

however, was leader and would have his way. Slowly but surely the fight went on.

In '75, John Mitchel, member for Meath, was called away from earthly cares. The loss was a heavy one, for Mr. Mitchel was among the foremost of the Home Rulers. The vacancy was filled by a young man, a Protestant of Wicklow County—Charles Stewart Parnell of Avondale. His family was not unknown to Irish history. His grand-uncle, Henry Parnell, was a life-long friend and supporter of Henry Grattan and a devoted champion of Catholic claims. Charles Stewart Parnell was born at Avondale, June 15th, 1846, and was educated at Cambridge University, England. In politics in his early youth his leanings were rather Conservative and aristocratic, but his true Irish spirit manifested itself ever after the Manchester executions. This event, it is said, shaped his future career. He first came before the Irish public as the Home Rule candidate for Dublin but here suffered defeat. He was more successful in Meath. In the Commons he first appeared very quiet and reserved. Soon he began to take an interest in the struggles of Irish members and at last plunged into the fray himself. In spite of his leader, Mr. Butt, he would be aggressive. This was not all. He pushed on with his old friend Joe Biggar till he became the terror of British parties by his obstruction policy. This policy it was that saved the Home Rule party.

The young member from Meath gained anything but peace by his fierce fights. His enemies harassed him in every manner possible; he suffered a regular martyrdom. He was suspended from the house time and again, and worse than this, he was called to order by his own leader. Mr. Butt's policy of moderation and conciliation lost supporters, and at last Mr. Parnell found himself the virtual leader of the majority of the Home Rule members. Mr. Butt died in '78, and then the young obstructionist became the formal leader of the party. Nor were the amendments offered by Mr. Parnell, to the various measures brought up intended simply for obstruction. It has since been recognized, and even by Englishmen, that many of his

amendments that were adopted, number among the best and the wisest reforms of those days. Experience told wonderfully on Mr. Parnell. Notwithstanding this, however, the English members found new reasons to hate him more every day. On the other hand, every cry raised against him in Westminster, increased for him the love of his people in the Emerald Isle. And since those days how often has it happened that on public platforms, the example of this great Irishman has been pointed to as the model for men struggling against powerful enemies.

Ireland's sorrows were not yet at an end. The harvests of '87 and '88 were failures. The dreaded famine spectre loomed up again. The greedy landlords, in spite of the attempts made by the Land Act of 1870 to improve the condition of the Irish tenant, once more commenced their merciless eviction crusade. The world's sympathy was aroused by the cries of a starving people, but the cruel landlords were deaf to all, and the British parliament refused to give ear to the complaints of the Irish representatives. Some stand was necessary against these merciless extortioners. Mr. Davitt, whose father had been an evicted tenant, came now to the people's rescue. He organized the tenantry, and enabled them to stand against their oppressors. He founded the famous Land League. This organization did good service for the suffering people. Mr. Parnell and his party made its platform a part of their own, and thus strengthened the hopes of the tenantry. Davitt had, been in his time an ardent Fenian, and on this account, the League was, at first, suspiciously looked upon from many quarters. It was soon seen that in the League alone however, lay the hope of the Irish tenant. Mr. Parnell sailed for America and here in this happy Continent of ours found generous aid for his distressed people. Ere his mission was at an end the news was flashed across the Atlantic that parliament was dissolved. The Tories were now appealing to the people as the avowed enemies of all Irish claims. Mr. Parnell hurried home. There and then he set to work, organized his people as best he could, plunged into the fight, and came out victorious, strengthened by a net gain of ten seats. The Tories, on the other