

Paying Way for Home Rule

Mr. Birrell Makes Good Start.

Dublin, March 10.—As Irish Chief Secretary, Mr. Birrell has begun well. He has made it clear that the bill which he will introduce for the amendment of Irish government is one that will inevitably lead to Home Rule. "The Prime Minister, like myself in that respect," he said in his speech in parliament, "is perfectly satisfied that ultimately the only solution that will give satisfaction to the great majority of the population of Ireland will be what is generally called a Home Rule Parliament." Of course the Irish Nationalists loudly cheered this declaration. It is one that has filled Ireland with renewed hope. On the Irish members of Parliament, very largely, rests the responsibility of seeing to it that that hope is realized without needless delay.

A notable contribution to the debate came from John Dillon, who spoke with Irish pathos and Irish eloquence. He drew a pathetic picture of the misery of the evicted tenants, especially on the Clanciarde estate. The reinstatement of the evicted tenants, he declared, was part of the bargain made with the last government in connection with the land act. Yet out of a sum of \$1,250,000 available for the needs of the evicted tenants, only \$165,000 had been spent in three years, though the whole of it was Irish money—none of it granted by the House of Commons. Owing to recalcitrant landlords, hundreds of families were still homeless—120 of them on the Marquis of Clanciarde's estate. He spoke of the years of turmoil in South Galway caused by the "intolerable tyranny of this man who directs the operations on his estates from his lodgings in London." It was, he said, a scandal that the might of the British Empire should be at the call of the British landlord. He pleaded earnestly for compulsory powers in dealing with such men.

Mr. Birrell, in his reply, promised to introduce a bill for the reinstatement of evicted tenants. He showed that he held the Marquis of Clanciarde in as much abhorrence as did John Dillon. He described the Clanciarde estate in a graphic phrase as a place "haunted by the ghosts of murdered men." The management of the estate, he said, should be taken from him.

A Connaught exhibition is the latest scheme in aid of the Irish relief fund. It has the support of the leading merchants and clerics in the province. Connaught was once described as the Cinderella of the provinces of Ireland. Of late years the neglect of western interests has not been so marked as formerly, but the province is still backward in many respects. While it is urged that prominence must be given to Connaught productions, manufactures from other parts of Ireland will not be neglected. There will be three distinct sections—one for cottage industries; a second an exclusively Connaught manufacturers' section, and a third open to manufacturers from all the rest of Ireland. The exhibition will be held in the cathedral town of Tuam, which is situated in one of the most desolate spots in the province. There is, perhaps, no other town in the whole of Ireland that has sent more emigrants to the United States than this, which boasts of being the see of an archbishop. All that is left of it might be summed up in two magnificent churches, a police station, a poorhouse and an overcrowded cemetery. The Connaught seat of the Duke and Duchess of Manchester is not to be despised in a situation like this. The Duchess is going to show some specimens of Connaught marble which are used in decorations at Kylemore Castle.

Lady Aberdeen, the wife of the Irish viceroy, has in hand a project that may have an important bearing on the physical welfare of the rising generation of Irish men and women. She proposes to form a body calling itself the Women's National Health Association, which will have two main objects—the arousing of the women of the country and of public opinion generally to a sense of their responsibilities regarding the public health and to enlist their sympathies and interest in the important question of infant mortality. The problems suggested for the consideration of the new association are the stamping out of consumption, the reduction of the abnormal infantile mortality, the control of the provision and distribution of milk in the interests of public health, and the focusing of attention on the sanitary conditions

under which Irish elementary schools are maintained. The methods by which it is hoped to carry out the objects of the association include popular lectures on health subjects, simple "health talks" with circles of working mothers, the appointment of women health officers, and the placing of district nurses in districts where such are not already working. The scheme has the support of nearly all the leading society women of Ireland, and through its operations it is hoped to reach some of the isolated spots to which medical or sanitary science has never before penetrated.

Back So Lame Could Not Walk.

DOCTOR'S EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN, BUT CURE CAME WITH THE USE OF

DR. CHASE'S KIDNEY-LIVER PILLS

It is not always the doctor's fault when he tries to give temporary relief instead of lasting cure. Sometimes patients demand it.

The thorough, far-reaching and lasting effects of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are well illustrated in this case, in contrast with the doctor's failure to even bring relief.

Mr. Geo. Tryon, Westport, Leeds Co., Ont., writes:—"For two years I was completely laid up with lame back, and could neither walk nor ride. I tried many treatments and the doctor put on a fly blister, which only increased the suffering and did not do me the slightest good."

"A friend told me about Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and I had not finished the first box before I was completely cured. I have never had a lame back or kidney trouble since, and it has been the means of selling dozens of boxes of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. We are never without them in the house and think there is no medicine like them."

The urea, uric acid and other poisonous waste substances which are left in the blood after the process of digestion has taken place are eliminated from the system by the action of the kidneys. Failure of the kidneys to perform this important work of filtration means a poisoning of the whole system and consequently the most painful of diseases such as Bright's disease, lumbago, backache and rheumatism.

Mixed Marriages Are Banned.

In an effort to check the number of "mixed" marriages which, throughout the length and breadth of the land, is being decreed by prelates of the Catholic Church, Bishop N. C. Matz issued a pastoral letter on the subject which was read in every church in the diocese of Denver last Sunday.

More stringent rules than were ever attempted by the Church are laid down by the Bishop of Denver. He orders that in future no Catholic man can marry a Protestant woman in that diocese. The priests are forbidden to solemnize such a marriage. Absolutely no dispensation is provided for, and if such marriages are to take place, they must be performed outside the State of Colorado, if a priest of the Church is to officiate. The Lenten pastoral covers fifteen pages, and was not written impulsively nor without due thought of the sweeping terms employed in it. Bishop Matz has been considering steps to check the alarming number of mixed marriages for some months. In fact, the idea came to him through the radical views of Bishop Scannell of Omaha, whom he greatly admired. It was Bishop Scannell who excommunicated the Catholic participants in the Armour wedding at Omaha, out of which some scandal grew.

The records of the Cathedral parish at Denver show that the number of marriages in which only one party was Catholic outnumbered the thoroughly Catholic unions by a wide margin last year. Although the church shows her displeasure of such marriages by forbidding them to be solemnized in the Church and

will not allow the use of the sacred vestments nor the bestowal of the nuptial blessing, they continue in favor with the young people.

The orders of the Bishop in this respect are explicit and will cause some radical changes in the plans adopted by a great many young people. The salient feature of the pastoral letter is an absolute rule that no Catholic man may marry a Protestant woman and remain in the Church. No priest may officiate. The idea of this order is that the children of such a union are invariably lost to the faith, as shown by statistics in possession of the Church. The Protestant mother has the raising of the children, argues Bishop Matz, and the father seldom insists on their being brought up in the faith.

Although a promise is exacted of the non-Catholic party to a mixed marriage that the children shall be brought up in the Catholic faith, it is generally ignored, according to Bishop Matz.

In the case of a Catholic woman marrying a Protestant man, the man must submit to a course of instruction before the priest will be permitted to unite them in matrimony. The idea is that the father may understand what is expected of him and comprehend the tenets of the Church in which his children are to be raised. This instruction must cover ten days or two weeks prior to the marriage.

From all parts of the country Bishop Matz has been showered with congratulations on the solid position he has taken with regard to mixed marriages. The appalling popularity of the divorce court is due, claim churchmen, to the lax rules governing marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics. When two Catholics marry they understand that it is "for better or worse," but where one of the contracting parties is not of that faith the indissolubility of the tie is not thoroughly comprehended. In part the pastoral says:

"Mixed marriages—marriages namely, of Catholics with persons not baptized or baptized Protestants, constitute one of the worst drains upon the Church in the United States. Our numerical strength in this country would be much greater only for these unfortunate mixed marriages. The United States census reports are authority for the statement that 65 per cent. of these marriages are lost to the Church. We know that 80 per cent. is nearer the truth. The reason for these losses will be found in the want of Catholic education in mixed families."

"Considering the baneful effects of mixed marriages and the constantly increasing number of calls for dispensations, we believe the time has come for the application of stringent regulations calculated to check this evil; save the Church from the enormous losses incurred through mixed marriages, and protect our Catholic men and women from such a galling yoke as that of an indissoluble union with one who is not of the faith and who for this reason can never be one mind and one heart in that bond of all the most holy and most intimate; union with God in the one true faith. Of all the different states entering into the formation, government and maintenance of society, there is none which imposes greater sacrifices and demands greater graces than the state of matrimony. Countless are the sufferings and privations which follow in its train, and if the contracting parties are not proof against them, by their patient forbearance supplied by the sacramental grace, their lives will not be happy."

HEALTH IN SPRING.

Nature Needs Assistance in Making New Health-Giving Blood.

Spring is the season when your system needs toning up. In the spring you must have new blood just as the trees must have new sap. Nature demands it. Without new blood you will feel weak and languid; you may have twinges of rheumatism or neuralgia, occasional headaches, variable appetite, pimples or eruptions of the skin, or a pale, pasty complexion. These are sure signs that the blood is out of order. A tonic is needed to give new energy. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the best tonic in all the world. They make new, rich blood—your greatest need in spring. They clear the skin, drive out disease and make tired, depressed men and women bright, active and strong. Mrs. John McAuley, Douglastown, Que., proves the great value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in building up people who have been weakened and run down. She says: "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have been of great help to me. My blood was weak and watery and I was badly run down. But through the use of

the pills my health was fully restored. I always recommend them to my friends who may be ailing. There are fraudulent imitations of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and to protect yourself see that the full name 'Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People' is printed on the wrapper around each box. Do not take any other so-called pink pills. If your dealer has not got the genuine send to The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and get the pills by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.

The Last of "The Nation" Poets.

On the 26th of January a notable person, Mr. Samuel M'Millan, passed away, at the home of his son-in-law, London.

Mr. M'Millan's interest in public affairs was keen to the last days of his life; but his memory went back to generations of Irishmen whose names have now melted into national history. A native of Derry city, where he was born in 1830, he went to Belfast when he was only nine years old. While little more than a lad he wrote patriotic verses for the old *Vindictor*; and later on he contributed several ballads and poems to the *Nation*, thus forming one of the "goodly company" which included Davis and Duffy, Williams and D'Arcy Magee, Mangan and De Jean Fraser. In 1863 he removed to Limerick, where he soon found many friends in Southern literary circles, one of his cherished companions being Michael Hogan, the gifted "Bar of Thomond." The native of Derry and the Limerick poet maintained a constant correspondence until the death of the latter a few years ago. During his stay in the South Mr. M'Millan wrote many fugitive verses. A brief poem written by him at that period will be interesting now.

EVENING NEAR LIMERICK.

O'er Cratloe's wood the sun has set,
But bright above the hills of Clare
The golden cloudlets linger yet,
As loath to leave a scene so fair.
Released from labor's daily care,
Far from the shadows of the town,
With eager steps I hie me where
I trace the winding Avondoun.

Softly its crystal waters flow
As o'er their pebbly bed they glide,
Scarce murmuring as they onward go

To swell the Shannon's lordly tide.
Majestic river! By thy side
At evening hour I love to be
Where thy proud waters swelling wide

Roll onward to the boundless sea.

How fair the scene that meets the eye
Within this leafy solitude;
The fertile plain, the golden sky,
The heath-clad hill and leafy wood.
And I, who oft have listless stood,
Where men at sacred altars bow
Before the omnipresent God,
Do bow in admiration now.

Here, from the altar, where at morn
The lark his heaven taught anthem sings,
Here, upon Faith's unfettered wings,
And, on the breeze, the fragrant thorn.

Glad nature's holiest incense flings;
A while from sensual passion free,
My soul involuntarily springs,
God of the Universe, to Thee!

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