



BRITISH POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

Sir Charles Dilke's speech at Birmingham—Lord Randolph Churchill at Edinburgh—The Franchise in Ireland—The Grand Old Man—Conference of the Irish Parliamentary Party.

Rome, Dec. 18.—Prince Frederick William went this morning to the Vatican with the German ambassador and had an audience with the Pope. The Prince will speak in the name of the Emperor of Germany in any communication he may make to the Pope. The Crown Prince was received by the Pope with great cordiality and affability, and was visibly affected. He expressed satisfaction at being able to manifest his respect for His Holiness. A private interview between the Pope and the Prince lasted an hour. The latter, upon leaving the Vatican, appeared to be deeply moved. The Crown Prince also received the grand dignitaries of Italy, the president of the Senate and deputies and the diplomatic body. He frequently expressed himself as being deeply impressed by the cordiality of his welcome. A state banquet was given in the Prince's honor this evening. He leaves Rome on Thursday. The length of his interview with the Pope is much remarked on. The Monteur de Rome says the visit is the outcome of Bismarck's project for federating the two rival forces against the audacious democracy, and that the place of honor in the first instance in the world.

New York, Dec. 23.—The Tribune's London dispatch says three orators have occupied more or less attention during the week. Sir Charles Dilke's elaborate speech at Birmingham is copiously praised. He insisted that the ministry are able and ought to carry during the coming session three great measures, the franchise, London government and county government bill. He caused surprise by advocating a diminution of the jurisdiction of the Local Government Board, of which he himself is president, and the transfer of its powers largely to the proposed county boards. This step points directly to further decentralization, even in Ireland. Sir Charles Dilke's oration was the motley group of social reformers by declaring that no fresh laws are needed for improving the dwellings of the poor, as he intends availing himself of those already existing in order to secure needed reforms. Mr. Chamberlain's brief speech was chiefly remarkable for a passage intended to identify Sir Charles Dilke and himself in political questions and for an invitation to the House of Lords to clear out of the way of Mr. Chamberlain's reforms. The Sun's cable says the important point in Dilke's speech was that he insisted strongly on the county government and London reform being dealt with, as well as a reduction of the franchise, and that he favored Herbert Gladstone's idea of the postponement of the dissolution until the Lords shall have rejected the Franchise for a second time in the session of 1885.

Of the third orator previously mentioned, the Tribune's correspondent says:—Three long speeches from Lord Randolph Churchill at Edinburgh were devoted to Egypt, the franchise and Ireland, abounding in the grossest personal attacks upon Gladstone; Harrington and Trevelyan containing a wild scheme for receding Arab, and much denunciation of English laborers as unfit to vote, and finally proposing to replace the Irish in office as the sole panacea for the Irish troubles. Churchill's performance, as a whole, drew down on him a stinging rebuke from his friends, amazed people who have hitherto been disposed to consider him as a serious politician, and amused and delighted his opponents. The Sun's correspondent seems to join in the denunciation, and says his speeches were reported verbatim in the Times, and have been eagerly read by friend and foe. The speaker, while marked by ability far beyond anything he had done before, by fine diction, cutting epigram, sizzling and insipid attacks, smothered by coarse personalities, extravagant charges and wild proposals. He attempted to speak of Mr. Gladstone as the "Grand Old Man," heaped on Twelfth insults as usual, and as numerous as those of Hamlet on his uncle, proposed a childish scheme of European control in Egypt, and while admitting that Mr. Parnell will have seventy followers under the present and a hundred under the reduced franchise, has no better policy for Ireland than the refusal of all concessions, which would madden the people, and a gigantic system of pecuniary supplies for railways, tramways and fisheries, which would utterly demoralize them. The speeches have done Lord Randolph the mischief of causing him to be still regarded as an unbalanced politician, and the good of getting him favorably contrasted with the commonplace Northcote and the tame Cross, while a majority of political speculators back him as their favorite for the Tory leadership.

The Fenian score is subsiding, owing to the repeated official contradictions of sensational rumors which are chiefly traceable to the Central News Agency. The United Irishman demands that the Legislature should step in and check the organized circulation of these falsehoods which, it says, help to fan the English craze about dynamite and invincibles. "Through these lies," the United Irishman says, "the English mind becomes inflamed into the passage of coercion bills."

Parnell intends to summon a conference of the Irish parliamentary party for February 5, in Dublin, in order to concert a plan of campaign in the next session of Parliament.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE. THE OBJECT OF THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT—THE INTERVIEW WITH HIS HOLINESS. New York, Dec. 23.—The Tribune's London dispatch says:—The visit of the Crown Prince to the Pope is now authoritatively declared to have been intended to smooth the way for the

long deferred return visit of the Emperor of Austria to the King of Italy, which has hitherto been prevented by Ultramontane opposition. Now it seems possible for the Emperor to visit both king and Pope at the same time. A remarkable article in the Cologne Gazette hails the crowning of the triple alliance, rejoices in the secure success of the German policy, declares that an attack on Germany henceforth means war with Germany, Austria and Italy united, and predicts that the grand alliance which dictates peace to Europe will now be formally sealed. France, meantime, is simply playing Prince Bismarck's game. The Sun's London correspondent says:—Nobody believes one word of the various accounts of the interview between the Prince and the Pope. They were absolutely alone during their hour's interview, and adds, that the universal interpretation is that Bismarck and Leo XIII. are tired of their fight. It is significant of the general softening of political relations which the present Pope has brought about and of the Crown Prince's tact that even the Roman mob made no objections to his visit to the Vatican, that Fritz and the Italian King parted with gushing emotion and that the Italo-German alliance is believed to have been made closer than ever.

A special cablegram from another source on the same matter says: The first fruit of the visit to the Pope of the German Crown Prince is seen in the appointment of Gen. Von Lobe, a Roman Catholic, to the chief command of the eighth corps of the German army. He replaces Gen. Von Thiel, who is retired from active service. The ultramontane have long demanded that the head of the army corps stationed in the Rhine provinces and in Westphalia should be a Catholic. Another significant vindication of the rapprochement between Germany and the Vatican is found in the communications proceeding between Prince Bismarck and Herr Windthorst, the clerical leader in the German Reichstag, on the future action of the Catholic Parliamentary party. It has not been decided whether the Emperor of Austria shall visit the King of Italy. It is reported that Bismarck is urging that the visit be made so as to give an external confirmation of the triple alliance. If the programme of Prince Bismarck is carried out the Emperor of Austria and the King of Spain will meet in Rome in the spring and the King of Italy and the Emperor of Austria will afterwards visit the Emperor of Germany at Berlin.

THE MAYO CONSPIRACY TRIAL—SERIOUS SYMPTOMS IN LIMERICK. Cork, Dec. 23.—In the Mayo conspiracy trial today the counsel for the prisoners and for the Crown addressed the jury. Judge Johnson then resumed his place, occupying over three hours. The jury retired, and forty minutes later the foreman returned and announced that they had not agreed on a verdict, and were not likely to agree for some time. After having deliberated for five hours, the entire jury returned to the Court room, reported that they had failed to agree, and were discharged.

Limerick, Dec. 23.—The employees of the gas works have struck for higher wages, and soldiers have been put at work in their place to prevent the city being left in darkness. The police and soldiers guard the works.

THE SITUATION IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

The Government's Ambitious Programme—Dublin's Boundaries—The Orange Investigations—Poole and O'Donnell—Spies at Work. [By Cable from Irish Special News Agency.] London, Dec. 23.—There is unhappily no ground for believing," writes the Conservative Globe to-night, "that Mr. Parnell is inclining or likely to decline in power and influence. The signs, on the contrary, tend all the other way." It is a remarkable proof of the truth of this that while the English journals continue to howl against the banquet speech, they and the Liberal leaders urge vehemently the inclusion of Ireland in the Franchise Bill.

NO ELECTIONS TILL 1885. The present indications are that the general election will be delayed till 1885, Gladstone refusing to dissolve until the Franchise Bill has been twice rejected.

THE BOUNDARIES OF DUBLIN. A cool reception was accorded by Earl Spencer to the proposal to extend the boundaries of Dublin so as to make the inhabitants of the wealthy suburbs share the taxation of the metropolis with the city artisans. This is likely to be resented by Irish hostility to the London Reform Bill.

A PARAGRAPHER INVESTIGATION. The inquiry into the attempt of the Orangemen to murder Lord Mayor Dawson in Londonderry was so scandalous a farce that the Nationalists withdrew. Nevertheless, evidence very damaging to the Orange magistrates was elicited.

O'DONNELL AND POOLE. O'Donnell was learning to read and write from Father Fleming while waiting for execution. All accounts agree in saying that he bore himself with perfect courage to the last. The same is true of Poole. There was an exciting scene at the latter's execution, his feet being found touching the ground. But the doctor declared him dead previously.

SPIES IN LONDON. Life is made almost intolerable for prominent Irishmen in London by the superhuman activity of the detective.

DAVITT'S LETTER

Mr. Parnell and the National Cause.

THE BANQUET AND TRIBUTE TO THE IRISH LEADER.

THE FRANCHISE BILL.

The Extension of Household Suffrage to Ireland.

Pushing on the Struggle Against Landlordism and Castle Rule.

Special Correspondence to THE POST AND TIMES WITNESS.

Dublin, Dec. 8th, 1883.

The event of the coming week here in Ireland will be the Parnell Banquet. The Round Room of the historic Rotunda, Dublin, will be the scene of the festive gathering. Over five hundred gentlemen, representing the national politics of the country, will assemble on the occasion, while an equal number of ladies are to be accommodated with places in the gallery. The entire parliamentary following of the Irish leader is expected to be present, so that nothing will be wanting in the political prominence of the guests, the representatives of the character of the assemblage, or the billiency of the tout ensemble to mark the occasion as one of special significance.

To quite a number of Mr. Parnell's most sincere admirers, the idea of a costly public banquet was very repugnant. We are a poor people. Our country's cause partakes of that poverty, necessarily; therefore, the men who are fighting the battle of that cause ought not to participate in or encourage this public feasting. To the Nationalists holding these views, it would be far more dignified to have presented Mr. Parnell with the National tribute in his own home at Ardara, which a grateful Irish people has generously bestowed from more than a point of view, necessary—that the two English parties shall be enlightened as to the side which Ireland will take in the struggle. It is true, that Mr. Chamberlain is outspoken in his declaration regarding Ireland's right to be included in the measure of household suffrage, counties, and urban districts as she is most anxious to see equal electoral privilege granted alike to the same countries. But one minister does not make a cabinet any more than one swallow makes a summer. No other member of the Government has professed himself of one mind with the President of the Board of Trade regarding Ireland, and we know that such men as Harrington, Dorcy, Harcourt and the entire Whig section of the Gladstone Cabinet are opposed to giving anything to Ireland but Crimes Acts and Coercion Bills.

The extension of household suffrage to Ireland would, of course, strengthen the position of the Irish National Party in the representation of Ireland. Probably eighty-five out of the total one hundred and three members now allowed to Ireland in the Imperial Parliament would be selected on the popular ticket, with a corresponding decrease to the Anti-Nationalist, but then the increase to the Liberal ranks in Great Britain would more than balance with the addition to Mr. Parnell's following, thus reducing the pressure which he could bring to bear upon the relative strength of English parties in Westminster, and thereby lessening the power of his influence for Ireland in that assembly. In addition to this examination of Mr. Chamberlain's gift horse, there is the further danger, that in a redistribution of Seats Bill—to which the Liberal party is also pledged—Ireland may be deprived of 8 or 10 members for the benefit of Scotland. This would be in thorough keeping with the spirit of English legislation for this country, which, while giving with one hand is already devising ways and means by which an equivalent can be taken away with the other. Under these circumstances it is quite natural that Ireland should be in no hurry to fling herself into the arms of Mr. Chamberlain, and that before any pledge of support is made by the leader of the Irish party, guarantees as to the ultimate intentions of the Cabinet towards this country should not only be looked for, but insisted upon.

The extension of the franchise to two or three millions more people in England and Scotland, as is contemplated in the forthcoming Reform Bill, would, considered apart from the reasons I have indicated, ultimately tell in favor of self-government. This new electorate of Great Britain will be largely democratic. It will embrace the working classes who are now bestirring themselves on the great social problem of the time—a problem the practical solution of which was first indicated in the Irish Land League movement, the reflex action of which agitation is now at work among the large centers of population from London to Glasgow. This awakening mass of common sense and national self-interest is beginning to see that the battle which we here in Ireland, have been waging with land monopoly, is the battle of the industrial classes everywhere; while they are also perceiving that the Irish aristocratic class, which the English Government is sustaining in its position of social and political ascendancy over us, is that which, through its representatives both in the House of Lords and Commons, is constantly allying itself with its kindred English and Scotch classes, in the same assemblies, in voting against every bill or proposal for the extension of popular liberty in Great Britain. To continue upholding this class in Ireland at the cost of

Irish discontent and increased general taxation, will clearly not be the policy that will most recommend itself to the newly enfranchised workers in English and Scotch countries. There is, consequently, every reason to hope that the widening of the basis of popular action in Great Britain will ultimately prove more advantageous than otherwise to the cause of Ireland; and for this reason, independent of the other contingencies involved in the passage of the Household Suffrage Bill next year—even with Ireland not included in its operations—it will tell more for than against the interests of the Irish National movement.

Whatever may be the outcome, to Ireland, of the impending franchise fight between English Liberal and English Tory, our duty, in the meantime, is clear and well defined. Push on the struggle against landlordism and Castle rule, with cool heads and determined purposes. Principles rather than policies will work in our favor at a time when popular thought in Great Britain is agitated as it never was before by those great questions of political and social economy, the practical solution of which will be our result of our present Irish movement.

The suppression of the Nationalist meeting in Newry, and the conviction of O'Donnell, are events of no week old, particulars of which will have reached your readers before this letter. The jury evidently decided to bring in a verdict of manslaughter against Carey's slayer, but both crown and judge determined that he should be found guilty on the capital charge. O'Donnell's execution will be a huge blunder if allowed to be carried out. The man committed no murder. The belief is general, that he shot his unscrupulous antagonist in self-defence. If Sir William Harcourt turns a deaf ear to the demands that are being made for a reprieve, Sir William will not be promoting the cause of future law and order.

MICHAEL DAVITT.

THE THREE MASSES ON CHRISTMAS.

BY "R. V. M."

The midnight bells are sounding clear
Their summons clear and wide—
Once more the "Gloria" notes we hear,
From the organs and the choir,
And angel bells that appear
About our paths to guide.

Through lonely fields, 'neath starlight beams,
In crisp, chill, wintry night,
Or through the silent city street,
Quickly, with eager, hurrying feet,
We speed, with onward heart,
Our souls' most dear delight.

With hush of unaccustomed awe,
From out the frosty night,
We pass the portals, dark and dim,
Just as the pearly Christ our hymn
Proclaims the advent sweet of Him
Our hope—our joy—our light.

We kneel before the altar's blaze;
From out the frosty night,
And from the awful reverence bowed,
Through drifting mist of incense cloud,
This solemn, hush, and hush, as though,
Strangely, heavenly visions rise.

We see—what still we cannot see—
As kneeling, how, we kneel,
How to the Father's throne we come,
As if we saw the Father's throne,
The Father's love, and Father's care,
And how we bow before Him.

We know—and yet we cannot know—
His holy glowing bliss—
How to the Father's throne we come,
How to the Father's throne we come,
How to the Father's throne we come,
How to the Father's throne we come.

We pass beyond the realm of space,
Into the evermore,
Where God dwells with God, and God,
Where God dwells with God, and God,
Where God dwells with God, and God,
Where God dwells with God, and God.

Again returning to time and space,
We kneel—hardly yet
Our souls—lost in the realm profound,
In awe and adoration bound,
And up to Father's throne we come,
That vision can forget.

But soon to our expectant eyes
Our hearts' longed-for near—
Our hearts' longed-for near—
Our hearts' longed-for near—
Our hearts' longed-for near—
Our hearts' longed-for near.

Everlasting narrowed down—
Everlasting narrowed down—
Everlasting narrowed down—
Everlasting narrowed down—
Everlasting narrowed down—
Everlasting narrowed down.

CHICAGOAN CORRUPTION.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—The hurried passage by the Common Council a week ago of an ordinance granting the Chicago and Evanston railway the right of entry into the heart of the city, gave rise to a rumor that a corruption fund of a hundred thousand had been placed in a city hotel, to be distributed among the councillors as the best method of the ordinance. As a result the Grand Jury suspended nearly all the proprietors, editors and reporters of the local press. These testifying yesterday threw little light on the matter, but it is reported there were sharp passages between the witness and jurymen. Joseph Morley, of the Tribune, said he could give no name of the place where the alleged bribery fund would be found. Mr. T. Stone, of the News, said he did not care to give any information which would be filtered through a stove and go back to a stove which had its representative on the Grand Jury. "Has any ex-alderman called upon you?" asked one of the jurymen. "There are few aldermen I would admit in my office," said Stone. Stone intimated that if the jury was really in search of information they could probably obtain it. A subpoena in out or Mayor Harrison.

THE CATHOLIC COUNCIL AT BALTIMORE.

Archbishop Gibbons Created Delegate Apostolic—The Coming Council and the Irish Question. BALTIMORE, Dec. 22.—A despatch from Rome says the Pope has created Archbishop Gibbons the Delegate Apostolic to preside at the Catholic Council in Baltimore in 1884. Archbishop Gibbons will virtually, though not nominally, hold the rank of Papal Legate. The Archbishop under date of December 5th writes that the matters discussed by the American Bishops with the Pontifical representatives related entirely to ecclesiastical disciplines. The Irish question in this country had not, nor would it be, at all mentioned in the conference. The Holy Father will not send any admonition to Catholics of America on the Irish question.

THE ILL-FATED ST. AUGUSTINE.

DOVER, Eng., Dec. 23.—The str. Granville Castle has landed here one passenger, the chief engineer and fifteen men, who were rescued with great difficulty from the burning steamer St. Augustine. These men were the last that left the ship. The second mate shot himself and a sailor stabbed himself during the fire through fright. The steamer John Williamson rescued six more men from the St. Augustine and landed them in this Tyne. The survivors report that the scenes on the steamer during the fire were appalling. Something fell from aloft cutting off the captain's leg. At his own request a weight was tied around his waist and he was thrown into the sea. Several of the sailors drowned themselves in despair. The fire spread with such rapidity that everybody became panic-stricken. The steamer Williamson rescued six men with a lifeboat, which was smashed as the men were drawn on board. Other persons were seen on the burning vessel and several bodies in the water.

TERRIBLE SCENES ON THE STEAMER.

THE CAPTAIN'S DEATH.

THE JEANNETTE VICTIMS. INQUIRY, Dec. 21.—The remains of Commander DeLong and his colleagues of the ill-fated Jeannette expedition, have arrived here. The remains were borne in procession through the streets to-day, escorted by a detachment of troops. A multitude of people joined in the cortege. Many wreaths were placed upon the coffins, and printed copies of poems describing the exploits and unhappy end of DeLong and his party were distributed among the crowd. The remains will be taken to America.