

TALK WITH WILLIAM O'BRIEN. HOW IRISH AFFAIRS LOOK TO THE PRISONER OF TULLAMORE.

Mr. Balfour's Present Desperation Due to His Utter Failure as Director-General of the Coercion Act.

DUBLIN, Jan. 22.—I have spent a few hours with William O'Brien and found him wonderfully well, considering all that has gone through for the past three or four months...

DECLINING TO LEAVE IRELAND. I ventured to suggest that he should leave the country at once, but this he declined to do.

When I told him that The Tribune would like to have his views on the situation as he found it on his liberation, he readily assented...

MR. BALFOUR'S FAILURE.

"Well," he continued, "I have come out to find everything in the state of political affairs to delight me. Mr. Balfour's failure is almost grotesque. The landlords are sorer with him than the Nationalists."

THE PEOPLE BEARING UP WELL.

"How do you think the people are bearing up?" "Well," answered Mr. O'Brien, "instead of the spirit of the country having declined since my last experience of the outer world, I found that what was a comparatively small fire had spread into an inextinguishable blaze."

"HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE FEELING IN ENGLAND?"

"From all that I can learn, Mr. Balfour's failure across the Channel is still more abject. Instead of succeeding in his policy of disgracing Irish representatives in England...

MR. BALFOUR HELPING THE IRISH CAUSE.

"You don't think, then, that this attack upon National League has materially crippled the organization?" "Well," said Mr. O'Brien, laughing, "if Mr. Balfour were an emissary of the National League it seems to me he would not have forwarded the Irish cause more effectually than he is doing."

"DOES IT STRIKE YOU AT ALL THAT THE POLICY OF COERCION IS NOW ONE OF EXASPERATION?"

"The best proof of Mr. Balfour's state of desperation is the increasing savagery with which he is outraging the people's feelings by utterly wanton pieces of brutality, such as the arrest of Father McFadden on the scene of a solemn religious celebration and the refusal to admit him to bail pending his trial."

LESS CONCERNED THAN MR. BALFOUR.

"As to the re-arrest?" "Well," replied Mr. O'Brien cheerily, "as to the rumor of my re-arrest I don't know Mr. Balfour's mind, but I know my own and I think the matter gives him much more concern than it gives me."

WHAT "THE FREEMAN" WILL SAY.

"The widespread enthusiasm created by Mr. O'Brien's release gives to everything he says something of interest. I may, therefore, follow up the foregoing interview with the following which a Freeman reporter had with the Editor of United Ireland this evening and which will appear in The Freeman in the morning."

AND EVEN AT THE PRIVATE FRIEND'S HOUSE WHERE I AM STAYING...

and even at the private friend's house where I am staying, the torrent of congratulations has continued. Such of the communications as I have been able to read have affected me to a degree that I am really unable to describe.

Correspondent—From the letters and telegrams which you have received are you able to form any opinion as to the progress of the Home Rule movement in England?

Mr. O'Brien—I am convinced that the English people are unwavering in their adherence to our cause. Even in the heart of the jail I received messages from England which were as good an assurance to me as if I had had whole newspapers full of newspapers.

Correspondent—In the course of one of your speeches on Friday you expressed your determination to begin precisely where you left off on October 31. Have you formed any plans as to your future movements?

Mr. O'Brien—I have not even had time to think of the subject. At present I find that it is not a matter of the smallest importance what I do or do not. The spirit of the country so far from being cowed by what has happened during the winter has mounted to a degree together beyond our former experience.

Correspondent—You have said that you are willing to run any risk of prison or police brutality. The National League, instead of being offaced at the meeting of Parliament, as had been prophesied, is a thousand times a more rooted organization than ever.

In addition to this nearly all the struggles which engaged our attention last autumn have either already ended in victory or are on the road to victory. Upon the Kingston estate, as to which I have suffered three months' imprisonment for preventing wholesale evictions, I find that the worst sub-commission which a Tory Government could construct, especially to the estate to discredit the Plan of Campaign, have been obliged to give a decree with costs for every shilling's worth that the campaigners sought and a good deal more.

Correspondent—The only cause in point of fact that a Tory-born sub-commission have been able to pass on the Plan of Campaign is a vote of censure on its moderation, and my guilt has been that I have saved a whole country side from being robbed of the benefits of the decision by a dishonest attempt to evict them within the last few weeks that Parliament left the landlord legal power to do it.

In the same way we received news yesterday of the acceptance of the terms of which we have been struggling on the vast estates of Lord Dromore, in Roscommon and Sligo. Upon the Luggacurran estate the tenants not yet actually evicted have now been offered higher reductions than those for seeking which a whole community was evicted last summer. The Marquis of Ely's estate in Wexford has been reduced to perfect tranquility by the acceptance of the Plan of Campaign terms.

The same has happened upon one of the most troubled estates in Donegal—Captain Hill's estate—where instead of helping the tranquillization of the district, Mr. Balfour has just arrested the man who effected the settlement—Father M. Madden. The Clanciarde estate is almost the only prominent estate on which the Plan of Campaign has not now either actually triumphed or is good as triumphed, and even there we have by a satisfactory knowing that Mr. Blunt's sufferings have at last forced English attention to the facts, while the trial between Lord Clanciarde and his late agent has given the public ample materials for judging whether we were right or wrong.

I think these facts speak best for themselves. As to our struggle and as to its results in order to make any show of success to present to Parliament, Mr. Balfour has been obliged to attack the two most vulnerable and superficial elements of popular organization—newspapers and public speakers. The substance of the organization he has not even touched, for his perfunctory and haphazard prosecutions of individual members of the local branches of the League have not in the remotest degree affected the bulk of the organization. He has found in point of fact that the League can only be suppressed by suppressing society; that the League is the community, and that every half-cowardly attempt to meet round the fire are a breach themselves.

Correspondent—From what point of view do you regard the action of the executive in prosecuting certain Roman Catholic priests? Mr. O'Brien—To my mind that is in one aspect a proof that any hopes of muzzling the priests by intrigue at Rome have been utterly frustrated. In another aspect it is plainly an attempt to outrage the people into some exhibition of violence that could be used against Mr. Balfour's own record of mean and wanton brutality.

Correspondent—You stated on Friday that you were aware of Mr. Blunt's allegation in reference to Mr. Balfour previous to your imprisonment. Do you remember whether Mr. Blunt gave you any details in regard to the place where his conversation with Mr. Balfour occurred?

Mr. O'Brien—Mr. Blunt simply told me that they were staying together at a private house in the country. The central idea with which Mr. Blunt appeared to have come to Ireland was the notion that something like a plot against our lives was on foot. He appeared to be possessed of the firm belief that Mr. Balfour had determined to use imprisonment under the Crimes Act not merely for punishment in the ordinary sense, but as a means of crippling the physical powers of the men he had particularly in his mind, with the strong probability that the crippling process would end in a coffin. It was the revelation of Mr. Balfour's mind to him that created this impression. Mr. Balfour insisted again and again that the blunder of all former coercionists was that they did not make imprisonment physically and morally unbearable, and he seemed to grasp at the delinquency of Mr. Dillon and others to the all-important element in his calculations. Of course my evidence as to Mr. Balfour's actual intentions is derived from what Mr. Blunt stated to me before I was imprisoned, but if Mr. Blunt had never opened his lips on the subject the course Mr. Balfour has since taken is in itself conclusive evidence that he was prepared to push matters to the extremities he contemplated in his chat to Mr. Blunt until public opinion began to desert him.

Correspondent—I believe I saw Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., before you left Tullamore. How did you find him?

Mr. O'Brien—I in wonderfully buoyant health and spirits.

GILL, M. P.

EDUCATION.

LETTER V.

The Brain the Material Organ by Which the Mental Faculties are Manifested.

(Continued.)

To the Editor of THE POST and TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—Dr. Wright, of the Bethlehem Lunatic Hospital, states that in one hundred cases of insane individuals, whose heads he had examined, all exhibited signs of disease; in ninety cases the signs were very distinct and palpable; in the remaining ten they were fainter, but still exhibited in some form or other—such, for instance, as that of binary points, when the brain was cut through.

One of the writers for the prize offered by the celebrated Esquirol for the best Dissertation on Insanity, observes that he examined the heads of more than one hundred individuals who died from insanity, and comes to the following conclusions:—1st. That in the brain of those who die of insanity changes of structure will always be found. 2d. That these changes are the consequences of inflammation, either acute or chronic. 3d. That there exists a correspondence between the symptoms and the organic changes; and that the names monomania, mania, &c., ought only to be employed as representing degrees and stages of inflammation of the brain.

These references to the intimate connection between insanity and disease of the brain have been made, because I propose to show hereafter that whatever strongly excites the mind or its organ, whether it be study or intense feeling, tends to produce this awful calamity. I shall now produce additional evidence that the brain is the material organ of thought.

It is a well understood fact that pressure on the brain suspends all the operations of the mind. If a person receives a blow upon the head which depresses a portion of the skull upon the brain, his intellect is suspended or deranged until such pressure is removed. Cases like the following are not uncommon: A man at the battle of Waterloo had a small portion of his skull-bone beat in upon the brain to the depth of half an inch. This caused vertigo and ematation to cease. He was unable to rise from a lieless state. Dr. Cooper, military surgeon, raised up the depressed portion of bone from the brain, and then the man immediately arose, dressed himself, became perfectly rational, and recovered rapidly.

Dr. Brigham mentions the following case which occurred in Hartford during his professional career: A young man fell in the evening through the scullie of a store, but arose immediately, mentioned the fall to some of his acquaintances, and transacted business during the evening. Next day he was found in bed in nearly a senseless state, and so on became incapable of speaking, hearing, seeing, or swallowing, and appeared to be dying. There was no evidence of any fracture of the skull and but very slight appearance of any external injury whatever. A small swelling over the right ear, and the conviction that he could live but a few minutes in the state in which he then was, determined his medical advisers to perforate the skull. He (Dr. Brigham) removed a small portion of the bone beneath the slight swelling over the ear, by the trepan, and found more than a gill of clotted blood, which had probably flowed gradually from a wounded blood-vessel. On removing this blood the man immediately spoke, soon recovered his mind entirely, and is now, six weeks after the accident, in good health, both as to mind and body. (Brigham on Mental Cultivation.)

Richter mentions the case of a woman whose brain was exposed, in consequence of the removal of a considerable portion of its bony covering by disease. He says he repeatedly made pressure on the brain, and each time suspended all feeling and all intellect, which were instantly restored when the pressure was withdrawn. The same writer also relates another case, that of a man who had been trepanned, and who perceived his intellectual faculties failing, and his existence apparently drawing to a close, every time the effused blood collected upon the brain so as to produce pressure. (Richerand's Elements of Physiology.)

Professor Chapman, of Philadelphia, mentions in his lectures that he saw an individual with his skull perforated and the brain exposed, who was accustomed to submit himself to the same experiment of pressure as the above, and who was exhibited by Professor West as the result of his intellect and moral faculties disappearing on the application of pressure to his brain; they were held under the thumb as it were, and restored to pleasure to their full activity by discontinuing the pressure.

But the most extraordinary case of this kind on record, and one peculiarly interesting to the physiologist and metaphysician, is related by Sir Astley Cooper in his Surgical Lectures—Tyrrel's Edition. A man, by the name of Jones, received an injury of his head while on board a vessel in the Mediterranean, which rendered him insensible. The vessel, soon after this accident, made Gibraltar, where Jones was placed in the hospital, and remained several months in the same insensible state. He was then carried on board the Dolphin frigate to Deptford, and from thence was sent to St. Thomas's Hospital, London. He lay constantly on his back and breathed with difficulty. His pulse was regular, and each time he moved his lips and tongue. Mr. Cline, the surgeon, found a portion of the skull depressed, trepanned him, and removed the depressed portion. Immediately after this operation the motion of his fingers ceased, and at four o'clock in the afternoon, (the operation having been performed at one), he sat up in bed; sensation and volition returned, and in four days he got out of bed and conversed. The last thing he remembered was the circumstance of taking a prize in the Mediterranean. From the moment of the accident, thirteen months and a few days, oblivion had come over him, and all recollection had ceased. He had, for more than a year, drunk of the cup of Lethe, and lived wholly unconscious, yet, on removing a small portion of bone which pressed upon the brain, he was restored to the full possession of the powers of his mind and body.

It is curious to notice that often an injury of the brain impairs only that part of the mental faculties. Such instances give great support to the Phrenological views of Gall and Spurzheim, who contend for a plurality of organs in the brain, and a separate and peculiar function to each organ, as, one organ for comparison, another for language, another for true, &c.

Dr. Beattie mentions the case of a learned man who, after a blow on his head, forgot all his Greek, a language he was well versed in before the injury. His mind and memory were not affected in any other respect. Another person, mentioned by Dr. Abercrombie, lost all recollection of his having a wife and children, for several days after a similar injury, while his memory of the accident and of recent circumstances was perfect. Sir Astley Cooper mentions, from personal

knowledge, the case of a German confessor, with disease of the brain, who, in the early stage of his complaint, spoke English, but as his disease advanced, forgot this language, and remembered only the German.

The same author relates the case of a man at St. Thomas's Hospital who, after a blow upon the head, was found talking in a language unknown to all, until a Welsh woman, who entered the hospital, recognized it as Welsh. The blow upon his head had caused him to forget the English language.

It is related of a gentleman who, in consequence of his excessive overworking of his brain during the composition of a French and English dictionary, lost the memory of words for a considerable time. His knowledge of French, German and Italian, which was very extensive, disappeared from his mind as if by enchantment, and did not return until the brain had its usual energy restored by quiescence.

Dr. Conolly relates a still more remarkable case of a young clergyman whose head was severely injured a few days before that on which he was to have been married. He recovered as to his health, and lived until the age of eighty, but from the time of the injury his understanding was permanently deranged, though he retained the recollection of his approaching marriage, talked of nothing else during his whole life, and expressed impatience for the arrival of the happy day.

But we see analogous affections resulting from fevers and other diseases which affect the brain. Dr. Rush says that many of the old Germans and Swiss in Pennsylvania, who had not spoken their native language for fifty or sixty years, and who had probably forgotten it, would often use it in sickness, and he explains it by supposing that the stimulus of the fever in their brains revived their recollection. He refers also to the case of an Italian, who was master of the Italian, French and English languages, but who, in a fever which terminated his life in the city of New York, spoke English in the commencement of his disease, French only in the middle, and on the day of his death Italian.

Numerous cases are related of persons who, from disease affecting the brain, forget names and events, times and places, but retain perfect recollection of persons and numbers. As like symptoms arise from blows on the head, and often from fevers, we cannot doubt that the brain is very similarly affected in both cases. Insanity is known frequently to arise from blows on the head, and fevers often make people insane for years, who are suddenly restored to the full possession of their mental powers, just as was Jones, mentioned in another place, restored by trepanning, after remaining a year in an insensible state.

Numerous instances similar to those which I have related are found in works on mental derangement, and they all tend to prove that a well developed and sound brain are absolutely necessary for correct and powerful operations of the mind. Many of them are exceedingly interesting and very difficult to explain, all admit, except on the ground suggested by Gall and Spurzheim, and eloquently developed and illustrated by Messrs. C. mbe.

These writers divide the intellectual faculties into two classes—the Knowing and the Reflecting. The Knowing faculties are Individuality, Form, Size, Weight, Coloring, Locality, Order, Time, Number, Taste, and Language. The Reflecting faculties are Comparison and Causality. Each faculty has a separate and material instrument or organ in the brain, and memory belongs to each faculty. Hence, there are as many kinds of memory as there are organs for the knowing and reflecting faculties. They say, moreover, that memory is only a degree of activity of the organs; hence, from disease or other causes, increasing the activity of the organs, the recollection of things is far more vivid at one time than at another. This enables us to explain those cases that frequently occur, in which, from some injury to the brain, a person loses the memory of words, but retains that of things.

Further proof of the connection between the state of the brain and that of the mind might be adduced from the many instances of idiots and cretins, who are all clearly destitute of intellect and defective in the organization of their heads. There have been many examinations of the heads of such individuals, says Esquirol, (Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales, quoted in the Médico-Chirurgical Review,) and they have usually been found to be of a vicious formation. The same writer adds this important remark, that idiots and cretins sometimes manifest great intelligence in early life, and give promise of possessing superior mental powers; but these powers are being soon exhausted, their intellects remain stationary, and the hopes they excited soon vanish.

The general proposition which I wish to establish is made evident also from the fact that whatever excites the mind excites and stimulates the brain.

We know from experience in a severe headache. We perceive the pain to be increased by intense study or thinking, and that mental application determines more blood to the head. So true is it that mental excitement produces an increased flow of blood to the head that surgeons are very careful to preserve a quiet state of mind in those whose heads are wounded. Sir Astley Cooper, speaking of such injuries, says that if any mental power remains, all excitement of the brain should be avoided; and relates the following case:—A young gentleman was brought to me from the North of England who had lost a portion of his skull just above the eye-brow. On examining the head I distinctly saw the pulsations of the brain, which were regular and slow; but at this time he was agitated by some opposition to his wishes, and directly the pulsations of the brain were increased and became more violent, and more blood rushed to the brain. If, therefore, you omit to keep the mind free from agitation, your other means will be unavailing in injuries of the head." (Lectures on Surgery.)

The same author mentions another similar case: that of a young man who had an opening in his skull from a wound, through which he could see an increased action in the brain whenever anything occurred, even in conversation, to agitate the mind of the patient. The same general fact, that mental excitement stimulates the brain, is proved by numerous cases, and forms the basis of correct treatment of diseases of the brain, and especially of insanity.

This disease, physicians are agreed, is generally produced by morbid excitement of some portions of the brain, and requires for its cure that this disordered organ should be left in absolute repose. Hence arises the benefit of asylums for lunatics, where this unhappy class of persons have no cares, no wants to provide for, and where their minds are not excited and affected by kind words and gentle and efficacious treatment.

Sometimes the increased flow of blood to the head is such as to wonderfully increase the powers of the mind. Many writers, notably Pinel, relate cases of patients who possessed but weak minds when in their usual state of health, but who exhibited very superior powers of intellect during paxyma of insanity, which determined more blood to the head than ordinarily. Sometimes the memory seems to be wonderfully increased; at other

times, imagination, or will, etc.; and thus many of the insane are supposed to possess uncommonly brilliant mental powers.

"I have known an insane person," Brigham, "during a paroxysm of insanity, which usually occurred about once a month, exhibit a very animated countenance, and repeat correctly, and with great force and dignity, passages from Shakespeare and other writers, but who in the intervals of these paroxysms appeared stupid, forgetful, and forgetful." (Brigham on Mental Cultivation.)

Many instances are on record of the development of genius by disease during childhood. The celebrated Newton had his great mind apparently created by a severe disease when he was in his ninth year. (Foreign Review.) Combe says that "an increase of power may be given to the brain by an increased determination of blood to it, just as the senses are often rendered more acute by disease and partial inflammation; or it may arise from the repose allowed the brain during disease, and its feeble powers not being overtaxed and injured by mental application."

I might adduce many more cases to prove the very intimate connection between the brain and the mind: that it is a defective brain which makes the idiot, and a diseased brain which causes delirium and insanity; and that all the various states of mind produced by alcohol, or opium, &c., arise from the disordered action which these articles produce in the brain; that the weak mind manifested by the infant, and the feeble mind by the aged, are produced by a small and undeveloped, or an enfeebled and diseased brain, and not by a change of the immaterial mind itself. But cases enough have been cited to prove these truths. And if we do admit that the brain is the organ by which the mind acts, we must acknowledge the necessity of guarding this organ most carefully, of exercising it with extreme caution, of not endangering its delicate structure at any period of life by too much labor, or preventing its full development by too little; for the regular exercise of all the organs of the brain is necessary to prepare them for the active and powerful manifestation of the mental faculties.

The healthy condition and proper exercise of the brain are, therefore, far more important than any other organ of the body, for we might as well expect good digestion with diseased stomach, or good music from a broken instrument, as a good mind with a diseased, enfeebled, or improperly developed brain. And yet, how little regard has been paid to these important truths in the cultivation of the mind. While people are exceedingly fearful of enfeebling and destroying digestion by exciting and overtaxing the stomach they do not appear to think they may enfeeble or derange the operation of the mind by exciting and imperfectly developed, as it is in childhood.

W. McK.

Montreal, Jan. 29, 1888.

A SCOTCH VIEW OF THE IRISH STRUGGLE.

(Toronto Globe.)

The next truth is that Ireland is more free from the influence of these called unions in its county population than any other district of as numerous population in the civilized world. The English youth of Great Britain have made free use of the press and of public opinion, and have surely all Acts against "strikes" of that kind are the crime of the Executive.

The impression produced in Scotland by Tory rule in Ireland may be gathered from reports in The Scotch Liberator of recent political meetings. Bold and tolerant as Scotchmen are, they can scarcely be supposed to listen to those distributions of the "Gospel of Stone" on which insolent Toryism relies for lack of argument. On the other hand, liberal speakers draw immense audiences and are cheered to the echo. At a recent Dundee meeting Mr. Campbell Bannerman—who has resigned the Edinburgh seat which he won as a Disunionist in order to be re-elected as a true Liberal—disposed capably of the "symphony with crime" cry. Referring to the unanimous resolution that had been adopted, expressing "emphatic disapproval of the policy of coercion," he said:—

"It would indeed have been strange if the speech delivered and the resolutions proposed that night had not gone straight to the heart and intellect of the great assembly. He said it would have been strange because they were Liberal and because they were Scotchmen. (Cheers.) For just as the temper and scope and purport of Her Majesty's present Government's policy in Ireland offended principle some of the most fundamental principles of Liberalism, so did many of the incidents which from day to day embellished and adorned the application of that policy revive in the minds of themselves, who were Scotchmen, some of their sternest national memories and some of those bitter experiences which had gone to form the national and traditional character of the people—(loud cheers)—for their forefathers in their day, as the Irish men, had to pass through years of absolute government before they achieved their national independence. (Cheers.) They, too, lived under Coercion Acts, because they dared to resist the oppression of an alien system of government in Church and State. They, too, had their eye-glasses, and their delirious visits, and their shooing, and their dog-nights, and they had their meetings dispersed, their publications seized, and their leaders put in prison, and they were driven to the glen and to the hillside. Some desperate men among them resorted to violence and criminal methods of retaliation. They, too, had their churches burnt and their houses and their lands seized, and they were denounced as law-breakers and libellers as villains and assassins. Surely their souls were proud of the heritage of their name—(loud cheers)—and who, looking back upon them with admiration and reverence, notwithstanding some deeds of violence with which their story might in some cases be associated, were going to be forgotten out of our sympathy for the Irish people because they resisted and London editors accused them as being accomplices in disorder and lawlessness? (Cheers.) Those were wretched accusations which at the present day were freely launched against them, and which stood to their opponents in the room of solid argument (cheers), but they fell under their own weight, under the weight of their absurdity, and it would add their obvious insincerity; for it was inconceivable that those who made those charges could believe in them. Could they really believe for an instant that honest men and women who filled that hall and passed those resolutions and any system with crime and with disorder? Did the citizens of Dundee look like men who would countenance lawlessness and dishonesty? Their noble chairman (Lord Aberdeen)—(cheers)—who was conspicuous above all his countrymen for the lofty purposes of his life—(cheers)—was he a man who touched with the tip of one of his fingers anything that savored of lawlessness? (Cries of No, no.) Was it likely that his two learned friends beside him, who were learned and trusted, and successful lawyers, both of them, would be so foolish—not to put it any stronger—as to commit themselves to the cause of illegality? (Cries of No, no.)

He might also have put the same query in reference to the Rev. Mr. Mackintosh, Dr. Macrae and William Hamilton, who supported on the platform the numerous Presbyterian clergymen in the unanimous audience.

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DUBLIN, Jan. 24.—The committee which is being organized to receive John Morley and the Marquis of Ripon on their arrival in Dublin already numbers 3,000 persons, and includes three Peers, many aristocrats, 19 bishops and 204 magistrates.

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