

The Home Rule Lecture.

At the Home Rule Lecture, the speaker discussed the Home Rule Bill, its aims, and the current political situation in Ireland.

BEN HUR; OR, THE DAYS OF THE MESSIAH. BOOK FIRST.

We begin this week the reproduction of one of the most magnificent works of fiction ever given the public by an American writer.

PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.—In the following pages an attempt is made to portray the people and the land of Judea in the days of the Messiah.

CHAPTER I. IN THE DESERT.

The Jebel es Zibieh is a mountain fifty miles and more in length, and so narrow that it resembles a caterpillar crawling from the south to the north.

Two hours more passed without rest or deviation from the course. Vegetation entirely ceased. The sand was crusted on the surface that it broke into rattling flakes at every step.

No one, he it remembered, seeks the desert for a pleasure-ground. Life and business traverse it by paths along which the bones of things dead are strewn as so many blazons.

It may be doubted if the people of the West ever overcome the impression made upon them by the first view of the desert. Custom, so fatal to other novelties, affects this feeling but little.

breadth of foot; its bulk of body, not fat, but overlaid with muscle; its long, slender neck of swan-like curvature; the head, wide between the eyes, and tapering to a muzzle like a lady's bracelet.

CHAPTER II. THE THREE STRANGERS.

The man now revealed was of admirable proportions, not so tall as powerful. Loosening the silken rope which held the kufiyeh on his head, he brushed the fringe folds back until his face was bare.

When the dromedary lifted itself out of the last break of the wady, the traveler had passed the boundary of El Bekke, the ancient Ammon. It was morning time.

And now there was an end of path or road. More than ever the camel seemed insensibly driven; it lengthened and quickened its pace, its head pointed straight towards the horizon.

However disappointed, there could be little doubt of the stranger's confidence in the coming of the expected company.

Then he turned to the camel, saying low and in a tongue strange to the desert.

"We are far from home, O racer with the swiftest winds—we are far from home, but God is with us. Let us be patient."

They took some beans from a pocket in the saddle, and put them in a bag made to hang below the animal's nose.

"They will come," he said calmly, "He that led me is leading them. I will make ready."

From the pouches which lined the interior of the coat, and from a willow basket which was part of its furniture he brought forth materials for a meal.

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They looked to the north, where, already plain to view, a third camel, of the whiteness of the others, came racing like a ship.

When his arms fell to the Egyptian, the latter said, with a tremulous voice, "The Spirit brought me here, where I know myself chosen to be the servant of my brethren."

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neck to the sand, and advanced towards the Egyptian, as did the Egyptian towards him, each with eyes in perforated leather.

"And to thee, O brother of the true faith—to thee peace and welcome," the Egyptian replied with fervour.

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of eloquence, of poetry, of war; O my brethren, here is the glory which must shine for ever in perforated leather.

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THE CRY OF NOVEMBER.

It is said that at one time in certain cities of Southern Europe, every Monday, at midnight, a man in a black mantle, issued from the parish church and proceeded through the city, carrying in his hand a wooden clapper which he sounded at every corner, crying in a slow, monotonous voice: "Awake ye who sleep, and arise for the souls of the departed."

At these words a grave smile of approval lighted the gaunt face of the Hindoo.

"In the northern part of my country—in Tuscany," the Greek proceeded to say, "there is a mountain famous as the home of the gods, where Zeus, whom my countrymen believe supreme, has his abode; Olympus is its name."

"How few are there who are able to do this," he said, "and how many who are not!"

"I am not a philosopher," he said, "I am a man of the world."

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THE PORTER AND THE SAINT.

From the Messenger. The following pleasant story shows us with what simplicity St. Philip Neri often won his converts to God.

The porter was not accustomed to going to church as a regular visitor, but he had gone to school, and had made his First Communion.

He had been a porter for many years, and he had learned his trade well.

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CONVERSIONS IN ENGLAND.

Conversions to the Catholic Church are still numerous in England. The most notable during the past year were Lord Charles Douglas Hamilton, brother to the Duke of Hamilton; Lord William Neville, brother to the Earl of Abergavenny; Sir Philip Ross, Bart., late one of the Sheriffs of London; Mrs. Bancroft, the celebrated actress; the Rev. DeLisle and the Rev. Mr. Hay, at Rome; the Rev. Dr. Moorman, an old college friend of Cardinal Manning's; and a leading man among the Ritualists; Rev. Mr. Hanbury, for twenty-eight years Vicar of Littlebury, in Essex; the Rev. Mr. Langdon, now a priest at Plymouth; the Rev. Mr. Southern, late curate at St. John's Church, Torquay. Among the priesthood are to be found the Right Rev. Lord Petre and the heirs of Earl of Fingall; Fr. Planck, a Redemptorist; Fr. Baron Arundel, the Hon. and Rev. E. A. G. Arundel, the Rev. Sir John Sivalde, Bart., a priest of St. Edmund's College, Douai; and the Rev. W. A. Heathcote, heir of Sir W. P. Heathcote, Bart., Hursley Park, Hants. Of the 40 peers 21 are converts, and of baronets 22 are also converts. There are 18 Catholic lords holding courtesy titles, 12 of whom are converts. One of the latter, Lord Charles Thynne, uncle to the Marquis of Bath, although nearly seventy years of age, has lately been ordained by Cardinal Manning.

As a purifier, Ayer's Sarsaparilla acts directly and promptly. A single bottle will prove its merits. Many thousands of people are yearly saved from dangerous fevers by the exercise of a little timely care in cleansing the system by the use of this remedy.

TO BE CONTINUED.

St. Roy, Alfred A. Curtis.

Some fifteen years ago, quite a stir was created in Episcopalian and Roman Catholic circles, particularly in Baltimore, by a rumor that a young Protestant clergyman had converted to the Catholic faith.