

THE WEEK.

IRISH LEGISLATION.

The affairs of Ireland are again absorbing a great deal of attention in English political life, and several exciting incidents have taken place of late in connection with Irish Legislation. The position taken by the Conservative Government in regard to Mr. Parnell's denunciation of Lord Spencer's administration was received with great astonishment, and they were widely attacked for their too evident readiness to seek an alliance with the Irish leader and his party. So much sympathy, in fact, did it excite for Lord Spencer, that a banquet was recently organized in his favor, at which no less than two hundred members of the House of Commons were present. The Marquis of Hartington presided and proposed the health of Lord Spencer in a flattering speech, in the course of which he warmly commended his administration. Earl Spencer, in reply, said that he had tried to do his duty to his sovereign and his country fearlessly in the sight of the world. He justified the Crimes Act on the ground that when it was passed there were 30,000 Fenians in Ireland, who were aided by members of Parliament from England and Scotland and by funds from America in resisting the laws of the land. He declared that nothing could be more dangerous than to attempt to govern Ireland as a Crown colony without representative institutions. Mr. John Bright, who was one of the principal speakers, vindicated Lord Spencer's policy, and said that the men who brought charges against Earl Spencer and the Irish judges were disloyal to the Crown, and directly hostile to Great Britain. They had, so far as they could, obstructed legislation which was intended to prevent or discover and punish crime. These remarks of Mr. Bright have made the Irish party furious, and it is said that the matter will be brought up as a question of privilege in Parliament. In the meantime matters are not progressing very smoothly among the chiefs of the party, the various sections of which are at loggerheads. The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, a leading member of the Gladstone Cabinet and a statesman whom many regard as the coming leader of the Liberal party, intends to make a tour through Ireland at an early date. His visit is strongly disapproved by the Parnellites, who characterize it as an election dodge for the Liberals with whom they are not on very good terms. Now, Mr. Michael Davitt who is perhaps even more popular among the Irish than Mr. Parnell himself has just written a long letter to Mr. Chamberlain in which he makes the emphatic declaration that he would be proud to stand on any platform with Mr. Chamberlain during the latter's proposed visit to Ireland. The letter, it is claimed, marks a final rupture of the two Irish sections. Mr. Davitt, however, refuses to enter Parliament because in doing so it would be compulsory for him to swear allegiance to the Queen. This stand places Mr. Chamberlain in a rather awkward predicament as he will be urged to seek the co-operation of a man who refuses allegiance to England's sovereign. What Mr. Chamberlain will do under the circumstances remains to be seen. The new viceroy, Lord Carnarvon, is going about his duties in a quiet but business like manner and there is even a prospect that he may in time become personally popular with the people, an event that does not often happen to the occupant of the Castle. A well-known Irishman, Sir Charles Gavin Duffy, author of "Young Ireland," has written an open letter to Lord Carnarvon, in

what he congratulates him for the adoption of what he terms an admirable and upright policy towards the Queen's subjects in Ireland. Sir Charles thinks that if the Conservative Cabinet undertakes to restore Ireland's control of her own local interests and to accord to her the same kind of independence enjoyed by British Colonies, not a single Irish member in the next Parliament will refuse to support the programme of the Government. He declares that the restoration of the Irish Legislature is the only measure that will ever succeed in rendering Irishmen at home and abroad content. Whether any English Government will see its way clear to attempt such a scheme is a question of dispute, but there can be no doubt that the British House of Commons will be called upon very soon to discuss such a proposal.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

The greatest event in English society for some time took place this week in the marriage of the Princess Beatrice, youngest daughter of Queen Victoria, to Prince Henry of Battenberg, which took place at St. Mildred's Church, Whippingham, near Osborne, on Thursday the 23rd inst. The marriage was the occasion for a grand ceremony, and the vicinity of Osborne wore a gala appearance. The flags of all nations floated from the houses, and the river and bay were full of yachts brilliant with bunting, the Royal Yacht being decked with wreaths, evergreens and flowers in profusion. Previous to the ceremony, a hundred guests of the Queen breakfasted at the palace at Osborne, and at eleven o'clock the guests started for the church. The Prince of Wales and members of his family landed from their yacht and were driven to Osborne. The Prince of Wales wore the uniform of a field marshal, his son Victor was dressed in the uniform of an army officer, and his son George in that of an officer of the navy. The 93rd Highlanders guarded the approaches to the church and the road traversed by the procession was lined with volunteers. The bridal procession started from the palace fifteen minutes after one. Loud and enthusiastic cheering greeted the pageant as it emerged from the gates and the demonstration was taken up and continued by the people along the whole route to the church. Five bands of music played at intervals. When the procession neared the church, the choir, followed by the clergy, passed to the altar to prepare to receive the bride. The Queen left the palace for the church shortly after one o'clock. The procession made its entrance to the church to the strains of Handel's Occasional Overture. All the royal ladies present wore dresses of white gossamer silk. The Prince and Princess of Wales did not join the procession but remained at the entrance to the church. Prince Henry, the bridegroom, wore a white uniform, and on his breast were numerous orders. He passed into the church accompanied by the members of his royal house. The bridesmaids then left the vestry, in which they had been waiting, for the entrance to the churchyard to receive the bride. The arrival of the Queen with the bride was heralded with cheers and a royal salute. The pipers played the march "Highland Laddie," and the Spithead and Solent guns thundered a grand salute. The Queen entered the chapel on the bride's left. The Prince of Wales was on the right and the bridesmaids followed. The Princess Beatrice bowed to the guests on either side as she advanced up the aisle. The scene as the Queen, dressed in black, with lace, and wearing a miniature diamond crown, entered the church, was very impressive. The bride looked very pretty.

She was dressed in ivory satin with Honiton lace; her hair was artistically arranged and its effect was made more charming by a wreath of orange blossoms which she wore. The princess of Wales wore a costume of white L'eau de Nil. Prince Henry stood at the south side of the altar and awaited the bride. The Princess walked with firm steps up the aisle. After Wagner's Bridal March had been played, the Archbishop of Canterbury read the service, the bride and bridegroom responding in clear tones, which were heard throughout the building. The Queen gave the bride away. At the close of the service Mendelssohn's Anthem was sung. The Queen, Prince Henry and the relatives on both sides kissed the bride. As the bridal party left the church Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played and the guns of the guard ships fired a grand salute.

A NOBLE LIFE.

Sir Moses Montefiore, the celebrated philanthropist, whose hundredth birthday was celebrated throughout the civilized world last October with great ceremony, has at length passed away full of years and honors. He died at his residence at Ramsgate on Tuesday afternoon. The life of the aged philanthropist furnishes an example of useful work and unostentatious charity. The Montefiore family trace their descent back to very ancient times. The grandfather of the philanthropist, Moses Vita Montefiore, settled in London in 1752. He had seventeen children, all of whom lived to be very old, and having amassed a large fortune at the time of his death, which took place in 1789, he left each of his children a good fortune. Joseph Elias Montefiore, the sixth son, was the father of Sir Moses. He did business as a merchant and dealt chiefly with Italy which he frequently visited with his wife. While on one of these visits in 1784 Sir Moses, who was the eldest son, was born at Leghorn. He was educated in London and entered business at an early age. He secured a seat on the Stock Exchange at a cost of \$6,000 and by his winning and amiable disposition soon became a general favorite. At an early age he married the daughter of Levy Cohen, a wealthy London merchant. Sir Moses served the office of sheriff of London in 1837 and was knighted on the visit of Her Majesty to the Guildhall. He was also High Sheriff of Kent, in which county he resided, and in 1846 was raised to a baronetcy, in recognition of his high character and public service. In 1840, Sir Moses, always mindful of the interests of his countrymen, went on a mission to the East in order to secure certain rights for his Jewish brethren at Damascus, and after his return, having accomplished his object, he was presented by the Jews of London with a magnificent set of plate. In 1864 he received the thanks of the Court of Common Council for the signal services he had rendered, by missions to various countries, for the relief of persons oppressed for their religious convictions, and more especially by a journey to Morocco, undertaken to solicit the Emperor to relieve his Jewish and Christian subjects from all civil and religious disabilities. The death of Lady Montefiore, which took place in 1862, was a great blow to her husband, who founded a magnificent college at Ramsgate in respect to her memory. Of late years this noble man has spent his declining days in his beautiful home overlooking the sea at Ramsgate, where he has been the recipient of many honors, and the universal celebration of his hundredth birthday last year was a token of the widespread regard in which he was held, not only by his own sect but by the people of all denominations. The

great object of his life was the relief of and success of his oppressed co-religionists in all parts of the world, by whom his death will be regarded as a national loss.

A WAR AVERTED.

A long and bloody Indian war in the United States has, in all probability, been averted by the firm and just action of President Cleveland, who is evidently determined that all classes of the population shall receive their rights. The President and Cabinet have reached the conclusion that leases of land in the Indian Territory held by cattlemen are invalid, and it has been determined to take steps to have them set aside. As the parceling out of the territory belonging to the Redman to cattle ranchers was the whole cause of the recent trouble in the South-Western States, it is to be presumed that with the removal of the grievances the Indians will once more subside into a state of peaceful tranquility. General Sheridan, the Commander-in-chief of the United States armies, who was sent to the scene to inquire into the troubles, reported that no permanent settlement of the Indian troubles in the Territory could be effected while cattlemen were in possession of the best lands. The President accordingly is determined to remove the disturbing element, and to reserve Indian territory for the exclusive occupation of the Indians. The Indian problem in the United States, as elsewhere, has been a most difficult one, and the difficulties have been increased by the bad faith in too many cases of the white man. The Government has, however, in the present instance, taken the only stand consistent with honesty and justice, and it is to be hoped that their efforts will be attended with happy results.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

Unusually hot weather has prevailed throughout the greater part of this continent during the past week, forcing the corn crop towards an early and most abundant harvest. As there has been no lack of moisture nearly all the growing crops are making good progress, and in many localities the present appearances are very favorable for an abundant yield, despite the depredations of chinch-bugs and grasshoppers in some sections. The yield of grain in Texas for the present year has been the greatest ever known in the history of the State. The *Galveston News*, commenting upon the fact, says: "With no untoward disaster to the cotton crop the State is on the eve of the grandest period of agricultural prosperity she has ever enjoyed. The commercial and general business situation may naturally be expected to sympathize with this prosperity." The pasturage is better than usual in most places, and the products of the dairy are correspondingly large, but the prices are still very low, though they have recently taken an upward turn. Grass-fed cattle are coming on the market earlier and in better condition than usual, and prices are steadily declining.

MRS. PARNELL, the mother of Ireland's great agitator is in a very wretched condition if she represents the exact state of her case. In a recent letter to a friend she states: "I have striven to sell and to pay to such an extent that at last I have nothing left of which I can easily dispose. Owing to some payments having stopped last year I don't see how I am able to live for I have no income for myself to the amount of one cent." It seems a strange thing that the mother should be in such a state while the son lives in luxury at home.