

THE IRISH PATRIOTS IN COUNCIL.

[Although we do not approve of the form in which the following contribution is written, the author has certainly presented the chief features of the question in a remarkably vivid light: so we have decided on publishing it on its own merits, while deprecate the fact that it was not put in some other form.—Ed.]

And it came to pass in those days that there was great confusion amongst those who dwelt within the borders of the land of Ire.

And all the people lifted up their voices, some on the one side and some on the other.

The sound was as of the rushing of mighty waters, but the smell was that of whisky.

For behold a great man of the tribe had looked upon the wife of his friend, and coveted her.

And she went forth from her husband and dwelt with him in divers places, and under divers names was she known.

Now when the husband had put her away from him, some there were of the people who counselled among themselves, saying, What shall be done unto him who hath done this thing?

And William, the son of Gladstone, spake, saying, Let him go his way in peace, for I will have none of him.

Peradventure, if he hideth his head in the earth, like unto the ostrich, for six months, and will take the woman to wife, we will forgive him and take him back unto our bosoms.

Davitt, who is called Michael, spake loudly against him, and cried out for his blood.

And the patriots who are across the sea, even Dillon and O'Brien, demanded of the people that he be stoned to death.

And O'Brien removed his nether garments and refused to be comforted.

But certain others of the tribe said, Not so. Let thy servant remain and save Ireland from the jaws of the accursed Sassenach.

Let him not go forth from our tents, for who is there to save us, if he be taken hence?

And in the multitude of counsellors there was much talk, but little wisdom.

Then he who is called Parnell, wearing not his crown, stood boldly up in the temple, and spake with a loud voice.

Saying, Hear ye, oh my people, and give heed unto my words, for they are many.

Behold I, even I, have appointed myself to bring ye forth out of the land of the enemy, and to establish Home Rule in thy borders.

There is no leader in the land but me, and none shall make me afraid.

I will not go hence, but will remain and smite the enemy with the sword.

For as I did unto O'Shea so will I do unto England. I will take Ireland, which is the gem of the sea, from them, and she shall run after me and other strange gods.

And for this Gladstone, let him hold his peace, or I will split upon him.

Did he not bargain with me at the place which is called Hawarden?

And the pledges which we made one to the other have been as reeds in his hand which he has broken.

And he spake many things, concerning this Gladstone, the which he denied.

And the congregation of the people, and those who were not in the swim, spake unto Gladstone.

Saying, We will take thy word, but do not this thing again.

For we are a plain people and honest, and we will have no hole-and-corner business.

Inasmuch as thou hast done this, thou shalt no more be called the Grand Old Man, but shall henceforth be known as the Mysterious Old Mahdi.

And Parnell called the captains of his people together, and the chief men of those who sit in Westminster were glad, for they could give heed unto their work and were not obstructed.

And when they had gathered together, Parnell took his seat in the chief place.

Saying, Verily, I am he who will rule over you.

And Timothy, surnamed Healy, exclaimed, Thou art another.

And he reviled Parnell saying, Thou art an Obstructionist, and other speeches made he not fit for publication.

Then was Parnell wroth, and he smote the table with his fist, and made a speech.

And he spake vehemently against him, calling him insolent and impertinent.

So these two were called patriots, slanged each other, and their words were like the words of those who sell fish at Billingsgate.

And every man in the assembly abused his neighbour, in that he did what had been done for years by them in the Parliament.

But Parnell sat upon them, cheeked them, and ruled them out of order.

And they generally were, because it was their nature so to be.

The lightning flashed messages to them in number like unto the birds of the air, and the hand of each man was strengthened against the others.

And they talked from the rising of the sun until the going down thereof, and did nothing.

Then Parnell smiled within himself, and rubbed his hands, chortling.

And when the fulness of time had come, they rose up, as did the cats of Kilkenny, and devoured each other, and behold of the eighty-six there was not one man left of them.

Nevertheless, Mrs. O'Shea dwelt in Brighton with her daughters.

It is the man who can tell you why his neighbour failed who never seems to succeed.

Our ancestors the monkeys were not so ignorant after all. They were all educated in the higher branches.

A sociable man is one who, when he has ten minutes to spare, goes and bothers somebody who hasn't.

Mr. Jones (taking his watch from under his pillow): "Six o'clock, and no one has come to wake me yet! I shall certainly lose the train if they don't come soon."

SQUIRE.—Well, Pat, this is my birthday; will you drink a glass of champagne?

Pat drinks, and after a pause, says, "Your honor hasn't a drop of the crathur handy? Them mineral wathers are taydious drinking."

Mr. Dunly: "I always move about the best society."

Mr. Mayfair: "Indeed?"

Mr. Dunly: "Yes, I am the agent of a debt-collecting institution."

GIRLS who cannot get married in this country should go to Australia. A colonist says that girls are easily snapped up there, and he also indicates Johannesburg in South Africa as a locality very favourable to matrimonial speculations. Even the barmaids there are very exclusive, and "have very nice traps and horses, and they are said to be better paid and enjoy life more than any one else." This however, is from a financial paper.

HIGH TONED GOODS are what all want, whether they be in Society or not.

CRAGG, BROS. & CO., Corner Barrington and George Streets.

Are showing this Season the finest stock ever offered in Halifax of SKATES, FINE CUTLERY, USEFUL HOUSEHOLD NOVELTIES, &c.

Specially suited for the HOLIDAY TRADE. And at WONDERFULLY LOW PRICES.