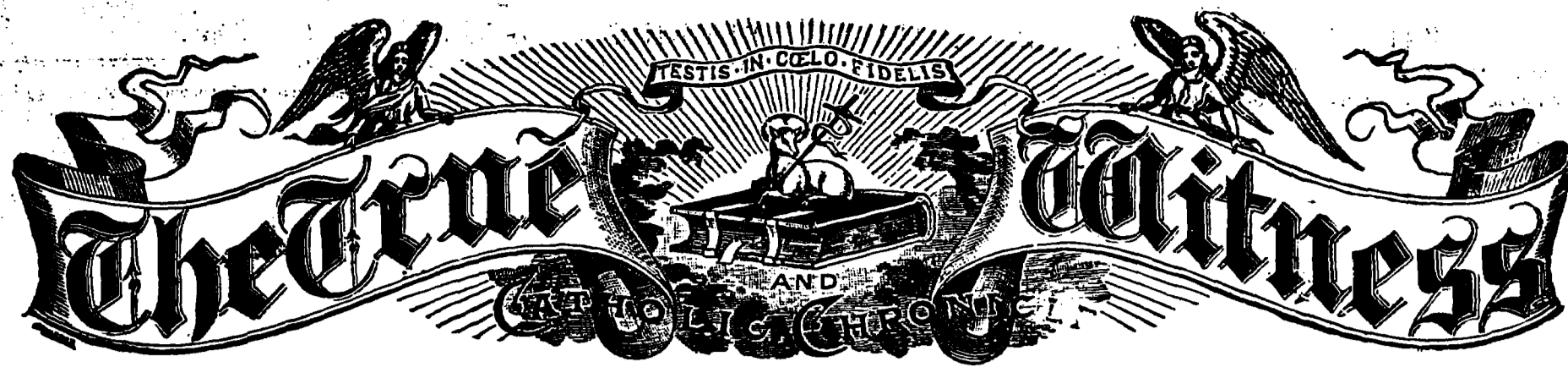


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## WAR AND RUMORS.

THE LEADING TOPIC IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

THE ENGLISH PRESS STILL RELYING ON GOOD SENSE IN THE UNITED STATES TO AVERT ANY TROUBLE.

The whole civilized world has been astir during the past week with the rumors of war between the United States and England. It is unnecessary that we should repeat all the details of the now famous message of President Cleveland to Congress. Suffice it to say that it is an assertion, in a most aggressive tone, of what is called the Monroe doctrine. This semi-constitutional phantom, which is called the Monroe doctrine, is an international law established by the United States for preventing any foreign (European) power from extending its territory on this continent. The dispute regarding territory limits between British Guiana and Venezuela has caused this outburst on the part of the President and Secretary Olney. Some have gone so far as to indicate Canada as the battle ground. Our readers may glean from the following an idea of the general public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic:

The Times says:—Despite some severe criticism in America, evidence accumulates that President Cleveland's message was framed in accord with, and to play upon, a popular sentiment. There is reason to doubt that the Senate will pass the Commission Bill, although it is obvious that the commission is not likely to be granted on Mr. Cleveland's own terms. A most remarkable incident of the discussion was Senator Lodge's unconscious humor in moving that the commission report on April 1st. We are afraid that the Americans will not be moved by arguments drawn from precedents and established principles of international law. They have always shown themselves a sentimental, excitable nation. They have the haziest idea of what the Monroe doctrine really is, but, nevertheless, they are quite willing to enter upon a Holy War to defend it. We must reckon on this feeling and be prepared for the wildest aberrations it may cause. This does not lessen the gravity of the situation; indeed, it rather increases our sense of the peril to which immense international interests are subjected by combined sentiment and ignorance. We earnestly hope that the opinion of the sagacious far-seeing men of the United States, which has already begun to assert itself, will prevail over the reckless policy of the President. The fact cannot be ignored, however, that the latter is supported by a majority of both Houses and the great body of the public opinion of the country. As we cannot yield to Mr. Olney's demands, whether they are supported by the people or not, without surrendering the title to almost the whole of our Empire, we must hold ourselves prepared to defend our rights in any quarter where they may be threatened.

The Standard says: It is no small advantage that time for reflection has been gained. English men have for too long respected for the better order of American opinion than to doubt that in the end the voice of reason will be listened to.

THE TWO AMATEURS.

The Standard comments on the foreign opinion that has been created on the subject, especially in Berlin and Vienna, whose critics are less indulgent to Mr. Cleveland than the British, and says that Great Britain does not look to Continental powers for material support. It then continues: "We can afford to be fairly cheerful in our isolation, for, to tell the whole truth at once, we do not believe that the people of the United States will ever be so unfaithful to reason and right as to give local effect to the plain sense of President Cleveland's message. Great Britain may safely leave the two amateurs, Cleveland and Olney, to face the censure that the educated opinion of the world will pronounce on their efforts. In the meantime, the cordial goodwill and respect that Great Britain entertains for trans-Atlantic genius, outside of election politics, will not be impaired."

The Chronicle says it does not agree with the utterances of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in his speech at Bristol, that there might be a war between kindred. It declares that it takes its stand firmly and unalterably on the line that war between Great Britain and the United States would be an impossible, unthinkable and unholy thing. It recurs to the view it maintained, to-day, that an amicable settlement is possible, and declares that the earlier and friendlier American suggestions of arbitration were not unreasonable. The article concludes: "It seems to us to be vital that the controversy shall, as far as possible, further, rather than retard, the principle of international arbitration."

The Daily News, referring to the action of the American Senate on the Venezuelan Commission Bill, dilates on what, it says, is most welcome news.

The Post expresses surprise that Mr. Cleveland accepted the Venezuelan version of the case without an enquiry, and says it believes that an examination would have saved him from standing on ice that must give way on the least pressure. The paper contends that Venezuela will be desired to prove her claims before the commission, which, she being unable to do, will make the work of the com-

mission brief. Mr. Cleveland will thus be enabled to withdraw from an untenable position.

The Morning Post says: There seems little doubt that the commission will hold an inquiry, in which even an unexpected way of escape may be provided for President Cleveland.

RELYAST, December 19.—A newspaper here prints a suggestion that the Orange-men volunteer their services, in the event of a war with the United States, to enable them to have a chance of meeting the proposed Irish-American army.

HOW SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH LOOKS AT THE MATTER.

In a speech, delivered at Bristol, the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a passing reference to President Cleveland's message. Some people, he said, appeared to regard a war between the United States and Great Britain as impossible, owing to their ties of kinship. Nothing, however, was impossible. War had already happened between them. If kinsmen unhappily differed, they became sometimes very bitter enemies. But he did not believe that many persons, if any, on either side of the Atlantic, thought that the people of the United States or Great Britain wanted war. He was confident that when a true statement of Great Britain's case was ably and fully explained, and Lord Salisbury's despatches were laid before both people, the result would be peaceful and honorable to both countries.

EFFECTS OF THE MESSAGE.

The following words, used by Chauncey M. Depew, will suffice to show the real effect of the spread-eagle message of President Cleveland:

"The war has already cost the country one billion dollars in depreciated values, and it has been going on for only three days. I met the man who owns most of the swamp in Venezuela, which is in dispute, and he said he would sell it to me for \$25,000."

Here is the second presidential message, which means simply that Grover has got frightened already at the sound of his own trumpet.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—The President, at 4.20 p.m., sent the following message to Congress:—"In my last annual message the evils of our present financial system were plainly pointed out, and the causes and means of depletion of Government gold reserve were explained. It was therein stated that after all the efforts that had been made by the executive power of the Government to put our gold reserve on a firm basis by the insurance of bonds amounting to more than \$162,000,000, which reserve then amounted to but little over \$59,000,000, that about \$46,000,000 had been withdrawn from such reserve during the month previous to the date of that message, and that quite large withdrawals for shipment in the immediate future were predicted. The contingency then feared has reached us, and the withdrawals of gold since the communication, and others that appear inevitable, threaten such a depletion in our Government gold reserve as brings us face to face with the necessity of future action for its protection. The condition is intensified by the prevalence in certain quarters of sudden and unusual apprehension and timidity in business circles.

"We are in the midst of another season of perplexity caused by our dangerous and fatuous financial operations. These may be expected to recur with certainty as long as there is no amendment to our financial system. If, in this particular instance, our predicament is at all influenced by a recent instance upon the position we should occupy in our relation to certain questions concerning our foreign policy, this furnishes a signal and impressive warning that even the patriotic sentiment of our people is not an adequate substitute for a sound financial policy.

"Of course, there can be no doubt in any thoughtful mind as to the complete solvency of our nation, nor can there be any just apprehension that the American people will be satisfied with less than an honest payment of our public obligations in the recognized money of the world. We should not overlook the fact, however, that aroused fear is unreasoning and must be taken into account in all efforts to avert public losses and sacrifices of our people's interests.

The real and sensible cure for our recurring troubles can only be effected by a complete change in our financial scheme. Pending that, the executive branch of the Government will not relax its efforts nor abandon its determination to use every means within its reach to maintain before the world American credit, nor will there be any hesitation in exhibiting its confidence in the resources of our country and the constant patriotism of our people.

In view, however, of the peculiar situation now confronting us, I have ventured to herein express the earnest hope that Congress, in default of the inauguration of a better system of finance, will not take a recess from its labors before it has, by legislative enactment or declaration, done something not only to remind those apprehensive among our people that the resources of this Government, and a scrupulous regard for honest dealing, afford a sure guarantee of unquestioned safety and soundness, but to reassure the world that with these factors and with the patriotism of our citizens the ability and determination of our nation to meet in any circumstances every obligation it incurs, do not admit of question.

"Task at the hands of the Congress such a prompt aid as it alone has the power to give, to prevent, in a time of

fear and apprehension, any sacrifice of the people's interests and the public funds or the impairment of our public credit in an effort by executive action to relieve the dangers of the present emergency."

(Signed) GROVER CLEVELAND, Executive Mansion, December 20th, 1895.

## TWO HAPPY TRIBUTES.

MISS STREET, ONE OF CANADA'S LEADING LITERARY LADIES—A FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO THE TRUE WITNESS.

All who have carefully read THE TRUE WITNESS, during the past three or four years, must recall the admirable contributions from the pen of Miss Emma C. Street. It would be a pleasant and a grateful duty for us to thank the able and talented young lady for all she has done in the way of advancing Catholic literature in Canada and, more particularly, in fostering a taste for good reading amongst the citizens of Montreal; but we find that two of our contemporaries have succeeded in outstripping us in the race; consequently, we will allow them to speak first. Our ably edited and universally popular Catholic contemporary, The Casket, of Antigonish, N.S., in its issue of the 14th November last, speaks as follows:—

"The Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart is to be congratulated on the possession—and, it would appear, the exclusive possession—of one of the



MISS EMMA C. STREET, President Children of Mary Solidity and Loretto Literary Club.

best writers of short stories in the country. For my own part I feel inclined to say that Emma C. Street is not merely one of the best, but the best, at least among our Catholic writers; but I should like to have some one else's opinion, that of the editor of The Casket for instance, before making my decision irrevocable. The only fault I can find with these stories is not that they are short, but that they are too short, and that they appear only at intervals of several months. The November number of the Messenger contains one, "The Heart Break Soothed," which seems to me to be perfect. I can imagine some one reading it through and saying why that's only a description of some-thing which occurs every day. Well, I will answer such a critic, will you kindly sit down, take a paper, pen and ink, and write out with equal fidelity a similar description of some incident which you have witnessed? You might as well be little a landscape painter because it represents a scene which has been under your eyes ever since you were born. Emma C. Street's characters converse just like the people you meet every day. The number of writers is exceedingly small, in Canada at least, who can make an imaginary conversation realistic when putting it on paper."

In the last number of St. Mary's Church Calendar the following tribute appears:

Press bravely onward—Not in vain!  
Your generous trust in human kind,  
The good which bloodshed could not gain,  
Your peaceful zeal shall find.

"A writer who stands upon her own foundation without patronage, and who in the midst of various occupations has commanded the respect and admiration of some of the most severe critics of the day, is the distinguished lady subject of this brief sketch; every effusion from her pen bears the impress of the noblest propensities of nature and the most generous affections of the heart. The inestimable genius with which Almighty God has endowed her, and her fine literary acquisitions, will leave to posterity a wealthy monument. The people of Montreal will long hold in affectionate recollection the lady who never ostentatiously displayed her superiority.

While the dull author seeks to be distinguished by oddity or extravagance, there is seldom seen anything extraordinary in the pure, chaste, moral writer, such is Miss Emma C. Street, and here allow me to name a few among the many of her excellent stories that are the test of supreme genius:

"Owed and Paid," "By Way of the Cross," "Marrion's Killum's Vision," "In the Hour of Danger," "Larry's Promise," "The Darkest Hour," "The Heartbreak Soothed," "Patsy," "How It Happened," "An Answered Prayer," "For Conscience Sake."

honorably in expressing these few humble unsolicited though well merited sentiments of praise and respect for her. A young lady whose writings agitate the heart and sway the conscience to such an extent deserves more than a passing notice. The best products of her mind spring out of leisure moments snatched from an arduous occupation, circumstances will not allow her to devote her time entirely to literature; as her writings have been extensively copied by the leading Catholic journals of the continent, I think it incumbent on Catholic journalists and Catholic publishers to solicit the efficacy of her pen and give her some tangible proof that true merit is worthy of recompense."

What have we to add? Were we to attempt a review of all that Miss Street has done in the cause of truly elevating and Christian literature, we would require a separate article of no inconsiderable length. Moreover, the praise we would feel bound to bestow might, in view of all the kindness she has done for this paper and our many obligations towards her, be considered as not altogether impartial. We consequently conclude that our gratitude will be best expressed in the wish that she may long be spared to aid in the noble work of building up a native literature for Canada.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Services.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The Midnight service will open with the hymn, "Come, ye faithful," by Novello. Then Nini's Mass will be given. Professor C. Landry will sing "Pastors erunt," tenor solo, by Neuhofmann. At the Offertory, during the second Mass, Mr. Smith will sing "Nazareth" by Gounod, and the choir will render some Christmas canticles. The same programme will be repeated at the ten o'clock Mass. Solemn Vespers and Benediction at half past three o'clock, during which Mr. Carpenter will sing an "Ave Maria," "Tantum ergo," by Tempia, will also be given. The solos, duets and trios of the Mass will be given by Messrs. J. J. Rowan, F. Cahill, F. Kennedy, D. McAndrew, J. McNally, tenors; Messrs. G. A. Carpenter, T. Wright, baritone; Messrs. Murray, Crowe and Corrigan, bass. At the eight o'clock Mass, Mrs. Jude, Miss McAndrew and Miss McNally will render Christmas hymns. Professor Fowler will direct the music and play different Christmas carols on the organ at all the services.

AT THE GEC.

The choir of the GEC, assisted by the pupils of the college, will give a new Mass, of a modern style, written by S. Rousseau, a French composer of high fame. This masterpiece has never been executed in Canada as it will be next Christmas. Messrs. Gruenwald and Dubois, cellists, and several other artists, will take part in the orchestra. Messrs. St. Pierre, Cournois, Pinsomant, Desautniers, and others, will sing the solo at the Offertory. M. Dubois will play "Col. Sidiie" by Max Druch."

AT ST. ANTHONY'S.

That intricate but beautiful composition for three male voices, Nicon-Choron's 18th Mass, will be the attraction at St. Anthony's. Taking the final repetition of yesterday as a test, one can safely assert that this masterpiece of sacred music will be done full justice by the admirably trained choir under the intelligent leadership of Mr. E. F. Casey. The accompaniment, most difficult in technique, beautiful in effect, will be supplied by the grand organ under the artistic touch of the organist, Miss Donnan, and will be supplemented by a string quintette led by that famous virtuoso Herr Carl Waldner.

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

The Christmas music at St. Mary's Church, of which the Rev. P. F. O'Donnell is pastor, will be one of the noteworthy features. The floral decorations for the Midnight Mass will be in keeping with the feast. The high altar and shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel will be decorated with palms and other living greens; a profusion of white roses and lilies will blend with the numberless tapers and fairy lamps that will decorate the sanctuary. The choir, accompanied by full orchestra, will render La Haebe's "Messe Ste. Therese." Soloists, Messrs. C. Hamlin, J. Emblem and T. C. Emblem. At the Offertory, "Adeste Fideles," by Prof. Wilson, solo, duet and chorus; soloists, Messrs. Hamlin and Emblem. During Low Mass, Christmas hymns, Mr. John Phelan, soloist. "Andante Religioso," Missud, by the orchestra. "O Salutaris," by Wiegand, T. C. Emblem. Leader of orchestra, Prof. Wm. Sullivan; conductor, Mr. J. B. Paquette; musical director and organist, Prof. Jas. Wilson. The same programme will be repeated Christmas morning, and in the evening at 7.30, grand musical Vespers and Benediction. "O Salutaris," Wiegand, T. C. Emblem; "Ave Maria," de Doss, C. Hamlin; "Tantum Ergo," Eykens, and "Laudate Dominum," Wilson.

ST. GABRIEL'S CHURCH.

The Midnight Mass in St. Gabriel's will be one of the grandest and most imposing ceremonies of the season. Buttman's celebrated Mass in F. will be sung by a full choir. Prof. P. J. Shea, the popular and talented accompanist and director, will wield the baton of leader. Miss O'Byrne, one of our most able and widely-known musicians, will preside at the organ. The Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Father Heffernan, assisted by two Fathers of the Society of Jesus, as deacon and sub-deacon. The decorations of the church will be simply gorgeous and the magnificent effect from the new combinations of electric lights will

add to the impressiveness of the solemn occasion. Rev. Father O'Meara, the kindly and energetic pastor, has left nothing undone to make this one of the grandest celebrations of the glorious Feast of the Nativity that ever took place in that parish. It is expected that a very large attendance will be had, in fact, that the beautiful edifice will be crowded with worshippers on this great occasion.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH.

At the Midnight Mass the choir will sing Lambillotte's "Messe Noel," assisted by a full orchestra, under the able direction of Prof. C. Wallace. The soloists of the Mass are Messrs. Morgan Murphy, Mullarkey, Miller and E. Quinn. During the Offertory Mr. J. Morgan will sing Adams' "Noel," and at the conclusion of the service the orchestra will perform Scotland Clarke's "Procession March," accompanied by the organ. Rev. Father Strabbe will conduct and Mr. P. J. Shea, musical director, will preside at the organ.

## RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

The recent pilgrimages to Loreto proved so successful that the promoters are now organizing another one.

Rev. Thomas M. Moore, nephew of Bishop Moore of Florida, is dead in St. Augustine, at the age of thirty years.

Archbishop Hennessy, of Dubuque, leaves for Rome some time this month. It is His Grace's intention to spend the winter in Italy.

A Catholic merchant of Chicago has had 50,000 copies of Father Searle's "Plain Facts for Fair Minds" printed for distribution among his patrons.

The new infirm priests society of St. Louis will be maintained by annual \$10 contributions of each secular priest of the diocese. Benefits entitled to \$50 per month.

The large Catholic college on the Boulevard at Vineland, New Jersey, has been closed and its principal has left Vineland. This it is said, will probably be the last time this magnificent building will be used for a college.

A life of Christ is about to be published, with colored photographs, after James Tissot's pictures, by MM. Mame, the Catholic publishers of Tours, the first twenty impressions of which will be sold for \$1,000 a copy, and the rest of the 1,000 copies at \$300 a copy.

Cardinal Manning's biography, based largely on his own written notes, journals, and intimate correspondence, will be out this month. In its revelations of his inner character, especially during the conversion period, the work is described as of exceptional interest.

The statue of St. Michael slaying the dragon, about to be set upon the site of the old post office in the Place de Broekere, in Brussels, Belgium, is to be of colossal size and cast in bronze. The entire figure of the saint will be surrounded at night by a halo of electric light.

Following up his recent action, the Pope has decided to establish in Egypt a Coptic Hierarchy, comprising a resident Patriarch at Alexandria and two new Bishops. The Vatican is convinced that the English Government is in favor of the Pope's action in this respect, especially in Egypt.

Within the past twenty years, according to a recent Parliamentary paper, the number of priests in England and Wales has increased 90 per cent, and the number of nuns 90 per cent. There could be no better evidence of the great increase of Catholicity in John Bull's dominions.

St. Stephen's Indian Mission School at Highmore, a suburb in Sioux Falls, Iowa, which was partially destroyed by fire some weeks ago, will be quickly rebuilt. The Rev. Fins Boehm, O.S.B., superintendent of the school, is already securing mechanics to commence work on it.

The Catholic Times of Liverpool says that Frederick Harrison has, in a recent address, appeared as apologist of the Catholic Church. Mr. Harrison, though always declaring that if any historic church is true it is the Catholic, feels more kindly towards the old church since his son joined it.

Dom Hildebrande de Hemptme, O.S.B., who originated the idea of building the splendid Benedictine Monastery on the Aventine Hill, is now in Rome, occupied with various arrangements for establishing the students therein later on, having at the instance of the Pope made a special visitation of the Houses of the Benedictine Order in England.

An interesting and highly instructive lecture on "The Life and Character of St. Francis Xavier, the Apostle of India," was delivered on Tuesday night, December 3, in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg, Pa., by Rev. H. S. Christ, before a popular and intellectual audience. The lecturer handled his subject admirably, and for nearly half an hour the audience was held up in rapt attention by the eloquent narrative of the life and travels of Xavier, the star of the University of Paris, among the pagans of India.

It is to be Rector O'Connell of the American College at Rome, after all, it seems. Dr. O'Connell, therefore, goes back to his alma mater, where he made so enviable a record for himself in his theological days, and, singularly enough, his own years and those of the American College are the same in number, as it was on his birthday, Dec. 8, 1859, that the college formally opened its classes for the first time. Father O'Connell will be missed in Boston, especially in the West end; but the entire Catholic population of the city and the archdiocese rejoices that he has been honored with the appointment that now is his.

## EXTINCTION, OR HOME RULE?

IRISH STRUGGLE MUST END WITH ONE OR THE OTHER.

THE NATION'S OUTLOOK TO-DAY—LITTLE DUBOUT BUT THAT JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL. IN THE END—CHANGE IN THE BRITISH MINISTRY—HOW LONG CAN THE UNIONISTS POSTPONE THE DESIRED RESULT?

As one of the best and clearest statements of the present position of the Irish question that have yet appeared, we quote the following extracts from an article by Mr. Bryan J. Clinche, that appears in the American Catholic Quarterly Review for last October:

The late change in the British Ministry is an incident in a contest which can only end with the extinction of the Irish people in Ireland or the recognition of their right to rule themselves. That the latter will be the solution there is little room to doubt. The very conditions entailed by the present union make any migration of people of other races into Ireland impossible. Even in this age of changes of population there is no current towards the shores of unprosperous lands. Elizabeth or James I. might think seriously that they could replace the Irish Celts by English or Scotch settlers, but Lord Salisbury can harbor no such dream.

If the union makes Ireland incapable of keeping its own natives, it still more surely keeps away all others from settling in their land. Foreign rule may keep Ireland wretched, but it is powerless to Anglicize its people. Cromwell's attempt to transplant the Irish race beyond the Shannon left Ireland as she is today, and what Cromwell could not do will not be done by the modern Tory rulers of England.

That the Irish question must continue to hamper the British Government is then certain. It is morally certain that it can be removed by the concession of self-government to Ireland. Those two facts are patent to both the friends and the foes of Irish nationality. The question naturally suggests itself, how long the advent of the Unionist ministry is likely to postpone Home Rule? Its answer depends on the dispositions of the English and the Irish people. The first have the power to grant it at any moment if convinced that such is their real interest. The Irish people, like any other body of men, may imperil a just cause by mistakes or lack of judgment. The political leaders of both nations are in the same category as the two peoples. The fate of the nation for the time being rests in their hands. We shall briefly review the dispositions of each as indicated by the late elections.

GREAT BRITAIN'S CHANGE IN TEMPER.

The change in temper of the people of Great Britain towards the national aspirations of Ireland has been remarkable during the past twenty years. When Mr. Butt first brought forward Ireland's claim for Home Rule both English parties and all shades of English politicians united in declaring their impossibility of concession. Down to 1885 no English statesman would even give them serious attention, and Conservatives and Liberals, however hostile on other points, united in voting down every proposal for letting Ireland rule herself.

Sir William Harcourt in one session since that date voted over two hundred times adversely to Irish proposals of all kinds. Mr. Gladstone's conversion to the Irish side in 1885 came like a thunderbolt on the majority of Englishmen. In spite of his wonderful popularity he was driven from office on that question, and the powerful party which he led was divided into two factions on the Irish question. The curious spectacle of a union between the ultra-radical ex-Mayor of Birmingham and the ultra-aristocratic Marquis of Salisbury was a sign of the strength of anti-Irish prejudice among the English population ten years ago. Since that time the tendency of public opinion has grown steadily for justice to Ireland.

Two years ago Mr. Gladstone was restored to power as the champion of Home Rule, and his bill passed successfully the House of Commons by a fair if not very large majority. The House of Lords for the last two years has been the only legal obstacle to the establishment of Irish Home Rule. During the present century the House of Lords has never ventured to array itself permanently against the popular branch of the Legislature, though it might at times delay for some time popular legislation. If the English people should continue to demand Home Rule for Ireland, it certainly will not be prevented by the Lords.

That a Home Rule bill has actually passed the House of Commons is evidence that the English people is favorably disposed towards it, though it may delay, according to its wont, in getting its will into law.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LATE TORY TRIUMPH.

It does not appear that the late Tory triumph indicates any real revulsion of English sentiment against Home Rule. Lord Rosebery's government fell from other causes. In the first place Gladstone's retirement deprived the Liberals of by far the most popular leader in the country and lessened correspondingly the prestige of the party with the English voters; Lord Rosebery, though personally popular and clever, was everywhere felt to be a very inferior successor to the veteran statesman who had passed the Home Rule bill through Parliament in spite of his eighty-three years. The