

The True Witness

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE RECEIVED from the "Irish Village," at the World's Fair, two most interesting and beautifully illustrated pamphlets published and sent out by Lady Aberdeen, in which attention is called to the exhibit of Irish Industries. The illustrations of lace work are particularly attractive and the accounts given of all the internal workings of that novel village are most instructive. In this connection we would respectfully call the attention of our readers to our series of articles under the heading "Act of the Union," and more especially the one of this week and those to follow. When the reader will have gleaned a fair idea of the fearful death-blows dealt to Irish industries by the legislation of the Union, it will be more readily understood why it is that Lady Aberdeen is making such stupendous efforts to bring before the world the hidden beauties of Irish character and the great possibilities regarding the future of those same industries. Now that we are on the eve, as it is fondly hoped, of a native legislature it is a noble and patriotic work to revive the trade, commerce, manufactures and industries that were so badly submerged under the deluge of miserable legislation since 1801. Thanks to the "Irish Village" committee for their kindness and courtesy towards the press!

IT IS PRETTY evident that the Home Rule Bill is about to go to the Lords. The thirty-first of July, the time appointed by Gladstone for the termination of the Committee work, is fast approaching and already all the clauses of consequence in the measure have been passed. The time is at hand when the Lords "temporal and spiritual" will have an opportunity of doing an act of justice that would serve to efface the bitter memories of hundreds of coercion measures sanctioned by them. The eyes of the civilized world will soon be riveted on the Upper House.

THE CATHOLIC SUMMER SCHOOL promises to be a grand success. It not only has attracted members of our own faith, but many representative men of other creeds have flocked to Plattsburg to hear the lectures that are being delivered. The dispatch announcing the opening of the second session states that on Sunday, 16th July, Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in St. John's church by Rev. Henry Gabriels Bishop of Ogdensburg, and that at the formal opening on Saturday evening, by the side of Bishop Gabriels stood our friend Rabbi Veld, of Montreal, who is attending the Summer School. It is a good omen to notice men of prominence in creeds differing from that of Catholicity going to the fountain of instruction where all the waters are the purest and the most salutary.

ROME is certainly the centre of the world; she is the city of memories pagan and Christian; she is the city of churches, of ruins, of monuments, in

her catacombs and in her temples the relics of thousands of martyrs repose. She is also a city of cosmopolitan memorials. Historians, statesmen, orators, painters, sculptors, poets, of various nations, have their commemorative tablets or busts in Rome. The last one to be erected is that of Shelley the English bard, who met an untimely death in the beautiful waters of the Bay of Naples. The following account of the ceremonial comes from the Eternal city:—

"A commemorative slab to the memory of Shelley was recently unveiled. It has been placed on the front wall of the Palazzo Verospi in the Corso, where the poet lived when in Rome. At the ceremony there took part Comm. Biagi, chief secretary of the minister for public instruction; Signor Martini, the Prefect of Rome, a representative of the syndic, a deputation from the senate and the parliament, many Italian literary personages, and a good many admirers of the poet. There was also Mrs. Dick, who was a daughter of Mr. Shelley, who, together with Trelawny and Byron, recovered the body on the shores of Viareggio, near Spezzia, and assisted at the cremation. The municipal firemen of Rome formed a guard of honor in front of the Palazzo. Signor Roseo, town councillor, delivered a speech, in which he reviewed the life of the poet and gave a short illustration of his works. The slab was then formally unveiled, while the firemen saluted with their bugle *fanfara*. On the slab are to be read the words composed by Prof. Gustavo Tirinelli: "A — Percy Bysshe Shelley—che nella primavera del 1819—scrise in questa casa—il prometeo e la cenci—il comune di Roma—cento anni dopo la nascita del poeta—sostenitore invito di liberta popolari—averate ai suoi tempida tutta Europa—pose questo ricordo—1892." In the afternoon a bronze wreath was placed on his grave, in the presence of the same persons, at the English cemetery."

The Star gives its readers the following piece of wisdom from the pen of Gen. Hamley, who writes to the Pall Mall Gazette that British troops would be justified, morally and legally, in refusing to suppress a revolt in Ulster if the insurgents should be fighting that they might remain citizens of the United Kingdom:

"No Act of Parliament," he argues, "can force citizens of the United Kingdom to transfer their allegiance. The people of Great Britain, although not following closely the theoretical discussion of the legal question, would cry for vengeance the moment they should see loyal Ulstermen shot down by troops." In closing Gen. Hamley says: "There is no need to excite the nation's sympathy for the Ulster loyalists by pointing to the ignoble crew in deference to whom this crime (Home Rule) has been committed. Perhaps in the ardent desire which will be felt to inflict penalties on the men mainly responsible, it may be discovered that the law can reach those who even by Parliamentary methods have conspired to alienate a large part of the United Kingdom."

Whoever General Hamley is, he may be a very good officer but he is decidedly a very poor specimen of a politician and a worse sample of a logician. How can the passage of the Home Rule Bill possibly "alienate a large part of the United Kingdom?" and how can the Act of the Parliament, establishing a local

legislature for Ireland, "force citizens to transfer their allegiance?" Have the citizens of any Canadian province been forced to transfer their allegiance in consequence of the Act of Confederation? Did the British North America Act alienate any part of the United Kingdom or force Canadians to transfer their allegiance from England? Did the establishment of State Legislatures cause any citizen of the United States to be alienated from his country or to transfer his allegiance from Washington? And again, "force citizens of the United Kingdom to transfer their allegiance"—to whom, to what power? Behold a sample of anti-Home Rule reasoning!

IN REGARD to our recent editorials on "School Inspectorship," it seems to us that in last week's issue we stated pretty fairly how and when we conceived the idea of taking this very important move. We said: "We are merely striving to carry into execution the suggestions we receive, and upon which we deemed it most advisable to act."

The present course, which we are but too glad to take, was inspired by the remarks and suggestions of various teachers, some of whom called upon us, others of whom we met in the course of our visits to some of the schools, and all of whom recognize the want of an English inspector." In this issue a correspondent signing himself "Public School Teacher," gives us to understand that there is some vague impressions on the minds of some unmentioned persons that we undertook this movement at the suggestion or under the inspiration of some "ex-teacher," also unnamed, who is said to be "smarting under some real or imaginary grievances." This is quite vague, we must admit, but sufficiently pointed to indicate a particular "ex-teacher," to whom we believe reference is made. In order to disabuse "Public School Teacher's" mind of any false impression, we will be most explicit. We desired to give credit to others for the part they had in causing us to grasp this idea of a movement in favor of an English-speaking School Inspector; but no person ever said, in as many words, that we should take up the matter. However, from remarks passed, suggestions made, and opinions expressed, we concluded it was a desirable move, and the moment we expressed our view all to whom we spoke agreed with us. The rest of the work is our own. But in all this no "ex-teacher," (and especially the one alluded to) ever dreamed of the subject until our first public utterance, nor did any "ex-teacher," either directly or indirectly, ever suggest or inspire the course we adopted. In plain English we tell "Public School Teacher" that he is completely and entirely at sea on that point, and so is anyone else who may happen to be laboring under a similar false impression. The need, both for the schools and the public, of such an official, like the public need in other matters, alone set our machinery in motion. Besides we want it thoroughly understood that

the TRUE WITNESS is not a medium for the rectification of private "grievances," be they "real or imaginary." However, when we feel the justice of a public cause, and the necessity of an important change, we are not accustomed to hesitate in presence of any private considerations, much less will we permit the same to urge us on, when we deem the course unadvisable. So we hope that doubt is sufficiently crushed; we repeat, no "ex-teacher" has had anything to do, one way or another, with our action in taking up this matter. Such false ideas can only indicate the suspiciousness of character in those who conceive them, or else the silent consciousness of something that would justify an "ex-teacher" in venting his "real or imaginary wrongs" had he the opportunity.

SOME TIME ago we had occasion, in replying to a correspondent, to give a short sketch of the opium traffic in China. In speaking of a deputation from the Society for the Suppression of Opium, which recently waited on Lord Kimberley, the Liverpool Catholic Times says:

"The Secretary of State for India could not see his way to deprive the Indian Government of the revenue derived from the opium trade, or the growers of the poppy from the profit of its cultivation. Lord Kimberley is disposed to believe that the demoralisation engendered by the use of the drug is not so appalling or widespread as represented; and that in some instances it is absolutely beneficial. Both contentions may be quite correct, but no sophistry will relieve us of the moral responsibility of our having first forced an opium trade upon China at the mouth of the cannon, and now, when the mischief is supposed to be irretrievable, of perpetuating voluntarily what was begun in infamy. The Chinese, it is true, have learned to grow the opium themselves, but it was we who first forced them to buy it whether they were willing to smoke it or not. The testimony of missionaries should be impartial. If the consumption of the drug is not deleterious and demoralising, what object could they have in misrepresenting its harmless and even beneficial effect? Why is it permitted to sell opium to a Chinaman in Burmah and illegal to sell it to a native? The conclusion is irresistible. The monster lays the Indian Government a golden egg, and they are afraid to kill it, even if it ruins the poor Celestials body and soul."

IN ONE of its last week's issues the Gazette furnishes its readers with the following characteristic bit of editorial:

"Mr. Gladstone with the aid of his majority drove eleven clauses of the Home Rule bill down the Conservatives' throats on Thursday night, without allowing a word of discussion or amendment. For genuine high-handedness the Liberal in power does not take second place alongside a Czar."

Did it ever flash upon the mind of the one who wrote these lines that Mr. Gladstone learned the lesson of closure from the Tories, who, by the same method only in a more aggravated manner, forced coercion acts, arm's bills, and every species of tyrannical legislation upon Ireland during long years? or does he reflect upon the total inutility of prolonging, at immense expense, a discussion that can be fruitless of any benefit to the empire? The fact is the Tory ox is the one that is gored this time; hence these tears!