

THE IRISH EDUCATION BILL.

Mr. Dillon's Manly Speech

Explaining the Position of the Irish Party on this Very Burning Question.

Mr. John Dillon, M. P., was accorded an ovation on the occasion of his first visit to Belfast since his election to the chairmanship of the Irish party.

Mr. Dillon said: "I would like to take this opportunity of explaining clearly the position of the Irish party on what is at present a very burning question—the question of the English Education Bill, the Bill now before Parliament for extending relief to the Catholic and Voluntary schools of England."

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sea, and about a month ago since were fitted into the banks and for some time the island was flooded. The rats resented the treatment to which they were subjected by squeaking and gnawing, and then betook themselves to the mainland, a diversion in which they indulge in every night, although it necessitates a swim of 500 yards each way.

The unwelcome visitors to Reed's Island differ in appearance from the ordinary water rat. The tail and hindquarters are similar, but the head and ears are said rather to resemble those of the cavy. The coat is soft and furry and of a tawny hue, not unlike that of the species of rat the breeding of which for the sake of its skin is in some places an industry. There are millions of these rats on the island, and as they only eat grasses, roots, and tubers, the chances of carrying off the pests by poison are very problematical.—Catholic Witness.

[CONTINUED FROM SIXTH PAGE.]

Gold and a Soul.

Many months had passed thus, when one day he found himself in the midst of wild mountains, and sat still and sorrowful beside a little rill, which trickling down through a wild growth of bushes appeared compassionately offering itself for his refreshment. Then there rang loud and strong, over the rocky ground, the sound of horses' hoofs, and on a large, black, wild-looking horse there came a very tall man of hideous visage, in a gorgeous blood red dress, up to the spot where Richard sat.

"Ah, no—rather too cheap," answered Richard in a low trembling voice. "So it appears to me, good merchant!" cried the horseman with a frightful laugh. "And have you per chance such a thing as a bottle-imp? Or am I mistaken in taking you for the mad Half-farthinger?"

"I see for whom you take me," said he; "but be comforted; I am not here. Perhaps I may even deliver you from him, for I have been many days seeking you, to buy your bottle-imp. To be sure you gave terrible little for it, and I myself don't know how to get a smaller coin. But listen. On the other side of the mountain dwells a prince, a wild young fellow. To-morrow I will contrive to allure him away from his hunting train and set a hideous wild beast upon him. Do you stay here till midnight, and then go, just when the moon stands over that jagged rock, shining through the dark cliff to the left. Go at a moderate pace; linger not, hurry not, and you will come to the spot just when the monster has the prince under his claws. Seize it fearlessly, and it must yield to you, and to make its escape plunge down the steep bank into the sea. Then beg of the grateful prince that he will have a couple of half-farthings struck for you; I will give you change for them, and then for one the bottle-imp is mine."

"So spoke the horseman, and without waiting for an answer rode slowly back into the wood. "But where shall I find you when I have the half-farthings?" cried Richard after him. "At the Black Fountain," answered the horseman; "any old woman can tell you where it lies;" and with slow but long strides the hideous horse bore away his hideous rider. Richard, who had nothing more to lose, resolved to put his advice into execution.

The night fell; the moon rose and hung with a lurid red light over the indicated point of rock. Then the pale wanderer arose trembling, and stepped into the dark ravine. Joyless enough and gloomy it looked, with only a rare moonbeam here and there, looking in among its lofty walls; there was, too, in that closed-in place, a damp earthy exhalation, as of a charnel vault; but nothing else unpleasant was to be discerned. As it was, Richard did not feel himself tempted to linger, but was rather inclined to hurry on. This too, however, he refrained from, faithful to the horseman's directions; and after some hours the faint red light of morning glimmered on his dark path and a fresh cheering breeze played on his face. But just as he stepped out of the deep ravine, and sought to enjoy the fresh forest scenery, and the blue glitter of the sea which lay spread not far from him, he was disturbed by a wild cry; he looked round and saw a frightful beast, under whose claws on the ground lay a young man in rich attire.

Richard's first impulse was to run and help; but when he looked full at the beast and saw that it resembled a monstrous ape, with a formidable pair of stag's horns, all courage left him and, in spite of the prostrate man's miserable cry for help, he was about to creep back into his chasm; but the next instant he suddenly recalled what the horseman had told him, and urged by his own special danger he ran up with his clubstick to the monster, which, rolling the human in its claws, seemed about to toss him up and then catch him on its horns. But as Richard advanced it let its prey drop and with hideous howling ran away. Richard, grown bold, pursued it till it plunged from the lofty cliffs, still grinning at him with its abominable visage, and vanished under the waves.

And now the young man went back triumphantly to the rescued huntsman,

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who, according to his expectation, announced himself as the reigning prince of the country, and pronouncing a eulogium upon his deliverer as a true hero, prayed him to demand some recompense, the highest he could pay him.

"Ay," said Richard hopefully, "are you in earnest? Then, all I request is, in God's name, that you will have a couple of farthings struck in good coin for me; I only ask a couple."

The prince gazed on him in astonishment till some of his retinue came up, and on hearing from him what had happened, one of them recognized in Richard the crazy Half-farthinger whom he had once seen. The prince began to laugh, and poor Richard embraced his knees in anguish, vowing that without the half-farthings he should be undone.

The prince, still laughing, answered: "Stand up, then, fellow; you have my princely word; and if you insist on it, I will have as many half-farthings struck as you wish for. But if the third of a farthing will do as well, no new coinage will be wanted, for my border neighbors maintain my farthings to be so light that three of them go to one of theirs."

"If that be so," said Richard, doubtfully. "Faith," said the prince, "you will be the first to whom they seem too good. But if that makes any difficulty, here with I give you my most solemn word to have still worse ones struck for you—provided that three be possible."

Thereupon he bade a whole bagful of farthings be given to Richard, who immediately ran off, as if he were pursued, to the frontier, and was a happier man than he had been for long, when, in the first tavern of the neighboring country, he was grudgingly paid a common farthing for three of those he brought, which he thus exchanged by way of trial. Then he inquired for the Black Fountain, and some children who were playing in the tavern ran screaming away. The host told him, not without a shudder, that this was an ill-famed spot, from which many evil spirits came out into the country, and which few people had actually seen. This he knew, however, that the approach to it was not far from here, being a cavern with two blasted cypresses before it; and no one could miss the way who once went in; but God preserve him and all true Christians from that.

These words terrified Richard; but the venture must be made, and he set forth on his way. Already from afar he saw the black and horrible cavern; the two cypresses seemed to have been blasted as if by terror of the ghastly abyss, which he saw, as he came nearer, held in its hollow a strange heap of rocks. They looked like distorted, long-bearded goblin faces, some of which resembled that monstrous ape on the seashore; but when steadily regarded they became again only jagged and rifted rock. He entered tremblingly among these specter-phantoms. The bottle-imp in his pocket grew so heavy, it seemed trying to pull him back; but that raised his courage; "for," thought he, "what it does not like is just what I must like." Deeper in the cavern the darkness became so intense that he could no longer see the frightful shapes and had to feel carefully before him with stick; but he found nothing save a smooth floor of fine moss, and but for a strange whistling and croaking which passed at times through the cavern, he would have dismissed all fear.

At last he had passed through, and found himself in a desolate hollow, enclosed by the mountains. On one side he saw the great, terrible black horse, standing like an iron statue, unbowed, with head held high, without grazing or stirring a limb. Opposite him gushed out of the rocks a spring, in which the horseman was washing his hands and face; but the water was black as ink; and when the gigantic being turned round to Richard, his hideous face was of a negro blackness, frightfully contrasting with his gorgeous red attire.

"Don't tremble, young fellow," said he; "this is one of the ceremonies I am compelled to perform. So, too, whenever I need a new dress I have to mix its purple with a good number of drops from my own blood, whereby it gets that splendid color. In short, I am bound body and soul, beyond all chance of redemption. And what do you think I get for that? Only a hundred thousand pieces of gold a year. I can't make that do, so I want to buy your bottle-imp, and thus play the old miser a trick." And he began to laugh so that the rocks resounded, and even the hitherto motionless black horse started.

Are You Nervous? Horsford's Acid Phosphate. Quiet the nerves and induces sleep.

felt very heavy coming out of his pocket, lying curled up, sullen and sad, at the bottom of the vial. The rider again laughed volubly.

"That won't help thee, Satan," cried he; "give me gold here, as much as my horse can carry;" and forthwith the huge beast groaned under the burden of gold; yet he took his master up again, and like a fly crawling up the wall stepped up the perpendicular rock, but with such hideous movements and contortions that Richard fled back into the cavern that he might see no more of them.

When he had come out on the other side of the mountain and run a good way beyond the abyss, then, for the first time, did the whole consciousness of deliverance strike on his mind. Now at length he felt the evil spirit's hold over him gone and the pressure of unspeakable misery removed, and a true penitence for his former wild and sinful life touched his heart. His joy at his release was tempered by that penitence and sanctified by a firm determination to lead a new life; and in this determination, and the carrying on of it, his former cheerful heart returned. With all his renovated strength and spirit, he bent himself to run a good, sober, and honorable course; and in this he succeeded so well that, after some years of honest labor, he was able to return as a well-to-do merchant to the dear German land, where he married; and where in his old age he frequently told his grandchildren as a useful warning, the story of the bottle-imp.

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AN ANCIENT BRICK. There is a brick just about 2,000 years old being exhibited at the office of the Don Valley Pressed Brick Company, 60 Adelaide street east.

There is a brick just about 2,000 years old being exhibited at the office of the Don Valley Pressed Brick Company, 60 Adelaide street east. The brick was taken from one of the inner walls of the Colosseum at Rome, and its antiquity may be imagined when it is said that the Colosseum was opened to the public in A.D. 80. This, however, does not give a just idea of the age of the Colosseum or of this particular brick, for many years before this the Colosseum was started by the Roman Emperor Vespasian. After two thousand years of wear and tear the brick is just as hard and firm as if made yesterday.

IN A FRENCH HOSPITAL. An amusing occurrence happened in Arles, France, at the visit made to the hospital of that city by Monsieur Faure, the President of the Republic. What a renowned and what a philanthropic visit! When notice was received of the intended visit of Monsieur Faure there was not a single patient in the charitable institution.

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Testimony of Dr. D. Marsolais Lavallée. I have used several bottles of Robson's Hair Restorer, and I cannot do otherwise than highly praise the merits of this excellent preparation. Going to its use, the hair preserves its original color and in addition acquires an incomparable gloss and lustre.

Testimony of Dr. G. Desrosiers, St. Félix de Valois. I know several persons who have for some years used Robson's Hair Restorer and are very well satisfied with this preparation, which preserves the original color of the hair, as it was in youth, makes it surpassingly soft and glossy, and stimulates at the same time its growth.

For sale everywhere at 50 cts per bottle.

MONEY TO LOAN. \$10,000, in sums of \$2,000. Security required, first mortgage on Real Estate in City. Apply to C. A. McDONNELL, Accountant and Estate Agent, No. 120 St. James Street.

tion. In order to carry out the reception of the President it was necessary for the city authorities to have recourse to a little deception. They were obliged to gather a number of healthy patients, represent them as sick and when they were all comfortably placed in bed they gave a formal and ceremonious reception to the charitable President.

"Mama," said an angel of four "why is papa's hair so gray, and his face so young? she sent the child to bed," but let us answer the darling, it is because your papa has not yet tried Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer, which removes dandruff, cleans the scalp and restores the hair to its pristine splendor. Sold by all chemists.

SOMETHING NEW. A cab shaped like a bath tub, in which the passengers either sit or recline as if in a bed, is in use in Berlin. It has three wheels, and is propelled by a naphtha motor.

Two farmers of Beach Springs, Va., went to law recently over a calf, valued at \$2, which one accused the other of stealing. The litigation cost the farmers about \$50 each, and the calf was found dead in a cave in property that did not belong to either of the litigants.

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