

Captain Loftus, evidently done on purpose to pique him, and of the disparaging remark about her cousin's "redeeming quality."

"Then you are marrying me from pique!" exclaimed Ada, suddenly flushing up.

(To be Continued.)

ENCYCLICAL EPISTLE OF OUR MOST HOLY LORD PIUS IX, BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE POPE.

To all Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, and other Ordinaries in the Grace and Communion of the Apostolic See.

PIUS PP IX.

VENERABLE BRETHREN, HEALTH AND APOSTOLICAL BENEEDICTION.

The benefits of GOD call upon Us to celebrate His goodness, whilst they manifest anew His gracious protection over Us, and the glory of His majesty. For now has elapsed the 25th year since, by the dispensation of GOD, We undertook the ministry of this Our Apostolic office, of which the troublous times are so fresh in Your memory that they require no long mention from Us. Truly, Venerable Brethren, it is evident from such a series of events, that the Church militant holds on her course amidst frequent conflicts and victories; truly does GOD rule and govern the changes of affairs in the world, which is His footstool; truly does He often employ weak and contemptible instruments, thereby to fulfil the designs of His wisdom.

JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, the Author and Supreme Ruler of the Church, which He purchased with His blood, has, for this long period of the duration of Our Apostolic service, deigned to govern and support by His grace and strength Our weakness and littleness, to the greater glory of His name, and to the benefit of His people, the merits of most Blessed PETER, Prince of the Apostles, who in this See of Rome ever lives and rules, pleading in Our behalf. Therefore, have We, being upheld by His divine aid, and continually availing Ourselves of the counsels of Our Venerable Brethren the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, and, not unfrequently, of yours also, Venerable Brethren, who were present here in Rome with Us in great concourse, doing honour to this Chair of Truth by the brightness of your virtue and of your unanimous devotion, been able, in the course of this Our Pontificate, to divine—in accordance with Our own wishes, and those of the Catholic world—by dogmatic definition, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mother of GOD; also to decree heavenly honours to numerous heroes of Our religion, whose guardianship, and especially that of the Divine Mother will, We doubt not, be exercised in favour of the Church in these her times of adversity. Equally was it by the aid and for the glory of GOD, that We were enabled to carry forth the light of the true faith into distant and inhospitable regions by the mission of evangelical labourers; in many places to establish the order of the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy; and to brand with solemn condemnation the errors especially prevalent in this age, and alike hostile to human reason, to good morals, to Christianity, and to the State. Moreover, by the help of GOD, We have been able to join together in as firm and solid union as possible the Ecclesiastical and Civil Power, both in Europe and in the parts of America; and to provide for many needs of the Eastern Church, which, from the commencement of Our Apostolic Ministry, We have always regarded with fatherly affection. Lastly, it has been recently vouchsafed to Us, to commence and carry forward the work of the Œcumenical Council, of which, however, the great results had been only partially attained, some of them being still awaited by the Church, when, on account of well-known circumstances, We were compelled to decree its suspension.

Nor have We ever failed, Venerable Brethren, by the help of GOD, to carry out all that the rights and duties of Our Civil Government made incumbent upon Us. You remember how, at the commencement of Our Pontificate, We were greeted with congratulations and plaudits, soon to be turned into such insults and attacks as drove Us from this Our well-beloved City into exile. But when, by the general efforts of Catholic loyalty and valour in peoples and Princes, We were restored to this Pontifical See, immediately We exerted all Our energy and endeavours to promote and secure to our faithful subjects the solid and not fallacious prosperity which We have always recognized as the most important duty of Our Civil Princes. But the cupidity of a neighbouring Potentate coveted the territory of Our Temporal Government, and obstinately preferred the counsels of the Seats of perdition to Our paternal and oft-repeated admonitions; and at last, as you well know, far outdoing the shamelessness of the Prodigal Son, whom we read of in the Gospel, he has attacked and taken with force and arms this Our City, which he claimed as his own and now retains in his possession, against all right, as if it were the share of substance which fell to his lot. Venerable Brethren, it is impossible but that We should be greatly moved to indignation and sorrow by the nefarious usurpation under which We are suffering. We are very grievously afflicted at the great wickedness of the design which aims, if it were possible, at the downfall of Our Spiritual power and of the Kingdom of CHRIST on earth, together with the destruction of the Temporal Power. We are afflicted at the sight of so many grave evils, especially those by which the eternal salvation of Our people is imperilled; and in this affliction nothing is so grievous to Us as that by reason of the coercion put upon Our liberty We are debarred from applying the remedies needful for such evils. Added to these sources of affliction to Us, Venerable Brethren, is another, in that protracted and deplorable series of calamities and misfortunes which has so long smitten down and crushed the noble French nation; which have been enormously

aggravated recently by the unheard-of excesses perpetrated by a ferocious and abandoned horde, the offshoots of society, and particularly by the dreadful wickedness of the impious parricide consummated in the murder of Our Venerable Brother the Archbishop of PARIS. You can well understand what feelings these events must excite in Us, when they have filled the whole world with fear and horror. Lastly, Venerable Brethren, there is one bitterness greater than any other; it is to see so many rebellious sons involved in so many and so terrible Ecclesiastical censures, and yet disregarding Our fatherly appeals, disregarding their own salvation, and despising the season of repentance still allowed them by GOD; obstinately determining rather to brave the Divine vengeance in eternity than, in time, to experience the benefit of mercy.

Now, however, through so many vicissitudes, under the protection of the Most Merciful GOD, we behold the approach of the anniversary of Our election, on which We, having succeeded to the See of Blessed PETER, although as far as possible from equalling his merits, have yet shared his length of years in Apostolic service. This truly is a new, it is a singular and great instance of the Divine goodness; it is conferred by the dispensation of GOD on Us alone, out of the great succession of Our holy Predecessors in the long course of 19 centuries. In it we recognize the wonders of Divine mercy towards Us, seeing that, during this time, We have been thought worthy to suffer persecution for the sake of justice, and beholding that marvellous sentiment of devotion and love with which the Christian people is strongly moved all over the world, and is drawn with unanimous affection towards this HOLY SEE. As these gifts have been conferred on Us wholly unworthy, so We find Our own powers quite unequal to the duty of returning due thanks. Wherefore, We pray the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of GOD, to teach Us, in the same spirit as She did, to give glory to the Most High in those sublime words: "Fecit michi magna qui potens est."—He that is mighty hath done to me great things.

You also We entreat, Venerable Brethren, that you, together with your flocks, would offer to GOD with Us hymns of praise and thanksgiving. We say, in the words of LEO the Great, "Magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together; so that the entire catalogue of favours and mercies which we have received, may be referred to the praise of Him, their author." And do you make known to your people Our burning charity towards them, and Our deepest gratitude for their noble testimonies and acts of filial piety so long and so perseveringly exhibited towards Us. And We, as far as regards Ourselves, while We may use the words of the Royal Prophet, and say:—"Incolatus meus prolongatus est."—We stand in need of the help of your prayers, that We may obtain strength and confidence to render up Our soul to the PRINCE of PASTORS, in whose bosom is refreshment from the ills of this turbulent and troublesome life, and the blessed haven of eternal calm and peace.

And in order that the blessings which He of His bounty hath bestowed on Our Pontificate may redound to the greater glory of GOD, We, Venerable Brethren, do on this occasion unlock the treasury of spiritual graces, and do grant to you, in each of your dioceses, on the 16th or 21st day of the present month, or on any other day to be chosen by you at your discretion, the power of imparting the Papal Benediction, with the application of a Plenary Indulgence in the accustomed form. And desiring to consult the spiritual benefit of the faithful, We do by these presents, grant, in the LORD, to all the faithful, secular and regular of both sexes, in whatever place of each of your respective Dioceses they may be, that all, who having made their sacramental confession and received Holy Communion shall offer up devout prayers for the concord of Christian princes, for the extirpation of heresies, and for the exaltation of Our Holy Mother the Church, on that day which you by Our authority shall have chosen and appointed for bestowing the aforesaid Benediction, (or in Dioceses where the See is vacant, on the day which the Vicars-Capitular for the time being shall have so chosen and appointed,) shall be enabled and empowered to obtain plenary indulgence for all their sins. And We do not at all doubt but that by this opportunity all Christian people will be the more effectually stirred up to prayer, and that so, prayers being multiplied, We may deserve to attain the Divine mercy which the view of present evils obliges us most earnestly to implore.

For yourselves, Venerable Brethren, We beseech Almighty GOD to grant you constancy, heavenly hope, and all consolation, and We intend as the augury of these graces and the testimony of Our especial regard, the Apostolic Benediction, which, from the full exuberance of Our heart, We hereby impart to yourselves, to your clergy, and to the people committed to your charge.

Given at Rome, at S. Peter's, on the 4th of June, being the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, in the year Our Lord, 1871. In the 25th year of Our Pontificate. PIUS PP IX.

[Written for the TRUE WITNESS.]

SKETCHES OF IRELAND.

BY "TIENNA-NOËB."

ATHLONE.

The memories which cluster thickly around this olden Irish town, are fresh upon us now. Many are the tales we have heard of gallant deed, and noble endeavor on the part of Athlone; and we have often wished that we were there when, in the name of Catholic Ireland and religious liberty, it strove with "Dutch Billy" and sectarian ascendancy. Athlone is built on both sides of the broad-flowing Shannon, and many a chapter in the reminiscences of that historic river has been written by the braves of Athlone. Originally a portion of O'Kelly's "country," it has never put to blush

the valor of the chiefs of Hi-Maine, for its story is told in its centuried resistance to the spoiler, be he pagan Ostman, or reforming Norman. The portion of Athlone which is built upon the western side of the Shannon, is known as *Irish town*, and that on the eastern side is called *English town*. When William of Orange, as the nominee of the English Protestant party—for which he cared but little save as a means to an end—unfurled the standard of foreign invasion and home rebellion, Ireland, faithful to her earlier traditions, declared unhesitatingly for freedom of conscience and James Stuart. It was during the consequent strife, that Athlone won the name which renders it famous in Irish history. As we have said, the town was divided by the river, into two parts, which were connected by a stone bridge. On the Leinster side the bridge abutted on the river bank, but on the Connaught side there was a draw-bridge spanning about thirty feet, while a little northwards, commanding the bridge, stood the olden Castle. It is about this Castle circles a deal of the interest that the Irish take in the memoirs of Athlone.—Built in the reign of John, and enlarged in that of Elizabeth, it was looked upon by every subsequent invader as a most important military position. In 1645, it bore the brunt of the parliamentarians, and in July 1691, it was assailed by Douglas, in the name of William of glorious, pious, and immortal memory." Nine thousand Williamites, with fourteen pieces of artillery, pitted themselves against eight hundred men of a garrison whose ringing shouts of defiance were almost their only cannon.—Richard Grace, the commander of the Irish Catholic troops, burned the eastern portion of the town when he heard of the enemy's approach, and in answer to the demand of surrender, he flashed a pistol in the herald's face, and pointing to a red flag which signified "No quarter," he declared, "These are my terms; these only will I give or take." The besiegers immediately opened a heavy cannonade, but they were replied to with such vigor by the few guns on the Castle, that their works were demolished. Douglas then sent three thousand men to force a passage of the river, about twelve miles north of Athlone at a place called Lanesborough. Here they were met by an Irish detachment, which completely repulsed them, and after a vigorous but futile effort, they were obliged to abandon the enterprise.—For an entire week, during which the Williamites again attempted to cross the river, the siege was continued, but hearing that Patrick Sarsfield was advancing to the rescue, Douglas fled, leaving behind all his heavy baggage, and over three hundred dead. Colonel Grace had often met on bloody fields the despoilers of his land. During the period which had elapsed from 1645, when he defended Athlone against the Cromwellians, his sword had added to the chivalric record of his race in the Continental wars, but the laurel of a victor well graced his brow when, with eight hundred men poorly equipped, he drove from the walls of Athlone Castle, Douglas and his nine thousand. Ten months after, Ginkle, with a force of thirty thousand veterans, and a large following of siege and field guns, advanced on Athlone from the eastern side, while St. Ruth about the same time was on his way from Limerick, with an army of twenty-three thousand. Colonel Fitzgerald, a worthy successor to the old castellan Grace, held Athlone with four hundred men. Fitzgerald had resolved to pursue the method of defence which had proved so successful under Colonel Richard Grace the preceding year, but St. Ruth sent positive orders that both sides of the Shannon should be held, and he despatched a regiment of horse in advance of the army to strengthen the garrison. The odds were desperate; Ginkle was now upon them; St. Ruth had not yet arrived. The surrounding country being peculiarly fitted for skirmishing, Fitzgerald sent half his small force to dispute and harass the enemy's advance. On the 19th June the terrific strife had begun. Three batteries of heavy guns poured an unceasing fire upon the wall, and a breach was effected next day. Fitzgerald, expecting an assault, and seeing the futility of holding *English town*, retired to the western side, stationing a portion of the garrison near the breach, and with the remainder destroying the bridge. On came the English assaulters. Five hundred grenadiers and a corps of sappers and miners led the advance, supported by a force of four thousand men. In the evening, with ringing cheers, the British grenadiers advanced. A struggle which might well be termed desperate ensued. To secure the bridge ere its destruction was the great object of the Williamites. The streets leading towards the bridge were debbled with gore. For two hours a hand to hand fight was maintained. A length an arch was sprung, and friend and foe tumbled alike into the river—but Fitzgerald's object had been gained, and two hundred Irishmen had added another leaf to the wreath of their indomitable valor.—From *English town*, during the succeeding few days, Ginkle plied shot and shell upon *Irish town* and its defenses. Still the flag waved over the grim old stronghold. In the meantime St. Ruth arrived, and encamped two miles from the town. He garrisoned the Castle with fresh troops, advanced entrenchments along the river, and compelled Ginkle to shift his position. Concentrating, in consequence, all his fire upon the Castle, Ginkle, after three days incessant cannonading, viewed with pleasure the fall of its eastern wall. On the evening of the 27th June, covered by the converging fire of nine batteries, the Williamites advanced to the last broken arch of the bridge, and erected a breastwork that overlooked the Irish on the other side. The Irish breastwork was then fired by grenades, and its defenders were obliged to retire, leaving the Williamites in possession of the bridge. One gun alone thundered defiance to Ginkle's forty-seven; while beams were thrown over the broken bridge by the Williamites. Brilliantly the sun arose on the following morning. The Irish troops lay close under cover, waiting for the

fast approaching conflict. The planking of the bridge was nearly finished, and the stern grenadiers were bracing themselves for the onset, when, amid shouts rending the very heavens, from out the Irish troops sprang Sergeant Costume, followed by ten men. With a bound they had cleared the trenches, and with gigantic strength they fore away the planks, and overturned the beams into the river. Almost petrified, the Williamites stood still; but for a moment, and then a discharge of grape and musketry, swept the bridge, launching Costume and his comrades into eternity. With still louder cheers, eleven more heroes dashed into the face of death. Another shower of lead, and when the smoke had cleared away, nine of the heroes had gone to the spirit-land—two escaped—but the work was done; and the last plank was floating down the Shannon; the bridge was impassable. On the second day after Ginkle ordered a general assault. Again he was repulsed. Flushed with victory St. Ruth lost that vigilance which should ever attend a true general. He left but three regiments of raw levies to man the ruins of Athlone. Ginkle determined to take advantage of his opponent's excessive confidence. He detailed Major-Gen. Mackey with three thousand men, to ford the river below the bridge. A pontoon was then thrown across the river, below Mackey's detachment, and on that and the long contested town bridge the main force of the Williamites were to cross. On the morning of the 30th June the assault was made. The Irish, completely taken by surprise, sent an express to St. Ruth, who two miles away from the scene of action, was preparing for a hunting. When informed of the English advance he haughtily said "It is impossible that they (the English) should attempt to take the town and I so near. I would give one thousand pistoles that they durst attempt it," Sarsfield replied; "he knew the enterprise was too great for English courage," and urged the sending of reinforcements. St. Ruth laughed at the matter until it was too late. Athlone was thus after a resistance worthy of the brightest days of chivalry lost to Ireland, and religious liberty. Had Sarsfield held the supreme command we would to-day in all probability be chronicling a different tale. The actors in the bloody tragedy have all gone to their last account and in the sobered light of time we can view their acts dispassionately. Hence we express the hope that should the dread contingency arise—which may God avert—that Ireland would have to draw the sword again in defence of its lawful monarch, and England's and its religious freedom that her defenders will be officered by Generals sharing the bravery, but lacking the indiscretion of St. Ruth, which alone gave gullant Athlone into the hands of the Ascendancy party. It is one of the misfortunes of defeat that the gallantry of the vanquished is forgotten in contemplating the success of the victors. At Worth and Metz many a nameless French hero gave to France his young life. He remains unknown while brush and pen tell the glories of his two-to-one assailants. The chivalry of Castel-Fidardo and Spoleto is remembered only in the home where a vacant chair tells of one who fell in the holiest of causes on earth, the defence of the Holy See; and scarcely beyond the ranks of Irish historic students is known the fact that impelled by the highest of motives twenty-two heroes fighting for King, country and Creed leaped into the very arms of death, and fearless of fire and sword, tore away the planks at Athlone Bridge. Many a graceful pen has sung the glories of Horatius and his comrades but we humbly hope that in a higher sphere; by angelic hands in the "Book of Life" is written the triumph over death of the heroes of Athlone.

(To be Continued.)

IRISH INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, the 27th ult., was celebrated the Month's Mind Office and High Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Rev. Matthias Brennan, C.C., in the Chapel of Screen, Co. Wexford.

THE MAGISTRACY.—On the recommendation of Lord Carew, the Lord Chancellor has been pleased to appoint Morgan George Lloyd, Esq., a Justice of the Peace for the County of Wexford.

NEW ROSS CUSTOMS.—W. H. Poole, Esq., Collector of Customs, Butevostown, has been promoted to the Collectorship at New Ross, in the place of J. H. Blain, Esq., promoted to Waterford.

STATE OF WESTMEATH.—Sub-Inspector Snooks and Constable Fry, having received certain and positive information that extensive drilling was going on in one of Mr. Boyd's fields, are led to the spot by their informant. He then cruelly grins at them, and asks, "Did ye ever see finer Grills o' pitaties in all yer lives?"

On the recommendation of Lord Carew, the Lord Chancellor has been pleased to appoint William Miller Kirk, Esq., a Justice of the Peace for the County of Wexford.

THE REPLY OF WESTMEATH.—In the late Coercion Debate Mr. Gladstone replied to Mr. Martin that he was not afraid to engage in a competition for the future confidence of Ireland. This challenge of Mr. Gladstone has been accepted by Westmeath—the special victim of the late act of legislative folly—the bishop, priests, and people unite to send to Parliament an uncompromising Nationalist to fight by the side of John Martin. His opponents, Sir John Ennis, a man of position and experience, and Mr. Deane, an able lawyer, of irreproachable antecedents, though avowing themselves supporters of that policy which is to secure the "future confidence of Ireland," were compelled to bow to the inevitable and retire into dignified obscurity. In the words of the successful candidate, Mr. P. J. Smyth, "Mr. Gladstone challenged Westmeath for an answer. Here it is."

At the next general election there will not be a hustings in Ireland on which "Home Rule" will not be the popular cry. Mr. Martin has shown us there is no treason in that cry. When Englishmen have so far conquered prejudice as to recognize this important fact, and also the distinction between Ireland being under the sway of the English people, and being directly under that of the Sovereign of the Empire, they will have reached the source, and fathomed the depths, of Irish dissatisfaction.—*Catholic Opinion.*

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR.—A TUMOUR has been in circulation as to the marriage of Lord O'Hagan. We believe it is well founded, although

mistakes have been made as to the object of his lordship's choice. The lady is, we have some reason to know, Miss Alice Townley, the youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Townley, of Townley Hall, Lancashire. As all things which affect the position of interest to Ireland, we shall state some facts from Sir B. Burke's "Landed Gentry" and other sources as to the Townley family. That family is one of the oldest and most honoured amongst the Catholics of England. It traces an unbroken lineage back to the days of Alfred, and it has held by the old religion unchangingly through the worst of times. Its great possessions have been largely preserved, and Colonel Townley is now one of the wealthiest commoners of England. That is Miss Townley's descent on the father's side. Her mother was Lady Caroline Harriet Molyneux, daughter of the Earl of Sefton, whose house is, we are happy to say, connected with Ireland by an Irish Viscountcy, and whose name is identified with its national cause. Her uncle is Lord Camoys, and she has two sisters, one of whom is married to Lord Alexander Gordon Lennox, brother to the Duke of Richmond and Countess of Bessborough, and the other to Lord Viscount Norreys, eldest son and heir to the Earl of Abingdon.—*Freeman.*

The funeral of the Right Hon. Patrick Bullin, Lord Mayor of Dublin, took place on Friday June 16th. Such an event has not been witnessed in the Metropolis for a period of seventy-two years. The cortege was most imposing. The late Lord Mayor was held in great esteem by the citizens of Dublin. The funeral was attended by the Corporation and city officials; and the Government officials, Law officers, Judges, &c. Business was suspended in the city for a great portion of the day, and all the public offices and the vessels in port, displayed flags half-mast high as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late city magistrate. The body was interred in a vault near the O'Connell circle, Glasnevin cemetery.

A GOOD LANDLORD.—A Meath tenant writes—I hold 113 acres of land from Sir John Ennis, which my forefathers held before me at a very small rent. My lease having expired some years ago, Sir John gave me a new lease at a fair and moderate rent. This is tenant right in the true sense. He allows me in the lease to use the land as I think proper, and does not bind me down by cruel and tyrannical conditions as some landlords do. A fair rent, "live and let live," these are Sir John's principles, and what better principles for a member of Parliament. Were all landlords like him we would want neither tenant right nor "Rory of the Hills." All tenants round here can say the same and more. They have been undisturbed by Sir John, and have their holdings at the old rent which their forefathers paid a century ago.—*Weekly Freeman.*

Are the people of Ireland capable of self-government? Is a Home Legislature desirable for this country? Such are the questions in which, by the selection of a Parliamentary Representative, the people of Westmeath have ere now given answer. The issue is plain, unmistakable, and to be grasped by the meanest capacity. It is incapable of being obscured by irrelevantities, and is raised in so distinct a form that no elector can be led astray. It is a question in which the whole country has an identical interest with the electors of Westmeath themselves. Their answer to it will be looked upon more or less as the answer of Ireland. We cannot doubt what the response will be. The latest "message of peace" sent from across Channel to the people of Westmeath is scarcely likely to demonstrate to them the advantages of an alien Legislature. They cannot believe that a Parliament sitting in College-green—even though composed of the very men who represent Ireland in Westminster—would ever have passed the Coercion Bill by which they are about to be enslaved; and were it only as the protest against the retrograde and short-sighted policy which the Government has recently been misled into adopting, they will not elect a supporter of the present Administration. But though this, too, is a question in which all Ireland is concerned, it has not the same interest in it as have the people of Westmeath, and, compared with the great issue of Home Rule, *versus* "West Brit"ism, fades into comparative insignificance. The Coercion Bill is but one of the thousand ills brought upon this country by the removal of its own Legislature. We have had scores of such enactments since the Union, and the present Act differs from its predecessors only in being more stringent, more arbitrary, and more unconstitutional than they. We will, therefore, not discuss the question whether or not it is within the bounds of credibility that the people of Westmeath could support a Government which has just deprived them of their individual liberties and rights as citizens of a "free" state, no matter what course other constituencies might pursue, or what acts of justice that Government had previously dealt out to the country at large. We raise the one great question, upon which every constituency in Ireland has the same interest and should give the same response, as we feel confident will be given by Westmeath—Is Ireland fit for self-government? and do the people of Ireland desire self-government?—*Weekly Freeman.*

At a meeting of the Town Commissioners of Mullingar socially convened on the 14th day June, 1871, for the purpose of discussing the notice of motion by Edward Coffey to adopt the resolution of the Clones Town Commissioners relative to Home Government, it was resolved—"That the Home Rule Association is deserving of our support in forwarding the object they are advocating, and that we hold that no power can govern the internal affairs of this country, or make laws to bind us save the Queen, Lords and Commons of Ireland."

(Signed),

PATRICK FARRELL,
Chairman, (locum tenens).

The electors of the County Westmeath have returned Mr. P. J. Smyth to represent them in Parliament. The feeling in his favour was so unanimous that neither of his competitors had the courage to go to the poll. The candidate before whom they withdrew has not, we believe, an acre of land in the county, and is entirely unconnected with it save by the bond of a common political principle. Mr. Smyth pledged himself to advocate Home Rule, his rivals deprecated or disjuncted it. This was the single issue and point of difference which the electors took into account; and they have given their verdict on it in a fashion which Mr. Gladstone cannot well mistake. That statesman declared on a recent occasion that he would compete with Mr. John Martin for the confidence of the Irish people. The challenge has been quickly answered. Mr. Smyth, in his address, adopted Mr. Martin's programme, and banished his friendship. The address has proved his passport to the House of Commons.

Both for England's sake and for Ireland's, it is desirable that this event should not be misinterpreted. It does not mean that the county Westmeath or that Ireland bears any ill-will to the English people. It does not mean that the electors of the county view with favour the Ribbon organization, or any other form of industrial or social disorder. Neither one feeling nor the other has any substantial existence in Ireland; nor are the results of the late elections for Meath and Westmeath different from what would have followed on a vacancy in any other Irish county. In all of them, or at all events, in three-fourths of them, a Home Rule candidate would now be secure of election. The phrase Home Rule may be somewhat vague; one man may mean one thing by it, another man another; different persons may desire it for different reasons, according as the shoe pinches them. But the bulk of the population, and especially of the educated and independent classes, are agreed thus far, that London Rule is not working satisfactorily; that un-