

found in every part of her soil, formed for centuries as they form still a painful contrast with actual squalor and misery; but the history of that ancient civilization was lost, the names of the men who had reared these gigantic structures were unknown; Egypt, a land of wonders, was a land of mystery too, and what was recorded by others, as for instance by Herodotus, was in some important respects misleading. Thus Voltaire makes capital out of Herodotus's statement that the Egyptians were unacquainted with when up to a comparatively modern period against the books of Moses, where allusions to it are of frequent occurrence—to mention only Pharaoh's cupbearer, who shared the prison with Joseph. Nor was it easy to answer the objections until our own times, when some old scriptures came to light, older than Moses, on which may be seen the whole process of vine-tending and grape gathering. We find too that the Egyptians were no strangers to the fermented juice of the grape; for there are representations of Egyptian gentlemen, borne away from feasts, by servants, about whose condition even the most charitable could not entertain a doubt. Ladies too, we learn, were not behind their lords and masters in this; for there is one group, where the artist more truthfully than gallantly, shows two or three slightly under the influence, and a slave hurrying with a basin, just a moment too late to prevent all the unpleasant consequences of what was clearly a surfeit.

In truth everything concerning ancient Egypt was a mystery; and yet materials abounded. There was scarcely a stone that did not bear an inscription; they ran from top to bottom, on the four sides of each obelisk—the walls, pediments and pillars of the buildings and the intervals between the pillars were covered with them. Every mummy case or ancient coffin, and the wrappings round the mummy were inscribed in either one or the other form of the old Egyptian character. But the secret of reading the inscriptions was not known; the key to the enigma was lost, and it might never have been found but for the genius of a young French savant, Champollion, whose name will be for ever henceforth connected with Egypt and her hieroglyphics. I have here what will just serve to give an idea of the hieroglyphs—two sketches for which I am indebted to the kindness of a talented young friend. They are the names of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, with the characters explained by Champollion. The signs are rough pictures of natural objects taken from the three orders, animate, inanimate, and human. There are to be found birds, beasts, and fishes, trees and plants, geometrical figures, portions of the human frame, numbering in all nearly a thousand varieties. We are very far away from the twenty-four consonants and vowels of the omit alphabet, by which we modern can express every shade of thought by a corresponding variety of sounds. Egyptian signs are not the equivalent of the letters of the alphabet precisely. Many stand for the object signified; many others for the sound or part of it by which the object is named; and as this sound must have its equivalent in letters, they stand for letters in the end. As an example, the hieroglyph gives, with the name of the object, a picture of it, or a sign that conveys the picture, which is called a determinative.

All this is the outcome of modern research. In all probability the inscriptions would be a mystery at this hour but for the discovery of what is called the Rosetta Stone, now in the British Museum, but which was dug up by some French soldiers at the time of the invasion of Egypt under the first Napoleon. It is a block of black granite having on one of its faces an inscription in three columns, and in three different forms of writing. The first is hieroglyphic, the second demotic—a popular corruption of the first; the third is Greek. Later on in 1822 another inscription in two languages was discovered in the Island of Philæ, which was also of great assistance to Champollion. Both inscriptions were public decrees, and it was evident the same announcement was repeated in two languages. It was the custom then, as we learn from the inscription, Ptolemy caused to be placed on the cross on which our Lord suffered. It was possible now to take the first step towards discovery. The next came from the fact, previously noted, that the proper names of rulers were distinguished from the other words of an inscription by being enclosed in a kind of frame. With these data Champollion set to work. In the Greek column of the Rosetta Stone was found the name Ptolemy; in that of Philæ, Cleopatra. Happily their names have five letters in common—P, T, E, L, O. He flashed on the mind of the young Frenchman that the hieroglyph images should have relation to the sound of the letter by which the Coptic name of the object represented began—that the figure of the eagle should have the sound of a "k" being Coptic for eagle—the lion, "l" from "labo." The enigma was solved—patience and careful methodical comparison did the rest. Champollion died at the early age of 42, but before his death he had the consolation of publishing his Egyptian Grammar and Vocabulary, which have guided the investigations of all who followed him. The work of reading ancient Egyptian inscriptions is going on still, because new monuments are being discovered yearly; but already the progress made has revealed to us a priceless treasure of ancient lore, and has cast a strong corroborative light on numerous passages of sacred history at a time when it would seem as if some auxiliary were needed to check the intolerance of unbelief.

TO BE CONTINUED

Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil, with Hypophosphites. Is more reliable as an agent in the cure of Consumption, Chronic Coughs and Emaciation, than any remedy known to medical science. It is so prepared that the potency of these two most valuable specifics is largely increased. It is also very palatable.

A Pleasing Duty.

"I feel it my duty to say," writes John Borton, of Desert P. Q., "that Burdock Blood Bitters cured my wife of liver complaint, from which she had been a chronic sufferer. Her distressing, painful symptoms soon gave way, and I can highly recommend the medicine to all suffering as she did."

CANADA AND IRELAND.

HOME RULE IN THE CANADIAN COMMONS.

A HOME RULE MOTION.

Ottawa, May 4, 1886.

Mr. McLELLAN moved the House into Committee on Supply.

Mr. BLAKE—I rise to intercept for a moment that question, in order to bring before this House another, in which the last House showed a deep concern; I mean the Irish question. In 1880 I spoke here and expressed my belief and hope that we should soon see a measure of Home Rule. In 1882 the question was moved from the other side. We on this side heartily co-operated in order to give the greatest possible weight to the proposed action. I then spoke on the whole question at a length which relieved me from the necessity of trespassing now upon the time of the House. Since that day, to the limited extent of my power, here and elsewhere, I have sought to advance the cause. Since then a new Parliament has been elected here. Since then great events have occurred in the United Kingdom. The people, both of Ireland and of Great Britain, have for the first time received a full representation in Parliament. The Irish people have spoken almost unanimously for Home Rule. The great statesman who leads the Government has recognized the vital necessity of grappling at once with this great question. Her Majesty's Government have, as I ventured to say in 1882, was their duty, formulated a plan for the settlement of the question. A controversy has arisen on some of the more important details of the measure. I do not myself admire all these details. For example, admitting the great difficulties, I yet prefer, to the exclusion of Ireland from the management of Imperial affairs in which she is interested, her continued representation for Imperial purposes in an Imperial Parliament. I say I should prefer, notwithstanding the great difficulties, that she should have that control. But it is needless to discuss this or any other matter of detail.

here now, because it has been expressly stated that none of these points are considered in any way vital to the question which is now before England and before the world. The vital principle now at stake is that of self government for Ireland in local affairs. (Cheers.) That is the great question is shown by Mr. Gladstone's reply made on the first reading of the Bill. It is further declared by his recent manifesto. In that manifesto he says:—"As for the means we take, the establishment in Dublin of a legislative body empowered to make laws for the Irish as contradistinguished from Imperial affairs, it is with this that we are now busied, and not with details and particulars. Their time will come," he adds; "we are not debating the amount of the Irish contribution to the Empire, or the composition of the legislative body, or the maintenance of representative connection with Westminster. On these questions, and many more, we may or we may not be at odds, but what we are at this moment debating is the large and far larger question which includes, and I think absorbs them all. The question is whether you will or will not have regard to the prayer of Ireland for the management by herself of affairs specifically and exclusively her own." This, and no other, is the matter which the House of Commons has at once to decide. If on this matter I speak with clear and intelligible voice, I feel the strongest assurance that on other questions, difficult as some of them are, they will nevertheless, with the aid of the full discussion and with the aid of a WISE AND CONCILIATORY SPIRIT, be found capable of a rational and tolerable settlement. Now the Bill stands for a second reading in a few days, and then that vital question is to be decided. A great excitement has arisen. The Empire has been aroused, not merely the kingdom but the Empire and its parts beyond the seas. English-speaking people not within the bounds of the Empire have been aroused. Free nations all over the world have been moved. Every eye is bent on Westminster, and every ear is strained to catch the echoes when they come of the great debate and learn the issue of the mighty struggle. From beyond the seas, Sir, marks of sympathy and admiration have been cable to the First Minister. He has received and responded to them in such a manner, as proves conclusively that he regards them as helpful in the enormous task which he has undertaken. We know, as well as if we had received it already, what the tone of the reply would be to any such communication as we have on a former occasion addressed to the British Government. The circumstances that have changed. They are changed since the day we addressed Her Majesty before they are changed as to the position of the question, but they are changed in this particular also, namely, that at that time we assumed and I suppose we are not prepared to recede, from assumption, our right respectably to approach the one and tender our views upon a subject which is of such vital importance to the whole Empire, and to Canada as a part of the Empire. (Hear, hear.) But circumstances are changed in this particular also; that whereas we were then asserting and according to the view that we should take the responsibility of respectfully tendering that advice, now we can say that Her Majesty's

GOVERNMENT HAVE ACTED in accordance with the spirit of that advice. It is not necessary that we should tender them any advice. What we are called upon now to do, in the present situation, is to say to the far west, on they shall have our moral support in the feelings and views they have expressed, and in the principle of the scheme they have proposed. (Loud cheers.) I say that the answers which have been given to the communications to the Prime Minister, show how helpful they are considered to be. To the Speaker of the Quebec Assembly Mr. Gladstone writes: "I am deeply grateful for the resolutions adopted by your honourable body. It is my belief that the people of England who have partial responsibility for the old misdeeds of the British Government and the people of Ireland, who have really none, will concur in the wise and liberal views entertained by the Quebec Assembly." To the Mayor of Boston, in answer

to the resolution passed by the Corporation of that city, he called—"I feel that American opinion, allied as it is with a regard and affection for the Old Country, affords Her Majesty's Government a powerful moral support." Then shall we be slack to-day who spoke before? (A voice, "Yes.") I say no; we are called upon to speak, and to speak now—(loud cheers)—else it will be said of us, "You spoke."

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