

# The Catholic Record.

"CHRISTIANUS MIHI NOMEN EST, CATHOLICUS VERO COGNOMEN."—"CHRISTIAN IS MY NAME, BUT CATHOLIC MY SURNAME."—St. Pacian, 4th Century.

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From the Pilot, May 29.

FANNY PARNELL.

DIED JULY 20, 1882.

On Memorial Day, May 31, the grave of Fanny Parnell, the beloved Poet of the Land League, will be decorated with flowers by the Irish Societies of Boston. The following poem is republished by request:—

THE DEAD SINGER.

BY JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

"She is dead!" they say; "She is robbed for the grave: there are lilies upon her breast; Her mother has kissed her clay-cold lips, and folded her hands to rest; Her blue eyes show thro' the waxen lids: they have hidden her hair's gold crown; Her grave is dug, and its heap of earth is waiting; to press her down."

"She is dead!" they say to the people,—her people for whom she sang, Whose hearts she touched with sorrow and love, like a harp with life chords strung, And the people hear—but behind their tear they smile as though they heard Another voice like a Mystery proclaim another word.

"She is not dead!" it says to their hearts: "True Singers can never die: The truths and the beauties are clear to them, God's right and the human wrong, The heroes who die unknown, and the weak who are chained and scourged by the strong."

And the people smile at the death word, for the mystic voice is clear: "The Singer who lives is always alive: we hear her and always hear."

And they raise her body with tender hands and bear her down to the main, They lay her in state on the mourning ship, like the lily maid Elaine; And they sail to her side across the sea, where the people wait on the shore To lift her in silence with heads all bared to her home forever more— Her home in the heart of her country—O, a grave among our own Is warmer and sweeter than living on in the stranger lands alone!

No need of a tomb for the Singer! Her fair hair's pillow now Is the sacred clay of her country, and the sky above her brow Is the same that smiled and wept on her youth, and the grass around is deep With the clinging leaves of the shamrock that cover her peaceful sleep. Undraining there she will rest and wait, in the tomb her people make, Till she hears men's hearts like the seeds in Spring all stirring to be awake, Till she feels the motion of souls that strain till the bands that bind them break; And then, I think, her dead lips will smile and her eyes be raised to see, When the cry goes out to the Nations that the Singer's land is free!

One year before the death of Fanny Parnell, when the awful Shadow first fell upon her, she wrote this poem of marvellous pathos and beauty:

POST-MORTEM.

Shall mine eyes behold thy glory, O my country? Shall mine eyes behold thy glory? Or shall the darkness close around them, are the sun-blaze Break at last upon thy story?

When the nations ope for thee their queenly circle, As a sweet, new sister hail thee, Shall these lips be sealed in callous death and silence That have known but to bewail thee?

Shall the sea be deaf that only loved thy praises When all men their tribute bring thee? Shall the mouth be clay, that sang thee in thy equal, When all poets' mouths shall sing thee?

Ah! the harpings and the salvos and the shoutings Of thy exiled sons returning! I should hear, though dead and mouldered, and the grave damps Should not chill my bosom's burning.

Ah! the tramp of feet victorious! I should hear them 'Mid the shamrocks and the mosses, And my heart should toss within the shroud and quiver, As a captive dreamer tases.

I should turn and read the cere clothes round me, Shall shun I should borrow, Crying, "O my brothers, I have also loved her, In her lowliness and sorrow."

"Let me join with you the jubilar procession, Let me chant with you the psalm; Then contented I shall go back to the shamrocks, Now mine eyes have seen her glory."

—August 27, 1881.

MICHAEL DAVITT ON HOME RULE.

THE FOUNDER OF THE LAND LEAGUE BEFORE A GLASGOW AUDIENCE.

One of the most enthusiastic meetings of Irish Nationalists that has assembled in Glasgow for many years was held at the City Hall on the evening of April 20, to listen to an address by Michael Davitt on the Home Rule Bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone. The meeting was presided over by Mr. John Ferguson, and among the distinguished speakers on the platform were ex-Ballie Fishel and Councilor Graham, Messrs. James Lindsay, Wm. Bond, Donald McLachlan, Adam Sutherland, George Campbell, D. Alexander, John Turbull, J. Shaw Maxwell, John Murdoch and others.

Mr. Davitt on rising was greeted with prolonged applause. He began by recalling his several former appearances before a Glasgow audience, each time by a strange coincidence, after the government had indulged in a spasm of clemency and permitted a jail delivery of imprisoned Nationalists. This time, he said, his text should be not from the National League's printed programme, but from the Home Rule Bill introduced by the English Premier: "On and after the appointed day, there shall be established in Ireland a Legislature consisting of Her Majesty's the Queen, and an Irish Legislative body."

"Before offering a few words upon this measure, I may be permitted, as an Irish Nationalist, to say that, in Mr. Gladstone's great speech of last Thursday week, more than in his masterly scheme, are we to find the complete vindication of the struggle waged by the Irish people for self-government since the passage of that infamous statute, the Act of Union. I had the privilege of listening to that great oratorical effort. Looking down from the gallery of the House of Commons upon one of the greatest and most brilliant assemblages before which any statesman has ever spoken, and listening to this phenomenal old man in the most eloquent language at his command, paying a just though tardy tribute to the subject of Irish nationality, I could not help saying to myself at that moment that I have not spent nine years in British prisons in vain.

At the same time, however, it is only natural to reflect upon all the sacrifices that might have been prevented, all the disasters that might not have taken place, all the crime that might not have stained the modern history of Ireland, if some British Minister, 50 years ago, had but recognized the justice of Ireland's national demands, and had then conceded—what would have been accepted gratefully, and with enthusiasm

—that which has now to be given in obedience to an organized Irish race, and the presence in the house of Commons, of the strongest and the ablest Parliamentary party which Ireland has ever sent to that institution. But we are not here to dwell so much upon the irrevocable past as to speak upon and take counsel together with reference to the crisis out of which, I hope, a brighter future is to dawn over a hitherto unfortunate land.

As Mr. Ferguson has reminded you, Mr. Gladstone's speech and scheme have lifted the question of Irish self-government into the very forefront of British practical politics, and the question has been asked me to day by educated Scotchmen, which has been repeated several times to me in London during the last 10 days, whether, supposing this scheme of Mr. Gladstone become law, the Irish people will accept it and be satisfied; and then, following this question, comes the invariable addition to it: "You see, say these people, 'you Irish have never been satisfied heretofore and what guarantee have we that this will finally satisfy you?' Well, with reference to our previous dissatisfaction, I should say that the very fact of this measure now being brought in by Mr. Gladstone is, in itself, a sufficient vindication of our attitude. The same question, I remember, was put at a meeting in Leicester a few weeks ago—why it is that the Irish people have not been satisfied after all these heroic measures like the Disestablishment of the Church and the passing of the Land Act! In reply to the question, I asked my interrogator, after eating his breakfast, he was told it was unreasonable for him to ask for his dinner or his supper, what his reply would be? He did not answer the question but I think he began to understand why we have persevered in our efforts for self-government."

Mr. Davitt then reviewed the bill in detail, pointing out the disadvantages of the proposed system of two legislative branches, but recognizing that Mr. Gladstone had devised the scheme as a temporary concession to the prejudices of the minority. He followed in the same line of criticism as Mr. Parnell the fiscal features of the plan, and in regard to Protection said:—

"You are aware that many of the ablest opponents of our movement have based their objection to Home Rule on the theory or supposition that one of the first things an Irish Parliament would do would be to resort to Protection. Well, I have always maintained, on that subject, that the one kind of protection which Ireland wanted was protection against landlordism—and that, if this be secured,

and the capital retained in Ireland which absentee landlordism has hitherto taken out of it, circulation of this wealth would be quite sufficient of a stimulus to Irish industry to make it unnecessary to resort to the artificial method of economical protection.

However, to quiet the alarm of Free Traders in Great Britain, Mr. Gladstone has added this additional cause of irritation to the Irish people in this Bill, by proposing to retain in the hands of the imperial authority the collection of the Customs and Excise duties in Ireland.

Now, another objection is that the constabulary or the police in Ireland are to still be under the control and direction of imperial authority, while the Irish Chancellor of the Exchequer—our fellow, whose job it is to be able to provide £1,000 a year in order to pay this force. Well, I believe that this will only be a cause of temporary irritation—for it is only a temporary arrangement. The absurdity of having in a country for the preservation of the law and order a police force which is not under the control of the constituted authorities of the country will soon, I am certain, convince public opinion in Great Britain that the best and the wisest course to pursue is to give the Irish State complete control of the constabulary force of Ireland. Well, I think that this objection almost exhausts the faults which I find in Mr. Gladstone's scheme. They, in my opinion, go to impair what would be the healing efficacy of an Irish domestic Legislature with full power to manage its own affairs in its own way. But, as these restrictions are, one and all, put forward to ease the apprehensions of those who fear that Ireland would otherwise conquer England and rule the Empire, their very existence in the new Irish Constitution, in my opinion, pays the very highest possible compliment to the indomitable spirit of Irish nationality.

Referring to Mr. Chamberlain, the speaker said: "I believe that I find no irreconcilable fault in your reading over the words of Mr. Chamberlain's speeches delivered so far back as the year 1874, that, at least at one time in his career Mr. Chamberlain was a supporter of Home Rule. Probably, he has forgotten this and, therefore, I maintain that the better policy for us is to juggle his memory a little bit rather than to ass or groan at his name. Speaking on the 1st of January, in the year 1874, I think at Sheffield, Mr. Chamberlain said, 'Home Rule for Ireland is worthy of a separate and lengthened discussion. I can only say now, generally, that if Mr. Butt may be considered as the true exponent of the views of the Home Rule party, I am in favour of the system he advocates, and I believe also the extension of the system of local government would be of the greatest advantage both to England and to Ireland.'"

"Again, speaking somewhere else in England, on January 29, 1874, he said he approved of the Home Rule movement, and held that Irishmen had a right to govern themselves and their own affairs, and he was willing to concede that right to them. Well, we ask no more. Mr. Chamberlain then went on to say: 'It would be an advantage to both parties, the Irish would move on as an acknowledged pace without the Irish members.' Well, now it is very singular—and I suppose it must be owing to a defective memory—that the one objection which Mr. Chamberlain now has to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule scheme is that it proposes to remove the members from Westminster, in order to concentrate the legislative machine, that Mr. Chamberlain was so anxious about in the year 1874.'"

Condemning the desertion of Hartington and acknowledging the conversion of Earl Spencer, Mr. Davitt said:—

"We can make the Tories a present of the Marquis of Hartington, because we have got a far stronger man representing a greater political power, in honest Joseph Aitch (applause). Now the next—perhaps the loudest—cry of objection to this scheme is found in what is called the Ulster protest.

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