The Ladder

[BY CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.] Copyrighted, 1914, by the Newspaper

The bare, three-storied, barn-like

structure which served the millhands for a boarding-house was on fire. The old fire-hose, brought hurriedly from the mill, had burst under the first they were putting up to me. And it strain. The flames were having it all was a rank one, too; , but I'm their own way.

up, and the calm of the crowd broke mixed up at every turn, the rankness into tumult. A child's form had ap- of it just didn't strike me. peared in the topmost window at the top-boots, had dashed straight for the front door.

"It's Mart Block," went the word he'll git through."

A ladder was thrust into place, held almost perpendicular by the men at its foot. It did not quite reach the windowsill, but no one doubted that Block could get to it with his burden. Nevertheless, he seemed to hesitate.

"Come up and get her, someone!" shouted Block. A riverman was half-

light flashed into the room behind him. come on the place it was just by acci-

"A rope! Fling me a rope!" In a moment a coil came circling Then he slipped out from the window and, to the speechless bewilderment of tain-side. the crowd, came swiftly down the existence of the ladder beside him.

scorched face and hands shining with found it here a pleasant, quick stream, sweetoil, was sitting in the back room of the Mills store. The storekeeper, Sandy MacNutt, was there, and big Here we knew we were in danger at Steve Corrigan and Jim Sayres, the once, so we backed off into the brush

"Martin!" drawled Sayres, "what did | moonrise. ye do it for?" "Do what for?" asked Block after a

Sayres grunted impatiently. der," answered Block quietly.

unexpected statement. "It's true, so help me!" persisted

er. I'm scared of a ladder! ten years younger than I am now, and jiffy, pulling my own knife as I ran, more than ten years foolisher, down at for you will understand that was no Progresso, on the Gulf of Mexico, I time or place to use our guns if we hadn't been overly lucky, but I'd found could help it. There at the side of the enough gold to give me the taste for trail was an old man, crumpled up on zing with fool yarns of buried treasure. knife from out of his back, between When one gets that bee in his brain, he's ready for most any kind of non- the trail lay a boy. He had evidently sense that's put up to him. "I was sitting alone in front of a bowie-knife caught him.

Lamplicht Stories for Winter Saturday Nights shining water, all streaked blue and caution.
green so lovely one never gets tired "At the

staring at it, when up came a couple of hard customers. I knew they were bad ones all right. I knew there was bad ones all right. I knew there was lots of rope looking for the both of them up along New Mexico and Arizona, where the climate had got unhealthy for them. "One of the two, and a 'greaser'-

Antonio, he called himself, never seemed to need any more name than that. The other was mostly American, with a dash of everything else yourcan think. He was not bad looking, except for his mouth, which was just a kind of a hard-edged gash across his face. The name he answered to- was

Baldy. "Well, I was glad to see them, and they came right to business "It was a man's job, all right, that ashamed to say that, desperate as I was and seeing yellow and in a land But suddenly a groan of horror went where right and wrong seemed to get

"You fellows have never heard, likely, of a little tribe called the 'Quetzals,' right. Men raced for ladders. But down in Yucatan. No, of course not. one tall figure, in shirt-sleeves and But every one down round Mexico and Central America way has heard of them and their treasure. They're so rich that they are able to pay the Government well to let them alone. Where among the crowd. "If anybody kin, they keep their gold, everybody knew well enough was somewhere up among the tremendous mountain cliffs. But it had never been considered healthy to try to find out anything more about it than that.

"Well, I'm not going to tell you about that journey into the interior in the heat. It was bad enough to make another story, but I'll cut it all out. We way up the ladder before the sentence kept well clear of the trail, you'd bethad passed his lips. Block reached out, ter believe, and worked higher and put the child into his hands, and higher, aiming to come down upon the watched her being carried down to town from the interior-a direction from which the Quetzals would never But he made no motion to follow. A be expecting a visitor. When we did He turned and looked at it. Was he dent—I was going to say good luck, mad? Suddenly he shouted:

but that wouldn't be just the right word.

"Baking in the sun, the village lay up to him. Block seized it and made huddled beneath us, a sort of a nest it fast to the bedstead in the room. of brownish yellow, flat-roofed adobe houses, on a great shelf of the moun-

"Then we started off to work our rope hand over hand, ignoring the very way around the head of the canon. It was nigh sunset when we reached the An hour later Martin Block, his bank of the river, above the canon, and running between two low banks, and looking as if it might have trout in it. again and decided to lie low until

"From our hiding place we could see quite a way down the slope, to a spot where a heavy spring spouted out from under a rock. When Baldy and "I was afraid to come down the lad- Antonio got thirsty both at the same time it seemed quite all right that they An incredulous laugh greeted this should creep down to the spring and

"Well, the fellows had no more than "Boys, it was just something I reached the spring when I saw them couldn't do. I'd have jumped out soon- kind of stiffen up, pull their knives. Next second I heard a cry and a scuf-"Once upon a time, I was just about fling. I was up and after them in a just now my head was buz- his face, with Baldy just pulling the the shoulder-blades. In the middle of been running away when Antonio's big

"At the sight of the old Injun and the boy lying there in their blood, I looking for. It was just the coldestplooded kind of murder. But I understood it all in a glance—and having sone into such a game with those two ruffians, it was no more than I had a right to expect. There was nothing I could say very well, so I just stood there chewing in disgust.

"Taking turns, two sleeping while the other kept watch, we rested until well into the night, when the moon



that it was the time when every Injun she poured out such a string of stuff would be in out of the way, we started about the injuns having just murdered up the trail.

"I tell you we didn't make any more along in the blackness of the shadowed side of the trail. Pretty soon we came to the bridge. It was one of their Injun bridges, filmsy enough to our eyes, but answering their purpose of their lingo, got impatient, and Baldy pose as well as anything more fancy.

country for maybe a couple of hours. by little, then so quick it was like go-ing downstairs. And at last we reached the mouth of the canon, with the river

"The mouth of the canon was wide

We made it out, at last, to be before. a woman's voice crying and moaning. I said I'd go and kind of prospect around an bring back word what was the matter; but Baldy and Antonio allowed they'd go along, too.

far "We didn't have to go before we saw what it was. There black hair all down her face to her knees. And in front of her, where any way get at it, was a jar of water keeping nice and cool in the shade. It struck us-we being thirsty ourselves just then—as a mighty simple but ingenious kind of torture.

"Well," whispered I, 'I reckon we've got to see what can be done for that kid.' Antonio's eyes showed misunderstanding and approve Baldy protested.

"What for, Martin?" he demanded. "'You haven't got much sense, Baldy, have you? Can't you see this is our big chance? We'll make her show us the way.

"I slipped out of the brush wit' my knife in my hand. The girl gave a cry of terror as she saw me com-Then her face lighted up with

"Don't be frightened, we won't hurt you any,' says I in Spanish as I cut the leather thongs that lashed her to the tree. "She didn't seem to understand

Spanish, but began to thank me kind of wild like in an injun lingo which I'd picked up down on the coast; and she tried to kiss my hands. The moment I'd freed her little feet she grabbed my arm and fairly dragged me into the brush. "We must get away quick." she

whispered, all shaking with terrible Baldy and Antonio she looked scared showed us the ladder, hidden. and slipped behind my arm. save I to They're friends.' This satisfied her.

'Come on, then, come quick!' she panted, and started to drag me away is if to get me out of the canon, but wouldn't stir. 'No!' says I. 'Not that way, yet

you must show us how to get the "She seemed terribly frightened at this and fell on her knees and begged me to take her away at once or we'd all be killed. She made kind of signs

her mother, and having condemned her to death for a kind of witch-and noise than so many ghosts as we crept about how she'd tell us all about the her lingo, got impatient, and Baldy "From this point the trail left the But,' says I, 'shut up, Baldy. Who's river. It climbed, climbed, climbed, running this show? Then, says I to zigzagging through a tumbled, broken the girl, in her own gibberish: 'No, the girl, in her own gibberish: 'No. my girl, that won't go. We're after Then it began to descend-first little that gold; we've helped you and will stand by you, and you must help us. No more talk. Will you or won't

"Well, at that time, she got up, kind and the woods came down thick to the of proud and straight; and then her We reckoned it would be no eyes began to blaze, and she said that kind of a healthy place for us around maybe, with her to guide us, and bedaylight, so, the first grayness just ing brave men as we were, we might then sifting down among the trees, we perhaps, manage it. With that she fell to muttering to herself about re-"Along toward the middle of the af- venge, and seemed to forget all about ternoon we caught a queer kind of how scared she'd been two minutes

> "Next minute she lifted her head and listened sharp, though we couldn't hear anything, then quick as lightning she turned.

"Her plan was this: She was to lead us along the face of the cliff by at the bend of the trail, tied to a a ledge she knew, till we came to the tree, was a girl with long coal- place where the ladder was kept. With this we'd mount from ledge to ledge, pulling the ladder up after us. In the she could see it plain, but couldn't cave at the top-it was not the mine, she said, but the tribe's treasure chamber-there was always a guardian sleeping. He was a kind of a lunatic, she said, and regarded by the tribe as very terrible, and sacred, and under the protection of the gods; so that no injuns would ever dare to interfere with him, lest his curse should in whites at me with a leer of blast them. But she was not an injun, she declared, with her chin in the air. She did not fear him. Furthermore, she reckoned it was he that had marked her, and her mother for witches. And she had me to give her one of my

two knives, which I did very willingly. "It wasn't more than full dark when the girl started us moving, because we'd want all the time there was before sunrise. She knew what she was about, all right. She led the way through thickets black as soot, me close at her little heels and keeping hold of her all the time, while Baldy and Antonio kept touch behind me the same way. We were so quiet we could hear things rustling to get out of our way-snakes, maybe, or maybe only those big lizards they have down

"It seemed an age we went crawling its teeth on the brink of eternity, along that ledge; always rounding the you or I would of going upstairs. tremendous bulge of the cliff. And I tell you we moved as if our feet were egg-shells we were mirhty afraid of that we were in just as plain view as breaking. Then we came to a deep, excitement, But when we came to narrow fissure, and there the girl

showed us the ladder, industry. If or we had our faces to the rock, and we weren't looking down any just then, but up for all we were worth. carry it maybe fifty yards along that ledge; and that wasn't any joke, what with the twisting of the ledge and the darkness and the necessity of being always as quiet as sladows. We saw just how helpless we'd have been if We have come to get the gold. I've we hadn't had the girl. When we saved you. We'll fight for you, but came to the place where we had to rock. I tell you, it was a job, hoisting that heavy ladder up to its place withtime it was done you could have the ladder-foot.' to show us that we'd be tortured; and wrung us out like dishrags. But that

DISCUSION !

girl wouldn't let us rest a second The ladder was almost straight, but up it she went, light as a cat.
"'All safe. I'm holding it!' came

her whisper down the face of the rock through the dark. I sent Baldy up first, not wanting to leave Anonio a minute alone with the girl, slowness the ladder kept on leaning out and he went plucky enough, but clinging so flat to the ladder you'd have clawing up the rungs like a monkey to-thought he'd scrape h's face off on the ward the pole.

"Then suddenly the ladder swung rungs.

"Antonio followed, also clinging flat. I was going to wait till he was all the way up before I started; but for a good bit, maybe. Then I heard the the girl's whisper came down to me girl's voice calling to me, and looked up. very sharp and urgent, so I came along just about ten feet behind Antonio. I asked, quite carelessly. flattened myself just as flat as Baldy had, for it looked a mile away up there into the cimness, and the ladder was so straight I felt as if I was tinued, presently. going to pull it over backward.

"We pulled the ladder up, noiselessit to the next ledge. This climb was idol. shorter and not quite so steep. But the next after that was a caution. and down. Furthermore, we were by this time quite a way up the face, and the dim valley filled with shadows and the roar cliff below, of the river, looked big and deep and empty as eternity. I glanced down once, as I was climbing the ladder; then flattened a bit closer and attended strictly to business till I got to the top.

"The ledge we were on now was the narrowest and most ticklish we, had struck yet, and we had the hardest work and down; but the top seemed to fit on purpose for it. Baldy and I were at the thought of climbing down, down. holding it, and as the girl pushed by Antonio to get to it, I saw him leer at her what looked like the very same one I and give her a squeeze. There was light had seen pitching into space with Baldy enough now, for the two big bonfires and Antonio clinging on to it like spiders, were blazing down in the valley, and I made me so sick the bright cliff began to saw the girl flash back into that swim around me. greaser's face a look that, if looks could strike, would have gone through him such a flame of hate as twisted that girl's face. As for me, like a fool, I kind my knees again. of chuckled. "Wait till I call you now!" whispered

the girl, and made no more of going up its teeth on the brink of eternity, than "The whole front of the mountain

was now in a bright red glare. I felt if we were up for show in a theatre, and I wondered why we didn't begin right off to get bullets or arrows in our backs, for we had our faces to the rock, and preferred to come down a rope tonight.

"Then we waited. It was a hard wait. I felt a million eyes on my back. My heart thumped. A burst of voices came up, sudden and clear and small, from the depths. I wondered what it meant. Then it was silent again. And then the girl's head appeared over the ledge, and I saw her clamp something like the end climb to the next ledge, she cautioned of a heavy pole down hard and solid us not to let the ladder grate on the ento the top of the ladder to hold it MacNutt. "'It is finished,' she said, cold and

out letting it bump or slide. By the hard as fate. 'Come quick. You hold "I didn't undesrtand her last

nor think much about them, for we could all see that now, as she had fixed the top of it, the ladder was safe and solid as the side of a house. But it was so straight up and down that Baldy could not go up very quick. Antonio, impatient and ugly at not going first, went close at his heels. I waited till Baldy was about three-quarters of the way up, then I just couldn't wait any longer. I slipped round onto the ladder and began to

"Well, I hadn't gone above two rungs when an awful chill went down my backbone, and I stopped. The ladder was

"I hadn't time to think. As if the ladder had suddenly become red-hot, so I couldn't hold on to it, I let go, and just dropped down like a stone. Then I saw a man's dark face look over the edge and down at us-a sober, big, quiet face, neither savage nor glad, but just kind of final. And right beside that awful gray face the face of a girl looked down and smiled. The ladder leaned further out, and I saw that the man and girl were holding the pole hard now, so that it wouldn't go too quick. With a wild effort I wriggled up and lay flat on the ledge, clutching at the rock with both hands and staring, because I couldn't turn my eyes away. With further and further. I saw Antonio

clear, carrying the pole with it. The man and the girl had let go.

"I reckoned I was out of my senses "'What are you going to do?"

"Nothing, I reckon!" says I, after thinking a moment. "'You shall live-if you will,' she con

"'Yes, you shall live, if you will,' came a somber voice. And the big-faced y after us, and immediately hoisted man looked down at me, grave as an

"'Why-me?' I demanded "'You don't deserve it, that is true." It was as long as the first, and, if she asnwered, coldly. 'You are a thief, possible, a bit more straight up but, as far as we know, you are not a murderer. I saw the old man and the boy killed. And I saw your face, and enew it was not your will. I saw that you would have protected me. You shall

> "What do you want me to do?" I asked.

"'You shall leave your knife and your guns there on the ledge and take this ladder and climb down and deliver yourself a prisoner to my people yonder.' "Well, I had some sense left, for a wonder. I took off my knife and my hoisting the ladder without making a wonder. I took off my knife and my noise. It looked just about straight up guns and laid them down on the ledge beside me. Then I took hold of the steady and firm as if into a groove made ladder. But would you believe it, boys, from harrow shelf to narrow shelf. on

"'Wait,' said the girl; and I saw her start down the ladder. 'You are my like a kife. I never saw, before or since, prisoner. I'll go down with you.' And that seemed to put the stiffening into

"We left my knife and my guns there on the ledge, and she helped me lower the ladder. That climb down-well. I that ladder, which seemed to hang by got through it somehow without letting her see how I felt; but however I kept from just pitching out in that hollow moonlight space, I never will know. It was a nightmare then. It is a nightmare now from which I wake up shaking and all of a sweat.

> "And new, boys, you know why I I was a fool, I know; but I couldn't

> And tipping his chair forward to table, Martin Block began refilling his pipe. "But how did ye git away?" demanded Jim Sayres.

"An' what become o' the gurrl?" asked Corrigan. "An' did ye bring away any of the vellow stuff when ye came?"

"that's another story, and too long a one for this night. The main thing is I'm here, and right glad of it. [The End.]

safeguards which I would object to in a home rule bill tomorrow to satisfy about their religion, and I say he is the best Irishman who does his best ciliation to bring all these sons of gallant Ulster into line in the battle

TO BUY GOODWILL OF THE ULSTERITES WORTH ANY PRICE, SAYS REDMOND; IS FOR A SETTLEMENT BY CONSENT

second an enormous open-air gathering attended by 15,000 people. The following extracts will show the firm yet conciliatory manner in which he dealt with the Ulster question:

Our opponents seem to think that by screaming "Civil War" they will frighten the Government into committing suicide to save themselves from They mistake their man. The Prime Minister is as firm as a rock, and is, I believe, the strongest and the sanest Englishman who appeared in British politics in our price, and a large price, to buy the Today he remains as unmoved as the masses of the people themselves by this concerted shriek of

wild and despairing malice. Wif: the home rule pass exactly as Well, it is a good bill, it has been accepted as it stands by Ireland, by the House of Commons, and by Great Britain; we desire it to pass exactly as it stands. I have seen no

Disheartening Effect of Piles

It is not only the itching and stinging of piles that is to be dreaded, but also the depressing and debilitating effect on the whole system. The victim of ples cannot do efficient work. There is an uneasiness and discomfort by day, and at night the distress the itching prevents sleep and and undermines the general

From almost the first application of Dr. Chase's Ointment you get relief from the annoying itching and burning, and gradually the ulcers are healed up and the disease thoroughly Do not make the mistake of discontinuing treatment as soon as relief is obtained. Dr. Chase's Ointment is a proven cure, but it depends en you to apply it persistently until

Even the most severe cases of long standing yield to the soothing, healing influence of Dr. Chase's Ointment. Surgical operations are no longer necessary, for, as a matter of fact, Dr. Chase's Ointment has cured cases that were not cured by operations. No sufferer from piles can afford to delay the use of Dr. Chase's Ointment.

meetings at Waterford recently, the our critics which is not in itself a bad light they would be allowed, for a

If any change be made it must be our opponents in the North of Ireland, and I must say to you frankly that at present I see no prospect whatever of

pared to pay a big price for a settlement by consent. My position has never wavered. It is worth paying a goodwill of these men. Mr. Redmond concluded his speech

by advising his followers in Cork not to contest the by-election in that city.

The first meeting was at the city hall, where Mr. Redmond, who was accompanied by Mrs. Redmond, was presented with a series of addresses from a large number of public and political Mr. Redmond, who was loudly cheer-

ed, said, in reply, that that ceremony was a significant and important one. It was in a sense a Parliament of selected representatives of the people over a large portion of Ireland. present were picked men elected by the popular franchise of Irishmen to fulfill representative positions, and they represented all these public be of which the people of Ireland today had control. They had come there to prove to the world that Ireland capable of self-government. (Hear. hear.) When the local government act was passed, and when the great powers of taxation and of administration were first put into the hands of the people-the common people, as they were called-it was thought a great risk was being run—that these men who had had no training in selfgovernment and control of local affairs would be corrupt, inefficient, and cost-ly. But they who had come there that day as delegates from these elected public bodies came with a record of could get, until at last I got four boxes ant government, which had to be admitted even by their enemies. They were there to show tha they would never be satisfied until the national as well as local affairs were placed in the hands of the people of Ireland.

(Cheers.).
Iris' Politics After Home Rule. At la t they stood upon the thresh-

asked, quite carelessly. old of victory. (Cheers.) on the eve of a great change in the public life of Ireland. In the battle of fighters. With the winning of the battle the whole aspect of public life would be changed. When home rule was passed, people would be called upon to send into the Irish Parlia-ment steady, sensible, practical businessmen to conduct the affairs of the Irish nation. He supposed the old gladiators who had won the fight would not be entirely thrown upon one side-(cheers and laughter),-but that having led the national army into the suned, "what we want is that there shall not to enable it to pass, that is un- be associated with us practical businecessary, but to buy the goodwill of nessmen. It is nonsense to say that the only hard-headed businessmen in Ireland are to be found in Ulster. The keenest businessmen in Ireland and that goodwill being purchased by any the most practical and capable men are concession or at any price whatever, to be found in the south and west, as well as the north. When home rule I am, as I always have been, preis carried it will be up to them to come in. (Cheers.) Politics, as we have un-

Nerves Were So Bad THOUGHT SHE WOULD GO OUT OF HER MIND.

may be sound while the nerve centres

may be affected. Many women become run down and worn out by household cares and duties never ending, and sooner or later find themselves with the nerves shattered. and the heart action weakened.

energy, or physical breakdown, do not wait until your case becomes hopeless. Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills will at once quieten the nerves, strengthen

the heart and build up the entire system.

On the first sign of any weakness of

either the heart or nerves, flagging

Mrs. Archie Goodine, Tilley, N.B., writes:—"When I was troubled with my heart two years ago, I was very bad. My nerves were so unstrung that sometimes I would almost go out of my mind. I doctored myself with everything I success, of pure, efficient, and 'toler- of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. and they have cured me. I cannot speak too highly of this wonderful remedy, and will recommend it to all sufferers."

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They were derstood them in Ireland for 30 years, will disappear. The politics we have known will be sunk and buried for which they had been waging for the ever out of sight. Our task will be, last thirty years they had to be a party | under home rule, to apply ourselves as practical businessmen to the problems of Irish life, to increase Irish prosper ity, to foster Irish industries, and lift up this country from the slough of despond in which it has been for the last 30 years. (Cheers.)

The Coming of Home Rule. This ceremony over, Mr. Redmond with a guard of honor composed of Irish Nationalist Foresters, joined a great procession of city and county contingents, which, forming in Parnell street, marched with bands playing and banners wavnig to historic Ballybricken, where a huge meeting was held in the open air, the crowd numbering quite 15,000.

Mr. Redmond, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception, said that he had never in the most troublesome times taken a gloomy view of the national cause. They had fought and they had won ,but they had yet to reap the fruits of victory. The year just ended would be for all times memorable in the history of Ireland, the greatest home rule bill ever of fered to Ireland having passed House of Commons by a majority of over one hundred, and by large British majorities independent of the Irish vote. Today the British people remained absolutely unshaken in their

support of home rule. 'Today," he proceeded, "we are face to face with the year 1914, for which we have so long watched and waited. Diseases of the nervous system are very

What are our prospects? This year, if above all things, a man of peace, not at the present Government and the present grown price, and I know this full well, that ent Parliament remain in existence, there are some things on which there and if the opinion of the House of can be no compromise. There are many matters of detail, matters of expediency, rule bill, under the operation of the but there are other matters which Parliament act, will automatically be-come the law of the land. (Cheers.) erty of our people, and to the great trust Unless one or other of these things which has been handed down to us on happens nothing can prevent this re- which we dare not compromise. sult. As certainly as the spring will For my part (continued Mr. Redmond) succeed the winter gloom, as certainly I adopt these words as my own. They as the full glory of summer will suc- accurately represent my views on the ceed to the promise of spring, as certainly and automatically will the home rule bill become law. Unless the House of Commons changes its opin- a big price for a settlement by consen ion or the present Government and My position has never wavered. It is Parliament cease to exist, all the rav- worth paying a price, and a large price, ings and threatenings of our opponents will have no more power to stop today to stop the blooming of flowers the city of Cork with the avowed intenin June. (Cheers.)

Mr. Asquith's Firmness. Our opponents seem to think that by screaming "Civil war" they will frightsuicide to save themselves from

the sanest Englishman who has appeared in British politics in our times. Today he remains as unmoved as the burning these words of mine will cause the fears which these men entertain masses of the people themselves by to brave and devoted friends and supspairing malice. The truth is all this No sane man in his heart believes it. emulate, for the sake of Ireland. the

the air (Mr. Redmond went on) the ate opinion is that a contest at this moworld was going on just as if no great ment in the city of Cork, and especially dreadful doom were impending over it. (Laughter.) Trade and business in would not be altered whatever the result Belfast and Ulster were booming, and of the contest might be, and therefore the great body of the people of Great I ask our friends in Cork once more to Britain remained quite unmoved. Yet every sane man knew that, barring accidents, the home rule bill would be fuse to play the openly-avowed game of the law of the land this year. There our enemies at this moment of supreme cannot be a war (he proceeded) without two contending parties. Sir Ed- future of our country. Great is my reward Carson—(hisses)—is never tired sponsibility in giving this advice, and I of saying that what he calls his "army" is for defence and not for at- for it. Greater still will be the respontack. It will never be needed, for he sibility of those who reject it. (Hear, and his friends in Ulster will never be hear). attacked. (Hear, hear.) The Limits of Compromise.

course there are limits. The Prime Minister laid down these limits explicitly in a recent speech, and I accept that limitation. He said: "Any change in the home rule bill must be consistent with (1) the creation of a parliament for Ireland, with an executive responsible to it; (2) the immediate setlement of this question; (3) the unity and integrity of Ireland." Speaking in Belfast the other day, Sir Edward Carson said: "I am,

to buy the goodwill of these men. Mr. O'Brien's Challenge. A vacancy has now been created in

supreme and critical moment in the fortunes of the home rule bill a contest between two professing Nationalists. Such a desire is of itself an unansweren the Government into committing able argument against usch a proceed ing. There are, I am afraid, some of slaughter. (Laughter.) To abandon the our countrymen who desire even at this home rule bill would mean the betrayal of the democracy of Great Britain, and would condemn the Liberal party to he described them as "fighting like utter dishonor and extinction. Yet our opponents seem to think that they can intimidate Mr. Asquith into adopting that course. They mistake their man. (Cheers.) The Prime Minister is

as firm as a rock—(more cheers),— our cause at this moment. I have, I fidence of these men and not to have and is, I believe, the strongest and think, too true an appreciation of the them lost to Ireland. There are no real meaning of the words conciliation and toleration. I well know what heartporters in Cork, but I must ask them, won at the polls, to rest content and to stern discipline and self-repression of reland. While alarmist shrieks were filling the Nationalists of Ulster. My dehbersuch a contest as this, would be a seri ous blow to our cause. of the contest might be, and therefore repress their natural desires and feelings and, for the sake of Ireland, to re and critical importance to the whole accept the entire and sole responsibility

In conclusion, fellow-countrymen, I say I say exactly the same today. Of lift up your hearts. Ireland's long travail is almost at an end. You are about to witness the re-birth of Irish freedom, prosperity, and happiness. ("Thanks to you, sir," and cheers). Let the holy spirit of toleration and peace to men of good will usher in this happy new year for my party. I go back to the British Parliament. I hope, for the last time before home rule is passed — (cheers) strong in the consciousness of your loyalty and your confidence. (Great and prolonged cheering.)

Ulster's Goodwill Worth Purchasing.

Will the home rule bill pass exactly Well, it is a good bill, it has been accepted as it stands by Ireland, by the House of Commons and by Great Britain; we desire it to pass exactly as it stands. (Hear, hear.) I have seen no change suggested by our opponents or our critics which is not in itself a bad change. If any change be made it must be not to enable it to pass, that is un, necessary, but to buy the goodwill our opponents in the north of Ireland, and I must say to you frankly that at present I see no prospect whatever that goodwill being purchased by any concession or at any price whatever. (A "We are as well without them.") No, we are not as well without them. :It is a fallacy and almost a blasphemy to say that, for Ireland can afford to lose no single son. (Cheers.) goodwill is worth purchasing, and at a oig pree. I have always sad so. Long before the home rule bill was introduced, seven years ago, I used words: "Over these men I want no party triumph. I want to influence their intelligence. I want to dissipate their suspicions, and I want to soften their hearts. And, therefore, so long as it is possible for me to do so, even against

MORE MILLIONS FOR



Special Correspondence New York, Feb. 20.—By the will of her father, W. S. Stewart, Cleveland multimillionaire, Mrs. W. B. Leeds, widow of the "tin-plate king," receives Their \$20,000,000, becoming one of the wealthiest women in the world. Mrs. Leeds inherited more than \$20,000,000 when her husband died. She's as rich in beauty as in bank notes, and Helleau, the famous French artist, says that she possesses 98 of the 100 points essential to beauty. She has declined to marry European fortune hunters, hope, I will preach to them the doctrine of conciliation. I say there are no lengths, short of the abandonment of the principles which you and I hold, to which I would not go to win the con-