

Edinburgh (Sootland) upon Home Rule. He believes—in opposition to Archbishops Croke and Walsh—in its early realization. But with all his gifts he is far too sanguine. He was equally sanguine in 1886, when he led against the Conservative Government those Reformers who wished to whitewash Riel; for whose apprehension he, fifteen years earlier, expressed his willingness to offer a reward of \$5,000. On that motion 146 Conservatives and Reformers voted that Riel had been rightly hanged, and only 51 of his adherents sided against Canada. Twenty-four of the leading Reformers patriotically preferred their country to their party, and voted against their then leader.

Mr. Blake, at Edinburgh, spoke warmly of “the continued enthusiasm, unity and determination of the Irish at home and abroad” on behalf of Home Rule. Yet by the lowest reckoning the Protestant and Catholic Unionists comprise 30 per cent. of the population. This “enthusiasm” only extends to a farthing per head for the support of the Irish M.P.’s. Falstaff’s rueful remark applies, “Call you this a backing of your friends?” Mr. Blake’s munificent contributions to the Nationalist movement amount to \$2,500, and exceeds those of all the other Irish M.P.’s added together. I maintain that a subscription of a farthing per head for the support of the Irish M.P.’s is, as Pat would say, only one remove from “monkey’s allowance—more kicks than ha’pence.” Immediately after vaunting the “unity” of the Irish, Mr. Blake, adopting Sir Boyle Roches’ famous metaphor, “turned his back upon himself” and strongly denounced the Redmonites (the Parnellites), who, although they only number nine in the House, amount to about one-third of the Home Rulers. He indignantly said that “the conduct of the leaders and representatives of that party rendered it extremely difficult to speak of it in terms other than that of indignation and of the strongest rebuke.” Common sense asks, where does Mr. Blake’s “unity” come in?

Archbishop Croke writes thus in the *Dublin Freeman* of Feb. 13th: “The melancholy fact that our Irish representatives are at present, and for some time past have been,

broken up into rival cliques fighting literally for straws, . . . seeking self-glorification apparently rather than the public good. . . . Our enthusiasm has cooled down or died away, our bishops for the most part hold aloof from the Nationalist cause, our priests are distrustful and dissatisfied,” etc. . . . (My italics) “*The hope of obtaining a legislature for our country within reasonable time is no longer entertained by reasoning men*, and all this has come to pass partly because . . . what one set of Irish politicians proposes . . . will almost of a surety be derided, denounced, and scornfully rejected by another.” Archbishop Walsh writes in *The Freeman* of 19th February: “Nothing else but unity amongst its champions can save the cause from crushing disaster.”

The *Irish Catholic* (the organ of the Healyite wing of the McCarthyites) in its issue of March 9th sternly denounces by name the leading Dillonites—the latter forming the other wing of the McCarthyites—“who are continually intriguing to divide the spoils of the Paris funds.” The *Daily Independent* (the Parnellite organ) in its issue of February 28th impartially denounces both Healyites and Dillonites, charging that “impudence is their character, bounce their performance, and certainly stupidity their reckoning.”

According to Mr. Justin McCarthy’s official report, the subscriptions from Ireland in 1894 for the support of indigent M.P.’s only amounted to £5,255. This from a population of 4,700,000 is a fraction over a farthing per head. The reluctance of the home-staying Irish to financially support Home Rule, shows how little they care for it, and corroborates Archbishop Croke’s pessimism. Dickens makes “the marchionness” say “that if you soak orange peel in water, and make believe very hard, it tastes like wine.” Evidently our respected fellow-citizen, Mr. Edward Blake, like Dickens’ “marchionness,” “makes believe very hard,” but he can’t make intelligent Canadians believe that a farthing per head shows “great enthusiasm.” As an eminent lawyer he would not, unless joke-proof, tender such evidence in support of that thesis. It is therefore clear that he is far too sanguine.

April 16th.

FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

P.S.—Those who wish to know the real opinions of the home-staying Irish should read “Ireland as It Is,” published by the Birmingham Gazette Co. (five shillings). The author interviewed thousands of all ranks, beliefs and politics.

## Mr. Parkin on Canada.\*

IT occurred to me the other day that it would be interesting to prove by some practical test the increase of attention which, of late years, has been paid by current thought to Canada and things Canadian. Accordingly I consulted the Indices to periodical literature annually issued from the office of the *Review of Reviews*. These Indices classify the contents of all the principal magazines of Europe and America, and give a very fair idea of what the world has been thinking and reading about during the twelve preceding months. It may be a rough and ready test, for in 1892 the Fisheries and the Behring Sea questions were under discussion, and in 1893 the *Canadian Magazine* swelled the number of Canadian articles; nevertheless a test it is, and one not necessarily nullified by these accretions. I found that in 1890 there were some thirty-three articles dealing with Canadian topics; in 1891, between forty and fifty; in 1892, nearly twice that number; and in 1893, a very sensible addition was made to this last figure. The Index for 1894, it seems, has not yet reached this country. But in that year there appeared what, from the paper in which it appeared and the number of readers it must have reached, was worth many magazine articles put together, namely, Mr. George Parkin’s series of letters to the *Times*. These must have penetrated to the remotest corners of the inhabited globe, for, in addition to their insertion in the daily *Times*, they were reprinted both in the tri-weekly *Mail* and in the weekly edition, and thus, it is pretty safe to say, went wherever Englishmen go. Mr. Parkin has republished these letters under the auspices of, perhaps, the most renowned of English publishers, the Messrs. Macmillan, and the result is a most handy, readable, and, as I hope to show, important book, printed in two styles, one in cloth and one in paper,† and thus, so far as price is concerned, within the reach of everybody.

Mr. Parkin’s book is important for many reasons. In the first place he may be regarded as a fairly unbiassed observer. Had he borne a character for partiality or prejudice it is extremely unlikely that the *Times* would have deputed to him the onerous task of visiting and reporting upon the Dominion. Neither was it to the interest of himself or of the journal he represented anything to extenuate or to set down aught in malice. By those who grant this his book will be read with confidence.

Secondly it is most pleasant to be able to record that the whole tone of Mr. Parkin’s “Studies” is friendly to Canada; friendly, not so much with unreasoning laudation of her present position, as with reasonable pride in her possible prospects. To those who think that such friendliness is incompatible with impartiality there is, of course, nothing to say. It is for them to disprove Mr. Parkin’s facts.

And of facts truly we are given a goodly number. The book virtually falls into eight sections, each devoted to a single though comprehensive group of topics:—The North-West; the Canadian Pacific Railway; Coal; Eastern Canada; British Columbia; Northern Canada; Trade Relations and Trade Policy; Labour, Education, and Political Tendencies. These headings, of themselves, reveal something of the writer’s scope and method. His book is not a Blue Book. There is not a tabulated statement within its covers. It does not weary with statistics. Indeed it is pleasantly free from figures. It does not pretend to exhaust a theme, though in its treatment of a theme evidences of much, if not exhaustive, study are not wanting. “The object kept steadily in view,” the preface tells us, “has been that the letters should, so far as they go, leave upon the mind of the reader a true impression. An endeavour has also been made to select those subjects upon which it seems most necessary that accurate information should be easily accessible and a measured judgment formed both within the Dominion and without.” From the relative importance attached to certain groups of facts, Mr. Parkin has evidently written more for those without the Dominion than for those within. He devotes, for example, a whole chapter to coal; whereas agriculture, dairy products, timber, mines, and the fisheries, are spoken of only under more capacious headings. Mr. Parkin was here

\* “The Great Dominion: Studies of Canada.” By George R. Parkin, M.A., Hon. LL.D., University New Brunswick. With maps. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1895. Cr. 8vo., pp. viii., 251.

† The latter in “Macmillan’s Colonial Library” series.