

FATE OF THE LORDS.

COMMONERS WHO ARE HEIRS TO
PEERAGES IN A DILEMMA.

The Subject Discussed Under [Signature in a Magazine—Arrangements for an Anti-Lords Demonstration—Welsh Dis-Establishment Bill—Scotch Home Rule in a Mild Form.

LONDON, March 31.—The question of the destruction of the House of Lords as a hereditary legislative body is rapidly gaining strength, and is in a much more vigorous condition than its most ardent supporters have had reason to expect.

The Hon. William St. John Broderick, M.P. for Surrey; the Hon. George Nathaniel Curzon, M.P. for Southwest Lancashire, and Viscount William W. P. Wolmer, M. P. for West Edinburgh, all heirs to peerages, are living in daily dread of their elevation to the Upper House and to mitigate their fate they have prepared a bill, notice of the introduction of which they have given, to change the present order of things, which removes a member from the House of Commons upon his succession to the peerage. The bill prepared by these gentlemen provides that any person elevated to the peerage shall have the option of remaining in the House of Commons, if he be a member of that body at the time of his succession to the House of Lords, or of offering himself as a candidate for election to the House of Commons in preference to taking a seat in the Upper House.

AN ARTICLE ON THE SUBJECT.

No more striking proof of the growing disrepute into which the House of Lords has fallen has ever been afforded than is found in a public appeal which has just made its appearance in the columns of a leading monthly magazine, bearing the signatures of the gentlemen who are promoting the anti-hereditary legislation bill just mentioned.

Through the death of another, these gentlemen set forth, a man's political existence may be terminated in a moment and he be consigned to burial alive in the House of Lords. His translation to the upper body causes the world at large to regard him as a very fortunate individual who has inherited one of the highest gifts, whereas in reality he is the very hopeless victim of an accident of birth.

RADICAL VIEW OF IT.

The announcement of the provisions of the proposed bill and the publication of the appeal signed by the framers of the measure, have excited widespread comment. The Radicals admit that if the bill were to become law it would deplete the House of Lords of all of the ablest men in that body and leave it without a shred of political vitality, but they also contend that the Lords would still be able, when their hereditary privileges should be assailed, to offer as much resistance to the House of Commons as they are enabled to do under the present condition of things.

The Conservatives also recognize the fact that the measure would have a direct tendency to deprive the Upper House of such men as Lord Salisbury, the Duke of Devonshire, Earl Rosebery, the Earl of Kimberley, the Duke of Argyll, Earl Spencer, and other persons of conspicuous ability, and such deprivation would inevitably lead to the extinction of the House of Lords as a legislative body.

They are mindful, too, of the fact that whatever the authority, legislative ability and statesmanship still appertains to the House of Lords is due to the presence in that body of statesmen who have received training in the House of Commons, and the very next election after the passage of the bill would find every one of the recognized leaders of the House of Lords seeking endorsement of the voting classes for a seat in the representative body.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE LORDS.

The league for the abolition of the House of Lords has issued an announcement that 350 political associations in and near London have signified their intention to take part in the demonstration in favor of the destruction of the House of Lords, in Hyde Park on Whit Monday.

WELSH DISESTABLISHMENT.

The bill for the disestablishment of the church in Wales has been drafted and

some of its provisions are certain to further infuriate the Conservatives, mainly its disendowment clauses. The Welsh bill accords a life interest to the present incumbents only and at the termination of incumbency by death the whole property of the church is to be appropriated for national purposes.

HOME RULE IN ANOTHER FORM.

Another Home Rule struggle will begin in the House of Commons on Monday over the motion which is to be introduced by the Government to refer all Scotch bills to a standing committee, which is to be mainly composed of Scotch members. The proposal which is practically a modified form of Home Rule, will be fiercely opposed by the Unionists. Urgent whips have been sent out summoning the attendance of the Irish party in full force, and similar notices have been served upon the Conservative, Liberal and Unionist members.

The London Liberal members will demand a similar committee to take charge of London bills as the price of their support of the Scotch motion and it will be surprising if the Irish do not make a demand that some such concession be granted to Ireland.

SALISBURY TO GLADSTONE.

Lord Salisbury has written a long letter to Mr. Gladstone expressing his sympathy with him in his retirement. The letter is full of pleasant reminiscences and feeling allusions to Mr. Gladstone's career which have impressed the Grand Old Man greatly. Evidence is shown by the fact that he has communicated the contents of the letter to several of his friends with unmistakeable gratification.

NEW FRANCE IN 1894.

An able, interesting and timely article, under the above title, appears in the March number of The Month, the well known and excellent English Catholic magazine. The author of the article, Mr. Francis W. Grey, an English Catholic, who has lived for some time in Canada, has evidently made good use of his opportunities of observation. Writing to a great extent, as an outsider, he is in a position to treat of vexed subjects with impartiality. He takes up, in detail, certain charges made against Catholic French Canadians by an "Eminent professor of History"—the name is not difficult to guess. These charges are, in brief, "medievalism," "ignorance," "want of progress." If by "medievalism" is meant loyalty to the Catholic Church, Mr. Grey is well content to admit the truth of the charge; and he pays a well-merited tribute to the intense loyalty, in this respect, of the Catholic French Canadians. As to "ignorance" and "want of progress," Mr. Grey replies to the charges by dealing at some length with three of the most important "social problems" of the present time, viz: education, the question of "pauperism," and of the "townward migration of the agricultural population." Mr. Grey has, in our opinion, shown excellent judgement in selecting these particular points. As to "ignorance," it cannot be, as Mr. Grey says, from want of an efficient system of education, since the judges at the World's Fair—no very partial court, surely—pronounced the system carried out by the Canadian religious orders to be "the best and most efficient." The critics, adds the author, are, presumably, "occupying a back seat." As to "pauperism," that is, the "question of the unemployed" and of "uninvited poverty"—that is, poverty not the fault of the individual—Mr. Grey points out, with much force, that we are all tending, willy-nilly, to something very like "State Socialism" in these matters. But the problem which "advanced" and "enlightened" countries—such as England and the United States—are beginning to face has been already, to all intents and purposes, solved in French Catholic Quebec, by parochial organizations, and by religious institutions. It is a choice, as Mr. Grey says, between the Religious Orders and the State-appointed and State-paid official. "Who that really loves his fellowmen would hesitate to choose?" As to the "townward migration of the agricultural population," Mr. Grey enlarges on the work of the "agricultural missionaries" undertaken by French Canadian Catholic bishops and priests as one worthy of the earnest attention of the most enlightened State. Since therefore, in these

most important matters, French Canadians can be accused neither of "ignorance" nor of "want of progress" with any degree of truth, "some further evidence" as Mr. Grey says, "on the part of the critics, is decidedly 'in order' before any one of the charges can be considered as proved."

We may say that the whole article will well repay perusal. The Month may be obtained from Messrs. Sadlier, in this city.

THE WORLD AROUND.

The state of siege in Brazil has been renewed until May 1st.

Twenty-seven persons were arrested and will be executed for an attempt to kill the king of Corea.

Gov. Rich has been sustained in removing state officials by a unanimous opinion of the Michigan supreme court.

The Bland silver seignorage bill, which passed the Senate and House of Representatives, was sent to the President.

John de Jarnette, nine years of age, and Perry Tyler, a four year old colored boy, were run over and killed by electric cars in the District of Columbia last Sunday.

Dan Coughlin, who was recently acquitted at Chicago of the charge of conspiracy in the Cronin murder case, has under consideration an offer from a dime museum.

The bones of thirty-three men found at the spot where the Wilson party made its stand against the Matebeles, in South Africa, have been found and buried in one grave.

Owing to disagreements over electoral reform the States General of Holland has been dissolved and a new election ordered for April 10th.

By the terms of the treaty Spain has negotiated with Morocco the offending Riff tribesmen will be sent to the interior and a neutral zone established about Melilla.

Eighty thousand men attended a demonstration in Hyde Park, London, Sunday, at which resolutions were adopted demanding the abolition of the House of Lords. Good order was maintained.

It is reported in Paris that an agreement has been concluded between the British Government and the representatives of one or more foreign powers in London, in regard to anti-anarchist measures.

The German Reichstag committee having the Russo-German commercial treaty under consideration has adopted the clause reserving to either government the right of fixing transportation rates on its own railroads.

It is announced at Rio Janeiro that the Portuguese Government will not surrender the insurgent officers who sought asylum on their warships, and which have put to sea with Admiral Da Gama and seventy refugees on board.

RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Dispatches from Mexico deny that the Jesuits have been expelled from that country.

In a pastoral letter just issued Bishop Watterson of Columbus forbids membership in Catholic societies to saloon-keepers.

The new Bishop of Hartford, Right Rev. M. Tierney, D.D., has received a handsome gold crozier from his alumni friends of St. Joseph's Seminary, Troy, N. Y.

Several Sisters of Mercy were in Washington last week looking for a house suitable for a home for poor working girls. Several houses were examined, but no definite decision has yet been reached.

A. P. Aism has apparently found its way into the Interscholastic Athletic Association of New York, which has excluded from membership the club of the De La Salle Institute because of its being Catholic.

The beautiful new academy and convent of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart at New Orleans, La., was blessed by Archbishop Janssens Feb. 12, at 4 p. m. The former pupils of the institution were in attendance.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Paris in response to the wishes of his people has ordered a *Te Deum* to be sung on Sunday, April 22, in Notre Dame to express the

general gladness of France at the news that the cause of Joan of Arc has been introduced for Beatification. The Dominicans having had the honor of advocating at Notre Dame the Cult of the Maid of Orleans, it is a Dominican, the Rev. Pere Feuillet, who will preach on the occasion.

Pere Schmitt, one of the Catholic missionaries in Siam, has been awarded the cross of the Legion of Honor by M. Carnot for exceptional services during the conclusion of the treaty of peace between France and Siam.

J. C. Haywood, one of the best known American residents of Rome, has presented to the Pope valuable manuscripts giving the complete correspondence of the Pope with the King and Queen of Spain concerning the voyage of Columbus.

His Holiness Leo XIII has conferred the order of K. C. S. G. on Hon. T. M. Slattery, M.L.A., minister of mines, New South Wales. Mr. Slattery was brother-in-law of the late Mrs. William E. O'Brien, of Clashganiff House, Shangan Golden County, Limerick, Ireland.

The Vatican announces that twenty-three schismatic Bishops of Syria have returned to the Catholic Church, and that others are expected to follow their example shortly. The action of the Bishops is said to be a result of the Eucharist Congress in Jerusalem.

A late conversion to the Catholic Church in England is that of Miss M. E. Braddon, the novelist, author of "Lady Audley's Secret" and many other popular stories. In private life she is Mrs. Maxwell, wife of the publisher. F. Anstey and T. Fisher Unwin, also novelists of note, have lately "gone over."

One of the pulpit orators of the French Catholic Church is preaching in New York during the Lenten season, and the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, on West Twenty-third street, is crowded with worshippers every time he ascends the pulpit stairs. He is the Rev. Pere Plesis, now of Montreal, formerly of Paris, and his eloquence has made a deep impression on all who have heard him.

IRISH NEWS.

Mr. Alderman Colliery, in deference to the wishes of the Committee of the Irish party, has decided to retain his seat for Sligo until the general election.

At a meeting held in Galway on Monday night, March 5, a sum of £400 was subscribed for shares in a woollen factory proposed to be started in that city. Most Rev. Dr. M'Cormack presided at the meeting.

Waterford City and County Assizes were opened on March 6th. Lord Chief Justice O'Brien warmly congratulated the City Grand Jury on the complete absence of crime in the city. In addressing the County Grand Jury, Chief Baron Palas was equally congratulatory. His Lordship remarking that a striking proof of the prevailing peace was that since the last Assizes nineteen evicted farms, which had been entirely or partially boycotted, had been taken for a number of years.

A memorial, signed by over three hundred representative Irishmen, including Archbishops and Bishops of the Protestant and Catholic Churches, the Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church, the president of Queen's Colleges, and several peers, members of Parliament, and the chairman of the town commissioners, has been forwarded to the Prime Minister, respectfully urging that a measure enforcing complete Sunday closing and the early Saturday closing of public houses in Ireland should be passed into law without further delay.

The Evicted Tenants Fund is increased by the addition of £374 and reaches the total of £6,936. Of the £374 the Nationalists of Belfast, headed by the patriotic Bishop of Down and Connor, have contributed £307, the first instalment of their support of the evicted. This is their response to Mr. Sexton's eloquent appeal, and is the measure of the generosity with which Belfast Nationalists respond to every call made upon them in behalf of the national cause. Belfast, like Cork, sets an example that Dublin might take to heart. Saturday's subscriptions make the total received for the tenants during the week £850. The total for the previous week was £878. Thus for a fortnight over £1,728 has been forwarded to the national trustees for the maintenance of the evicted. The country has not forgotten its vow.