

IRISH GRIEVANCES OF TO DAY.

It is frequently asserted by those opposed to any measure of reform in the government of Ireland, that Irish grievances are grievances of the past centuries, and that the Irish people now enjoy to the full the liberties and privileges of British subjects. Goldwin Smith, who, though a powerful writer, sometimes allows his prejudices to get the better of his judgment, refers to Parnell and his followers as a band of disloyal men, asserting that their sole aim and object is the severance of the union of Great Britain and Ireland. A brief account of the manner in which Ireland is now governed will, we think, convince most of our readers that the Irish people have grievances, and that the very existence of these grievances in the ninth decade of the nineteenth century proves that British statesmen have been guilty of culpable negligence with regard to Irish affairs, and that strong measures had to be taken to show the English people that Irishmen were no longer willing to tolerate such neglect.

So far as the internal government of Ireland is concerned, it is left exclusively in the hands of a Viceroy, appointed by the British Ministry. The Viceroy is assisted by a countless number of Boards, the members of which are appointed by himself. These Boards are scarcely more representative in race, religion, or any other respect of the people of Ireland, than "Government House" and the civilians are representatives of the natives of Bengal. The Irish people have nothing whatever to do with the appointment or supervision of these practically omnipotent boards. Yet the Local Government Board controls to a very large extent poor law guardians and even corporations and town commissioners; while the Public Works Board is a far more powerful and far-reaching body than its English analogue. Through one of these boards Public Works are controlled, through another the Castle controls "national" education, as it is called, a third the prisons, a fourth—nominated like the others of course—controls the fisheries. Through the Inspector-General the Castle controls the finest army of the sort in the world—the Constabulary, numbering from twelve to thirteen thousand men. No native authority, county or otherwise, it must be borne in mind, controls this splendid body in any way whatever. The Irish Constabulary are the servants of the lord of "the Castle." Again the stipendiary magistrates throughout Ireland are Castle nominees; like the chiefs of the Boards already named, like, in fact, all the principal officials in Ireland, they represent the ruling race and the official religion—which is Protestantism. Lastly, the "Grand Juries," as they are called (by a very misleading name), and which are in reality the fiscal boards of the Irish Counties, are selected by the County High Sheriffs, who themselves have been nominated by the Viceroy. For each of the thirty-three counties of Ireland there is a "Grand Jury" of twenty-three members, and, as already indicated, this "Jury" though possessed of the entire financial control of the county concerned, has no elective relations with the taxpayers whose money it levies. The grand jurors of Ireland vote taxes to the amount of a million and a quarter sterling, and "exercise out of public rates a patronage representing over one hundred thousand pounds per annum." To quote from an excellent work on this subject, "the mode in which this patronage is distributed is not calculated to lessen the belief of the Irish people that the entire system of county government in Ireland is under the control of an alien race." The "Castle" Boards, in short, are the administrative instruments of a benevolent despot.

This brief sketch of Irish Local Government which we have culled from an English exchange, fully accounts for the feelings of detestation with which the Irish people regard the system which is known as "Castle" rule, and it is for the abolition of "Castle" rule that Parnell and the Nationalists are now fighting. Dublin Castle is Doubting Castle, and its inmate is Giant Despair. The Giant's case is all the more hopeless because he has meant so well all the long centuries of his rule. In every detail of administration, from the highest to the pettiest, from the imprisonment of the "Dictator," to a paltry squabble about the seizure of a bedstead, the Giant has intervened, either by himself or by his subordinates; and he has never received anything but denunciation for his pains.

Is there a Nova Scotian or Canadian with one drop of manly blood flowing through his veins who would not do his utmost to overthrow such a system, were this Province or the Dominion governed in a similar manner? We believe not; and the Irish people so long as they continue to agitate for reform, using legitimate means, are entitled to the hearty sympathy of every free-born citizen in this land.

SUMMER CARNIVAL.

So far as we can learn, the citizens of Halifax are of but one mind as respects the advisability of holding a carnival during the coming summer, but as matters now stand it is impossible to make any definite arrangements with regard to it until the initiative steps are taken by the Mayor or City Council. If we are to have a general carnival it is quite evident that its management and carrying out should not be left to any particular club or organization. The success of the carnival must depend upon the cooperation of the various societies, clubs, and unions, which might participate in it, as the united action of these would insure a varied and attractive programme of sports. It has been suggested that the exclusive management of the carnival be left to the Wanderers Athletic Club, but we think that the Wanderers would be justified in refusing to assume the sole responsibility while the other clubs and unions are willing to unite with them and share the responsibility. The firemen have already taken up the matter of a firemen's tournament with their accustomed vim and zeal. A large amount of money has been subscribed for the purpose, our home fire insurance companies heading the list with handsome subscriptions. Arrangements have been made with the fire departments of Philadelphia, Boston, Portland,

Bangor, and with some of the cities of the Upper Provinces, to have their brigades properly represented at the Halifax tournament. Liberal prizes ranging from \$10 to \$300 have been offered, and in fact everything has been done to ensure the tournament's being a grand success. This tournament would form a most attractive feature in a general carnival, and we have no doubt that the firemen would be pleased to have it do so if the fire department were fairly represented upon the carnival committee. With the cooperation of the Wanderers Athletic Club, the Royal Nova Scotian Yacht Squadron, the Studley Quoit Club, the committee of the Halifax Riding Ground, the Commissioners of the Public Gardens, the Y. M. L. A., the Social Club, and the officers of the Garrison, a programme could readily be arranged such as would attract thousands of visitors to the city. All that is required is for the Mayor (as Chief Magistrate of Halifax), to convene a public meeting, at which a representative committee of citizens could be appointed for the purpose of raising the requisite funds, preparing the programme of sports, and in short, undertaking the management of the summer carnival.

AN EXPATRIATION SYNDICATE.

The idea of expelling from their homes any class of people whose presence is obnoxious to the State, is not, as U. E. Loyalists and Acadians can testify, a new one. The latest project of this kind, Bismarck's proposed expulsion of the Poles from Prussia, has suggested to European capitalists a plan for conducting these transactions in a strictly business-like way. It is said that a syndicate is being formed in the leading European cities, who will offer to buy up the claims of the Poles, and assign their land to German settlers, on the terms recently proposed by Prince Bismarck. The capitalists will first secure a large tract of land in some country where people, or rather people's neighbors, do not object to the company of the Poles. This land will be offered to Polish settlers, the syndicate retaining a large block in the centre, from which they expect to receive ultimately the principal return of their investment. Already the aims of the syndicate have extended beyond this trial of the scheme upon the Poles: visions of an exodus of Jews from persecuting Russia and Turkey to the home of their ancestors in Palestine, and of disaffected Irish peasants relieving the anxious mind of Gladstone by taking up their abode in America, rise before the minds of the enterprising capitalists. Indeed, there are few countries which might not become the customers of the new company, for there are few in which an unassimilated race element does not exist. Should the experiment upon the Poles be tried and found successful, Austria, which now protests against Bismarck's action, may herself think of employing the new company to transplant her Magyar population; and the United States may see an escape from the doom of negro supremacy with which she is threatened. These are two weak points in the scheme, which will require precautionary measures to strengthen them. In order to carry on its operations, the company must be backed by government authority. This power, in the hands of greedy and oppressive agents, is liable to be used in mal-treating the unfortunates who are leaving home and country. Again, the company will select land wherever it is cheapest and most plentiful. Let us, who possess the grand North-West, beware lest European powers cleanse their own gardens by filling ours with weeds. But with proper vigilance on the part of the different governments concerned, these difficulties could be obviated.

INSURANCE

Lord Brougham only asserted the conviction of every thoughtful observer when he declared that "associations for the insurance of lives are to be ranked among the very noblest institutions of civilized society, and this usefulness can be attested by thousands of happy and contented families, rescued by their means from the bitterness of poverty and the degradation of charity."

We have very decided views on the duty of our people to protect those for whom they live and labor by adequate life insurance. We would not hesitate to commend in our columns any purely charitable institution which should distribute large sums of money to the victims of misfortune amongst us; much less then should we hesitate to commend to public good-will an institution which comes into the homes of our people in the hour of their greatest misfortune, with the light of hope to the widow's heart, and the earnest of continued home comforts to her fatherless babes,—an institution, which is ever urging men to the performance of duty, to display parental and conjugal faithfulness, by providing for the permanent happiness and well-being of their dependents through their own prudent forethought, not trusting their welfare to the fickleness of fortune or the uncertainty of their own continued life.

It seems to us that it is either a very thoughtless man or a very selfish man who will protect himself from loss, by fire or marine insurance, and will yet allow the shadow of an irreparable loss, if not of utter ruin, to hang over his home, by refusing or neglecting to insure his life. With these convictions we have decided to do them justice by urging our readers who have not already done so, to perform this very important duty, and shall doubtless return to the subject again. In the meantime suffice it to say, that by personal study of the whole question, by the opinions expressed in our insurance exchanges, by the hearty endorsement of reliable insurance experts, and by our own knowledge of the working of the system by which we have been insured for some years, we believe that the rich man can get the most good insurance for the same money, and the poor man the same reliable insurance for the least money, in the Dominion Safety Fund Life Association, St. John, N. B., which has so many policy-holders amongst our best citizens, and which last year alone "visited the fatherless and the widow in their affliction," in these provinces to the extent of \$31,000.