



T. P. O'CONNOR

The Position and Stability of the Government—The Parnell Commission and the Verdict That is Now Expected.

LONDON, Nov. 24.—A word or two first about the position of the Ministry. There is no chance of its going out immediately. In fact, few people believe it will go out for several years to come. This conviction is shared by many men of ardent temper, who think it is to be tortured, worried or flogged into resignation next spring. Several ardent English Radicals are of the same opinion, especially those who have visited Ireland and seen the state of things there.

THE GOVERNMENT'S SMALL BLINDERS.

Mention the Government, like most British administrations, is making a number of small blunders. The agreement with Germany to help in putting down the slave trade in Africa is regarded as a piece of weak compliance by the shallow Salisbury to the astute Bismarck, and the appointment of Sir Henry to the governorship of Queensland will probably have been cancelled by the time this letter reaches America. Blake has been a singularly fortunate fellow. He began his career as a great goods clerk in Dublin, and had a great taste for private theatricals, and can sing an Irish ballad with great effect, whether in comic or pathetic.

THE VERDICT ANTICIPATED.

With regard to the Commission, I can add very little to that which has appeared in my cable messages. The plan of the Times, as I have forecast all through, is to bring as many of the outrageous proposals before the English public. No means are omitted of making these revelations striking and dramatic. The widows and murdered men in the deepest mourning are led into court with great pomp and with splendid stage management, and as these poor creatures give their evidence with natural emotion, as they relate the unhappy scenes of which they were eye-witnesses, the effect is very great. But I am rather surprised to find that those who have been in the court like myself have felt this far greater than the outside public. I have been up and down the country and I find the statement true that nobody takes any special interest in the Commission, and I find, indeed, that the public desires—have greatly curtailed their reports, and the Times is the only one which gives anything like lengthy accounts of the proceedings. This want of interest arises not merely from the fact that the stories all told are of ancient date, but also from disappointment, it being generally expected that something important is coming, and this week was heralded with one of these periodic flourishes of trumpets. The proceedings, however, up to the present have chiefly consisted of the evidence of

some informers who took part in moonlighting and have now come forward to betray their associates—the kind of evidence that never commands much attention.

THE GREATEST DANGER OF ALL.

But greater than all these dangers is Lord Randolph Churchill. He is expected to speak next Saturday to his constituents, and everybody is asking anxiously what he is going to say. He has been singularly quiet throughout the recess. One of the reasons was that he has not been well, but a greater reason lay in the fact that he did not well know what to say. He did not want to speak, while, on the other hand, the Tories, in equal ignorance of what he might do, were loth to give him a chance of saying something which would be prejudicial to the party. Churchill has writhed under the extraordinary success which Mr. Balfour has made. For Balfour he always had the very greatest contempt. When they were sitting together as members of the fourth party, Balfour was always dropping to the rear when Churchill was making his rash enterprises, and, indeed, between the one man, with his bitter tongue and his recalcitrance, and the other man, chiefly remarkable for his languid air and his shilly-shallyness and his frequent application to his short nose of his perfumed handkerchief, it was like the alliance between a condottiere and a curate. Labouchere cannot restrain himself from a joke, and Churchill cannot restrain himself from exhibiting his feelings. I have been told that it is very amusing to watch the editor of Truth praising Balfour to Churchill. Churchill twirls desperately his small mustache, and is unable to conceal the vexation which the extraordinary prominence and popularity of his once-dear rival causes. Everybody knows that Churchill is determined to destroy this Government the first opportunity he has. As he sits behind his former colleagues on the Treasury bench, he is like Cassin, ready to stab the blow in the back which will go right home.

WHAT LORD RANDOLPH WOULD DO.

It is hard to say, however, when that day will come. It may be when they propose that large increase in the estimates for the purpose concerning which they have been speaking. Churchill then would probably declare that what was wanted was not an addition to the expenditures of the country, but a better management of the money already given, and he would manage to make it very difficult for the Tories who represent large, popular constituencies to stand by the Government. It is also possible that he will find an opportunity of tripping them up in the proposed extension of Lord Ashbourne's act. Under this act, as many of your readers will know, the English Exchequer advances sums of money to the Irish tenants for the purchase of their holdings. The Liberal party contends that no money should be lent until there is an Irish Parliament as an intermediary between the British Exchequer and the Irish debtor, and Mr. Gladstone has already fore-shadowed that he will make strenuous opposition to any such proposal. This opposition, especially, if backed up by Lord Randolph Churchill, would probably be effective, for the Irish landlords are so hated and the objection to lending money to Ireland so great that probably no Tory representing a big constituency would dare to support the Government.

Meanwhile the Government is pressed hard by the landlords, whose position is getting every day more desperate, and thus it is between the devil and the deep sea.

THE STORM IN NEW ENGLAND.

Fearful Loss of Life—A Fleet of 45 Vessels with 500 Men Aboard Supposed to be Lost.

BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 26.—Since midnight on Saturday, New England has been prostrated by one of the most violent north-east gales recorded. To-night the barometer, still sinking, shows that the worst is not yet over. Throughout the Eastern States, except in the extreme western portion, traffic is virtually suspended, and for twenty-four hours telegraphic communications have been paralyzed. It was late this afternoon that communication, suspended since Sunday with New York, was resumed. In Boston nearly three inches of melted snow has been registered, while the wind, averaging fifty miles an hour, has reached a maximum of 75. At Black Island and Cape Cod it went up to 80 miles. Reports from less populous cities, like Portland, Augusta, Concord, Springfield, Portsmouth, Lowell, etc., report the same, and, in some cases, the heavy rain, driven by the snow, has caused dangerous floods everywhere. In Boston the water in the cut where the Boston & Albany and the New York and New England railroads enter the city became so deep that it extinguished the fires in the locomotives and stopped travel. Cars are being hoisted by long cables. In Boston, flooded cellars and damaged roofs alone make the loss by the storm very heavy, but fortunately no casualties have been reported. On the coast the greatest damage is reported and the loss of life and property is heartrending. Along the Massachusetts coast alone, no less than 55 vessels of all classes, mostly schooners, are ashore, a total loss. The saddest wreck was at Scituate, just south of the famous Minot light. The coast guard this morning discovered a two masted schooner capsized in the breakers, the crew of 12 men, belonging to Stables & Co., of Boston, and commanded by Captain Frank Curran. The captain had his twelve year old son on board making his first trip to sea. The schooner with a large catch of fish was homeward bound and was trying to make this port when the hurricane came down upon her. She tried to stand, but the shore was too near. All perished, 16 souls, except Lawrence Allen, who came ashore on a spar. He had been in the capsized hull all night, and had to dive to get from under, and was so exhausted that he is expected to die. He says the vessel went over without warning, most of the crew being below. At the entrance of Boston harbor, near Hull, are five wrecked craft. The crews, numbering 70 men, had 20 of their number drowned. The remainder were rescued by life-saving men. Much alarm is felt at Chatham. Waiting for fair wind, a fleet of 45 sail gathered there last week, and put to sea on Saturday afternoon to take advantage of a light northerly wind. The hurricane set in at nightfall, and nothing has been seen of them since. They comprise vessels of all classes, and the united crews number full five hundred men. The coast and that of Nantucket, is full of wreckage. On Nantucket, so far eight bodies have been washed ashore. Gloucester reports ten vessels gone to pieces in her vicinity, along with them being the Nova Scotia brig Alice (Captain Harry Saunders, of Lookport), a total loss. Three of the crew were drowned off the schooner Locke of Barrington, N.S. Both vessels were loaded with provisions, and only partially insured. The British Consulate have taken care of the destitute crews.

The seaside resorts of Old Orchard Beach, Nantasket and Revere Beach are all badly washed, and at Revere three of the largest hotels are undermined. The railroad tracks from Boston to Plymouth, for the first time in the history of the road, are under water. Spray and sea-birds are driven 20 miles inland along the south shore.

Much anxiety is felt here over the Portland steamer. Both vessels, the one due in Boston and the one due in Portland, leaving Saturday night each way have not been heard of, and with the crew and passengers make a large list.

The south shore for five miles is lined with boats from the British schooner Avelon from St. John for New York. Three of her crew, Charles Blackford, John Dussert and James Timm, all of Petit Passage, N.S., were drowned. Blackford and Dussert were married and have families.

On Nantasket beach, ten miles from Boston, are eight wrecked vessels. Most of the crews saved, but so far eight bodies have come ashore.

From Portland comes the announcement that from points along the coast where wrecks are reported with fully one hundred and sixty lives.

THE LAND PURCHASE BILL.

Parnell's Eloquent Speech in Favor of Settling the Arrears Question—A Division Obtained by Closure.

LONDON, Nov. 22.—The debate on the land purchase bill was resumed in the House of Commons to-night by Mr. Parnell. He declared emphatically that he approved the bill, but he believed that it was so designed that under the present circumstances it would be impossible to put it into effective operation. He had always held that the creation of a peasant proprietary was the only means of solving the land question. His own bill simply asked that church tenants be allowed to purchase their land by paying the church commission annually for forty-nine years, a rent equal to four per cent. on the capitalized value of the holdings. That would have created no risk to the Imperial Exchequer. The Conservatives opposed that proposal, but the time would come when they would find it useful to go further.

The Irish party were always ready and eager to assist in a settlement of the land question. It was a calumny to say that any one of their members tried to make political capital out of the question or opposed the bill because it would make the government of Ireland easier. (Cheers.) On the contrary, their position to the bill was due to the knowledge that it would cause a loss to the exchequer without effecting its ostensible object. The Government had not taken up the land question with a view to helping tenants, but at the solicitation of landlords, who, seeing that they could not any longer maintain their position, wanted to dispose of their property at inflated prices. (Hear, hear.) The bill did not contain provisions enabling the state when supplying money to decide what tenancies it would be desirable to purchase in the public interest. The Government left the landlords to decide. Congested and rack-rented estates would not be touched under the bill. The only way to make the landlords of congested estates agree to accept the value of their property was to empower the commission to purchase at such a price as would really represent the landlord's interests. Arrears ought to be considered along with rent reduction; otherwise the land purchase arrangements were futile. He would not like to predict that tenants might repudiate bargains under the measure, on the ground that advantage had been taken of their necessities, but the bill would not assist that large and permanent settlement that was desired.

Any bargains with the farmers ought to have a basis that would put repudiation out of the question. (Hear, hear.) The measure showed an entire absence of consideration for the national sentiment. The present system of government trampled upon the national feeling. If the Government meant to attempt a large scheme of land purchase it was essential to establish in Ireland representative authority to act as a buffer between the tenants and the state. The tenants would have the 56 and may be 101 members of Parliament. (Parnellite cheers.) Government would be so much dependent as now upon the Irish vote. No sane government of self-respecting character would tolerate the sending of tax collectors around cottages with an army and a crowbar brigade to enforce payments.

If the national sentiment was conciliated there would be nothing to fear from the influence upon the hot youth of the country of all the Fenian propagators from New York to San Francisco. It was those who exorcised the demon that fomented disaffection far more than Ross. (Hear, hear.) This was not merely an agrarian question; it was knit up with national aspirations. If the Government meant well to tenants by the bill, he implored them to insert suitable provisions dealing with arrears—the tenants' greatest difficulty. That done he could cordially appreciate the measure and the legislature would reap its reward in the conciliation of the people. (Cheers.)

Lord Randolph Churchill said that the assertion that the bill was introduced to enable landlords to sell at inflated prices would not bear examination. The Parnellites knew that inflation did not exist in Ireland, but very much the reverse. Regarding the national sentiment he appealed to Mr. Parnell to say what room there was for romance in due matter of fact advance and payment of money. (Hear, hear.) Was Mr. Parnell any alternative bill? Would he support the principles of Mr. Gladstone's bill of 1887? (Mr. Parnell here gave a negative shake of his head.) Then what other scheme?

Mr. Parnell—I would accept the bill if the disadvantages connected with it were modified by dealing with arrears.

Lord Randolph, continuing, said he trusted that after the recent speeches of the ministers the Government would bring up the arrears question early in the future. In the meantime he could not admit that co-operation militated against land purchase. (Cheers.) How could it impede free action on the part of either landlord or tenant? (Hear, hear.) As a financial operation the bill certainly was not good enough. The security for advances was totally insufficient, but the risk might be worth incurring when limited to an advance of ten millions, which would not be tolerable under a larger scheme. It would never do to make the state the immediate landlord of Irish tenantry. The present measure would not apply to more than 25,000 holdings. It was not likely to be a danger to the state, though probably it could not be safely extended. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Parnell has given notice that he will move that the committee on the Ashbourne bill be empowered to instruct the Land Commission to deal with the arrears when fixing judicial rents.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt in the course of the debate criticized the Government's action, and in conclusion said he believed the Government would find when they had to render an account of these advances to the country that they never had made a proposal more damaging or disastrous to themselves.

The Radicals continued the debate, compelling Mr. Smith to carry a division by closure. Finally the bill passed the second reading by a vote of 299 to 224.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. W. H. Smith moved that the rule compelling adjournment at midnight be again suspended to enable the house to conclude the debate on the Irish Land Purchase Bill.—Carried by 195 to 159.

On the motion to go into committee on the bill, Mr. Parnell proposed an amendment: giving the Government power to instruct the land commission to deal with arrears when fixing judicial rents. He urged that in view of the fact that it was agreed on all sides that the arrears question must necessarily be settled, it ought to be dealt with without delay, in conjunction with the question of land purchase. This done, it would place the tenant in a position to contract freely with the landlord, protect the exchequer against loss, and give the Ashbourne act the best possible chance to work with smoothness.

Mr. Smith contended that the course Mr. Parnell proposed would place the tenant in a distinctly worse position than before by requiring arrears as a charge that might complicate his purchase. Now, after a contract for purchase had been agreed upon the arrears became a heavy burden.

Mr. Dillon held that the mischief of arrears occurred before the agreement for purchase was signed.

Mr. Parnell's motion was rejected by 182 to 148.

Mr. Nolan, Home Ruler, moved that purchasing tenants be allowed also to purchase grass land in the neighborhood of their holdings.

Mr. Plunkett and Smith admitted that the matter was worthy of attention, but said the subject should be considered apart from the present bill.

Mr. Morley advised that the motion be withdrawn.

Several Parnellites retorted that the Government objects to the motion because an Irishman was the author and they insisted upon a division. The motion was negatived by 159 to 128.

Sir B. Walter Foster, Liberal, moved to reduce the amount of the grant asked for in the bill to \$1,500,000.

Sir G. O. Trevelyan said that he had heard that a nobleman connected with a minister had already received £200,000 and that Lord Londonderry would benefit by the measure.

Mr. Goschen repudiated Trevelyan's insinuations.

Mr. Hugh C. Childers commented on the absence of information regarding the operation of the Ashbourne act.

After further debate the motion was rejected by 212 to 154.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

Pope Leo XIII. has addressed a Brief to His Eminence Cardinal Lavigerie on the anti-slavery crusade. Accompanying the strong words of approval of his great work is a gift of 300,000 francs (\$57,000) for the glorious undertaking which the Cardinal-Archbishop has so successfully preached throughout Europe.

It is little in advance of them. Like everything of the kind, it was favor in certain directions slowly. The clergy, with but few exceptions, recognize the importance of the new university, and it can be said generally that the project meets with the co-operation and sympathy of every one.

HIS HOLINESS' WISHES.

THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER SET APART AS A DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

His Holiness the Pope has just issued an order whereby he requests all the priests of the world to observe the 31st of December as a day of thanksgiving, in honor of the completion of his grand jubilee.

It is His Holiness' intention that on that day a special Mass of Thanksgiving be said to thank the Almighty for all His favors bestowed upon His servant; that from the end of the first Mass till the last, or even during the entire day, if found suitable, that the Blessed Sacrament be exposed to the veneration of the public, that a public service be held during the day during which appropriate prayers may be offered and especially the recitation of a common of the rosary, after which the "Te Deum" should be sung, followed by the "Benedictus" and the "Gloria." These duties, notwithstanding, conceded to, followed by those for the Pope and the clergy, after which the proceedings might be adjourned with the usual solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In conformity with the above, all Catholics who will on that day approach the Holy Table and pray for the intention of the Pope and the church, a plenary indulgence is granted applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

GREAT PREPARATIONS IN THE VERY CATHOLIC.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception, which takes place on the 8th of December next, will be observed with great solemnity in all the Catholic churches of the city, and the several church choirs are already rehearsing appropriate masses for the occasion. In consequence of a great number of persons who were disappointed in gaining admission to the Gesù church on the 11th, and hearing Fauconier's new mass of the Assumption, it will be repeated at that church on that day, when an increased choir and full orchestra will attend at both morning and evening services. At the request of a select combination of musicians, consisting of the best professional instrumentalists in the city, Father Garceau, S.J., has decided to secure permanently the services of an organized orchestra for the choir of the Gesù church, which will be under the leadership of Mr. John P. Poirer, as soon as that gentleman has recovered the use of a very valuable member of his anatomy, i.e., one of his hands, which was lately crushed by a railway accident. Those who are anxious to hear Fauconier's new mass had better secure seats without delay, as the pews are nearly all engaged for the occasion already.

THE PRESENCE OF DEATH.

Here is an interesting story which shows how cool a man can be in the presence of death.

One day during the last part of the war in Wilkes Westmoreland was dressing the wound of a soldier who had been shot in the neck near the carotid artery.

Suddenly the blood vessel gave way, and just as quickly the surgeon thrust his finger into the hole to stop the flow.

"Doctor," said the soldier, "what does that mean?"

"It means death," said the surgeon calmly.

"How long can I live?" asked the soldier, whose mind was perfectly clear.

"Until I remove my finger," said Dr. Westmoreland.

The soldier asked for pen and paper, wrote his will and an affectionate letter to his wife and when the last thing was done said quietly:

"Let it go."

The surgeon withdrew his finger, the blood rushed out and soon the man was being taken to the grave. Westmoreland has come on memorial day and placed flowers on the grave. This year when memorial day came the doctor was at Salt Springs. He left the scene of gory, came to Atlanta, and carried his tribute of the grave of one who was calm and brave in the presence of death.

SNUBBING THE PRINCE OF WALES.

A letter written about a month prior to the publication of the affair by a New York girl who was in Paris at the time, and who knew all about the occurrence, and whose name would carry additional interest, said: "All the talk is about Mrs. Wetmore's sauciness to the Prince of Wales. We all think she did just right. The Prince of Wales has been in the habit of treating American women outrageously. I don't mean that his demeanor toward them is otherwise than pleasant, or that he offers to them any personal attentions; further than that conveyed in his assumption that he can make their acquaintance at will, and that they ought to be glad to be brought to him on the slightest intimation that he would like it. The bad point is that he draws a distinction between American and ladies of the old world. If he sees by chance a pretty Yankee woman at the theatre in the park, anywhere, and he happens to desire an acquaintance, he sends one of his minions or a friend, without any circumlocution, to let her know that he will make her acquaintance. There is a condescension in the whole manner—humbling herself to be brought up. This he doesn't do with women from any other country. Too many of us have encouraged him in this sort of thing by submitting to it. Mrs. Wetmore is the first, I think, to set a good example. All hail to her, say I."—New York Sun.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S EX-GOVERNOR.

LONDON, November 20.—H. A. Blake arrived at Queenstown to-day. In an interview he said that if the Government upheld his appointment as Governor of Newfoundland the hostility expressed toward him would not prevent his accepting the post. He believed that only a small section of the Irish opposed him, and this opposition he considered strange, as he thought he had won the esteem and confidence of the Irish in Newfoundland, as shown by the address presented to him on his departure.