or two more will doubtless be forced to reverse, their first judgment.

THE attitude since assumed by Mr. Gladstone brings matters to a climax. The Liberal leader is immovable in his decision that Mr. Parnell must retire, and he is supported in this by a unanimous press and a united party. Things, therefore, have come to this pass, that either Mr. Parnell must bend, or the Irish party must snap.

At the request of Mr. Gladstone Mr. Morley communicated to Mr. Parnell the following letter written on Monday:—

DEAR MORLEY,—Having arrived at a certain conclusion with regard to the continuance of Mr. Parnell's leadership of the Irish party, I have seen Mr. McCarthy on my arrival in town, and have enquired from him whether I am likely to receive from Mr. Parnell himself any communication on the subject. Mr. McCarthy replied that he was unable to give me any information. I mentioned to him that in 1882, after the terrible murders in Phoenix park, Mr. Parnell, although totally removed from the idea of responsibility, had spontaneously written and offered to take the Chiltern Hundreds, an offer much to his honour, but which I thought it my duty to decline. While clinging to the hope of a communication from Mr. Parnell, to whomsoever addressed, I thought it necessary, viewing the arrangements for the commencement of the Session to-morrow, to acquaint Mr. McCarthy with the conclusion at which, after using all the means of observation and reflection in my power, I had myself arrived. It was that, notwithstanding the splendid services rendered by Mr. Parnell to his country, his continuance at the present moment in the leadership would be productive of consequences disastrous in the highest degree to the cause of Ireland. I think I may be warranted in asking you so far to expand the conclusions given above as to add that Mr. Parnell's continuance as leader would not only place many hearty and effective friends of the Irish cause in a position of great embarrassment, but would render my retention of the leadership, based as it has been upon the prosecution of the Irish cause, as almost a nullity. This expansion of my views I begged Mr. McCarthy to regard as confidential, and not intended for his colleagues generally, if he found that Mr. Parnell contemplated spontaneous action; but I also begged that he would make known to the Irish party at their meeting to-morrow that such was my conclusion, if he should find that Mr. Parnell was not contemplating steps of the nature indicated. I now write you in case I should be unable to communicate with Mr. Parnell, as I understand you may possibly have an opening to-morrow through another channel. Should you have such an opening, I beg you to make known to Mr. Parnell the conclusion stated in this letter. I have thought it best to put it in terms simple and direct, much as I should have liked had it lain in my power to alleviate the personal nature of the situation. As respects the manner of conveying what my public duty has made it an obligation to say, I rely entirely on your good feeling, tact, and judgment.

(Signed) WILLIAM E. GLADSTONE.

THE publication of this ultimatum from the Liberal leader created a sensation; and Sir Charles Russell described what we fancy was the overwhelming feeling among Irishmen the world over, when he said at Hackney that many Irish members were sad at heart because of the calamity that had befallen the cause of Ireland. He believed they wished that Parnell would bow his head to the storm and recognize the fact that he had inflicted a serious wound upon the conscience of the people of both countries, and damaged the cause for which he had fought so long. The *Daily News*, the chief organ of Liberal opinion in England, in a long article on Wednesday, says: "The situation is too grave to admit of idle compliments, and we must inform the Irish members that they have entirely failed to appreciate the momentous nature of the crisis. If they do not make up their minds, and that quickly, they will find out too late that they have done irreparable damage to their country and their cause."