the moment an extinct volcano. He had not the magnantmity to help the triumph of a hatred rival even in a cause to which he was no less deeply pledged. He gave faint-hearted support to the measure, hardly less fatal than open opposition."

opposition."

The ground taken by the Government was that the House should refuse to submit to the dictation of an armed assembly. Notwithstanding a magnificent speech from Flood; "By the overwhelming majority of 157 to 77 he was a stranged parallel to the control of the cont was refused permission to even bring in his Bill, and the following motion was carried as a direct challenge to the Volunteers: That it has now become indispensably necessary to declare 'That the House will maintain its just rights and privileges against all en-croachments whatever. This motion, so insulting to the Volunteers, to whose support he was indebted for his triumphs, was, it appears from the grateful letter

was, it appears from the grateful letter of the Vicercy, supported by Grattan."
"When the news of the defeat and the humiliation was conveyed to the Volunteers it is possible they would have taught a useful lesson to the contumacious Parliament if they had had a leader who could rise to the occasion. But the feeble and frightened Lord Charlement at once proceeded to engineer an ignominous surrender. He called to order a too daring delegate who ventured to protest against their treatment by Parliament and moved and carried an indefinite adjournment.

indefinite adjournment.
"Exeunt the Irish Volunteers, and with them all hope of the reform or the stabil-ity of Grattan's Parliament." We have devoted space to this Dublin

We have devoted space to this Dublin Convention because of the calamitous results which flowed from the seemingly unimportant choice of chairman. As Mr. Bodkin says:—"If the Bishop of Derry had succeeded in securing the control of the Convention the result would have probably been widely different from what it was. He certainly would never have yielded to the defiance of a

ent from what it was. He certainly would never have yielded to the defiance of a corrupt House of Commons determined to perpetuate its own corruption."

"Flood, to test the sincerity of the outery against military dictation, reintroduced his Reform Bill backed by petitions and resolutions from all parts of the country. It was rejected more ignominously than before. Grattan's several proposals in favor of Catholic Emancipation met a similar fate. His eloquence was splendid as ever, but it no longer had the mensoing force of the onger had the menacing force of the counteers behinds it." p. 173, sq. \* \* "It is true that in 1793 the Govern-

ment which had resisted a more moderate measure the year before passed an Act admitting Catholics to the 40 shilling freshold, which was afterwards sacri-fixed by CCoppell." freehold, which was ficed by O'Connell."

difficulty occurred between Ireland, with respect to a commercial treaty with Pertugal, which was got over by a backdown on the part of Ire-A later conflict ended differently

"In the year 1788 George III. fell sick or went mad: historians differ on the point; but it is quite certain that he could no longer discharge even the ornamental duties of a King. The Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., was chosen Regent by the British Par-liament under the leadership of Pitt. But Pitt and the Tory majority, mis-trusting the Regent, imposed various restrictions on the Regency. Fox, as leader of the Liberals and partisan of the Prince, demanded for him full royal

authority. "The question mattered not one pin's point to ireland. She was no more concerned than the weeping player in Hamlet with the misfortunes of Hecuba. The Regent, either as Prince of Wales or as sovereign, was not a personage to awaken enthusiasm or sympathy. Whether he had or not a right to create

Whether he had or not a right to create unlimited peers was certainly not a topic of vital interest to Ireland.

"But Grattan, influenced, no doubt, by his great personal friendship for Fox, took up the question with a vehemence all his own. In defiance of the Government he carried an Address of the Irish Payliament offening an unrestricted. Parliament offering an unrestricted sovereignty to the Regent, who was graciously pleased to accept it.

"An acute crisis was thus created be-

en the two countries. The Regency

tween the two countries. The Regency of Ireland was declared to be distinct from the Regency of England: the golden link of the crown was broken. "'Suppose,'said Macawlay,'no extravagant supposition—suppose that George III. had not recovered, that the rest of his long life had been spent in seclusion, Great Britain and Ireland would have been during thirty-two years as combeen during thirty-two years as com-pletely separated as Great Britain and Spain. There would have been nothing in common between the Governments, neither executive power nor legislative

power.'

"This was a contingency that British Statesmen could not contemplate with patience. The crisis, indeed, passed with the immediate recovery of the King. But it is plain that from that time Pitt determined that the only persuance it is plain that the only persuance it dangerous situation. manent solution of a dangerous situation was to be found in a legislative Union."

Chapter XIX. is headed "Corruption and Coercion." Upon this we shall not

dwell.

"On May 15, 1797, a memorable day
for the Irish Parliament, Mr. Ponsonby
moved his Bill for reform and Catholic
Emancipation combined." After a warm

debate:
"The Bill was rejected by the over-whelming majority of 170 to 30. Grattan fulfilled his threat (made during the debate). He and his friends retired in a bate). He and his friends retired in a body from the House and at the dissolu-tion they refused re-election. The triumph of corruption was complete: the Government was left wholly un-trammelled to its own devices: the Union

vas inevitable." Looking at Grattan's course from spectator's point of view, it is submitted that his action in quitting the House of Commons in 1797 was unwise and that it helped materially to bring about the Union. It would seem that he himself realised that he had made a mistake, as he again became a member in 1800, when too late for his presence to ma-

terially affect the result. The question of Union was first brought directly before the Irish Parliament in the Speech from the throne, de-livered on the 22nd of January, 1799. An amendment, in favor of retaining the independence recognized in 1782, was moved by George Ponsonby, who had taken Grattan's place as leader of the

Patriot Party and was defeated by a majority of one. When, however, the report of the Committee appointed to draw up an address in reply to the speech came up for consideration, the Government were defeated, the vote being 105 for the address and 111 against. After this division Mr. Ponsonby moved "that this House will ever maintain the undoubted birthright of Irishmen by preserving an independent Parliament." preserving an independent Parliament of Lords and Commons resident in this Kingdom as stated and approved of by His Majesty and the British Parliament in 1782."

"The motion was carried, the members rose to withdraw, when the speaker, Mr. Foster, himself a strong opponent of the Union, anxious, no doubt, to give the fullest emphasis to this declaration, in a culture of the control o fullest emphasis to this declaration, in ah evil moment requested Mr. Ponsonby to write out the precise terms of his motion." The question was put and only two negative voices were heard,

wo negative voices were heard.

"Government had given up the contest, and the independence of Ireland was on the very verge of permanent security when, to the surprise and dismay of the triumohant opposition, Mr. William Charles Fortescue, the undistinguished member for South County, requested to be heard before the final decision was announced. He was one of those precise, self sufficient fools who are to be found in every assembly and who love the sound of their own voices. He said that he was averse to the measure of Legislative Union and had given his decided vote against it, but he did not wish to bind himself forever; he did not approve of any determination which forever closed doors against any possibility

ever closed doors against any possibility of future discussion.

"The opposition was paralysed, the Government was roused to rejoicing. A single sentence plausibly conceived and uttered by an unreflecting respectable fool decided the fate of the Irish nation. to offeed a pretext for timidity, a pre-cedent for caution and a subterfuge for wavering venality. Mr. French of Ros-common, a dull country gentleman, Lord Cole, a young nobleman of honest, inconsid-ate mind, both of whom had on the last divate mind, both of whom had on the last division voted sincerely against the minister, lightly declared themselves of Mr. Fortescue's opinion. Mr. John Claudius Beresford, who had only been restrained from supporting the Union by the fact that he was representative of the Metropolis, eager to curry favor with Lord Clare, avowed himself of the same determination.

determination.

"It is no exaggeration to say that by this trivial incident the fate of Ireland was decided. If the egregious Mr. Fortescue had held his tongue for one moment longer Ponsonby's motion would have been carried by acclamation and the project of the Union could never be revived. As it was, the spirits of the de-feated Unionists revived, the triumphant Opposition were dismayed. Ponsonby had no option but to withdraw his motion. For the Opposition it was retreat after victory, for the Government a triumph after a defeat—a triumph which stimulated them to proceed with their project."

their project."
Mr. Bodkin's twenty-third chapter is entitled " A Carnival of Corruption and sets forth the means adopted by Castlereagh and Clare and their satellite Cooke, to intimidate and corrupt the Commons into accepting the Union. These are fairly well known and need not be detailed.

not be detailed.

"Gilbert writes: 'The amount expended by the Government to procure a majority has been stated at £3,000,000 exclusive of twenty-nine new creations add twenty promotions in the Irish peerage, together with Eaglish peerages conferred on 6 noblemen, on account of Irish services, at this juncture.

"In addition to the foregoing the sum of £1,260,000 was paid under the Bill authorizing compensation for disfran-chised boroughs, the total number of which was 84."

During the debate, Grattan, who had During the debate, Grattan, who had just been returned for the borough of Wicklow, again took his seat in the House and delivered a magnificent speech against the Government measure.

"Dead silence fell again when he had

closed, and one can well believe that there were many troubled consciences in that great corrupt assembly, many who felt the pangs of wounded honor.

But the jingling of the guines heals the wounds that honor feels. The price had been paid and the goods must be delivered. Grattan's eloquence availed nothing against the more substantial ar-

nothing against the more substantial arguments of Castlereagh. Though the Government could not yet muster its full forces it won by a majority of 138 to 96. A day of shame for Ireland!"

"The Bill, as might be expected, encountered no opposition in England. On the 2nd of July it received the Royal assent. The ancient Parliament of Ireland had ceased to exist." (n. 261.)

land had ceased to exist." (p. 261.)
Chapter XXIX. deals with the "Blessings of a Resident Parliament." We give the opening paragraphs:

"The strange fact remains that, unre-formed as it was and corrupt to the core, persistently refusing representation to the great Catholic majority who con-stituted three-fourths of the people, Grattan's Parliament during the eight-een years of its existence unquestionen years of its existence unquestionably conferred inestimable benefits on the people of Ireland. On this point there is a concurrence of testimony that makes doubt impossible.

"Lecky describes Irish finance during that period as 'thoroughly sound.' Nothing is more certain,' he writes, 'than that for many years after the declaration of Irish Independence, Irish wealth was rapidly augmenting.'"

In addition to Mr. Lecky, who was himself a Unionist, our author cites Foster, the speaker of the Irish Commons, the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer, Woodfall, Lord Shefileld, Mr. Secretary Cooke, Lord Chare, and Miss Murray, author of a book on the financial

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# relations of the two countries. He then

credible shat a Parliament which, though brilliant in the extreme, was at the same time unrepresentative and corrupt, could be capable of such splendid service to the country. Grattan himself supplies the explanation — the Irish Parliament was resident in Ireland.

supplies the explanation—the Irish Parliament was resident in Ireland.

"With all its imperfections,' he said,' its temptations and its corruptions, it was potent for good. Because its members sat in Ireland, because they sat in their own country and because at that time they had a country; because however influenced, as many of its members were by places, however uninfluenced, as many of its members were by places, however uninfluenced, as many of its members were by places, however uninfluenced, as many of its members were by popular representation, yet they were influenced by Irish sympathy. They did not like to meet every hour faces that looked shame upon them. They did not like to stand in the sphere of their own infamy. Thus they acted as the Irish absentee did not act. They saved the country because they lived in it."

The next Chapter is headed "Unionist Finance" and is devoted to showing that the financial provisions of the Union Act were unfair to Ireland. Ireland's contribution of two-fifteenths of the whole taxation is now almost unanimously admitted to be far in excess of what equity would have demanded. Several members of the Financial Relations Committee, appointed in 1904, held that Ireland's share should not exceed one twentieth, while others placed it as low as one thirty-sixth. We shall, we trust, be pardoned if we give a somewhat long extract embodying the substance of Chapter XXXI. "Repeal of Home Rule:"

"The Home Rule policy fermulated at the Rotunda Conference (held in 1873 under the presidency of Isaac Butt) has been ever since the policy of the Nation-

under the presidency of Issac Butt) has been ever since the policy of the Nation-alists of Ireland. It differs essentially alists of Ireland. It differs essentially from the old policy of Repeal. By Repeal, as has been already said, separation is necessarily implied. Home Rule repudiates separation. By the acceptance of Home Rule the Irish people for the first time abandon their claim to an Independent Parliament and attorn to the Union. By the acceptance of Home Rule the absolute supremacy of the Imperial Parliament is expressly acknowledged. "To talk of such a compact as the disruption of the Empire is the sheerest abaurdity. The Empire gains by Home Rule the freely tendered loyalty of the one country whose loyalty is most essential and whose disloyalty has heretofore been most dangerous to its stability.

been most dangerous to its stability.

"While Home Rule commends itself to England as a pledge of Ireland's loyalty to the Empire, to Ireland it offers far greater advantages than the impossible policy of Repeal. Grattan's Parliament was invaluable, solely because it was native and resident. The Home Rule Parliament will be both, but it will be, moreover, what Grattan's Parlia-ment never was, fully representative, wholly incorruptible. Above all and beyond all, under Home Rule there will be for the first time an Irish Executive responsible to Parliament and therefor

esponsible to the people.
"Under Grattan's Parliament an alien Executive controlled the Irish House of Commons, under Home Rule the Irish, House of Commons will control a native

"Grattan's Parliament, nominally independent, was completely subservient to the Executive that corrupted it. The Home Rule Parliament will, so far as Irish affairs are concerned, be practi-cally supreme. There will be no tempt-ation because there will be no power to interfere in Imperial concerns ction of a regent or the declaration of a war. Even in Irish affairs, it tion of a war. Even in the large is true, the veto of the Imperial Parliament will remain to be exercised in an emergency, but it is reasonable to hope

hat no such emergency will arise."

Our author's last chapter is entitled. The Impending Settlement" and deals with the prospects and provisions of the Bill now before the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Into those we need

print is large, the paper thick and the margin of each page generous. There are 33 illustrations, including 3 or 4 are 33 illustrations, including 3 or 4 views of the famous House in College Green and portraits of most of the leaders of Government and of Opposition, which are of an unusual order of merit. The net price is 10 shillings and 6 pence sterling, which seems rather high for a book of 320 pages. If a second edition is called for, as we assume will soon be the case, we venture to hope that it will be issued at a lower figure, even at the sacrifice of some of the physical excellence which makes the first a thing of beauty. The book is one which should be read by all who take an interest in its subject matter, and the present price will exclude many

take an interest in its subject matter, and the present price will exclude many of that numerous class.

Largely for this reason we have tried to give, as a rule in Mr. Bodkin's own language, so much of the substance of this work as will enable our readers to form fairly clear ideas of the constitutional history of Ireland up to the establishing of Grattan's Parliament, of the birth, character, acts and death of that body and of the Home Rule which is expected to take its place. We should, however, urge every one of our readers who can do so to read the book for himself. Our sketch bears the same kind of likeness to it as the skeleton of a Lion bears to the living King of Beasts. bears to the living King of Beasts.

Trials of the Convert

Converts to the Church are as a rule a sensitive class of people. Their com-ing into the Church has perhaps caused them much anguish and suffering and ven the positive loss of former fr It is beyond human nature not to feel this. If they are not treated cordially by their new found friends the wound is a bitter one. It is well to go out of one's way to assure the new convert of his welcome into the ranks. He re-joices in knowing that he is not an in-truder. He will appreciate the kind word in his time of trial.—The Tablet.

The pleasant things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the greatest art in life is to have as many of them as

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### DECADENT NATIONS

The nations are opening their eyes to the fact that their very existence is be-ing menaced by racial suicide. The finger has long been pointed at France, and now Germany is beginning to real-ize that the rottenness is eating into its heart.

heart.

To find a remedy for the sad state of affairs some of the German sociologists have been puzzing their brains. The result of their investigations is made known in the resolves of the Mitgar Society recently in convention at Jens, Germany.

They have made the wonderful and They have made the wonderful and alarming discovery that the only remedy to check the falling birth rate and to regenerate, the decadent nations is to establish a polygamy. And to prove the contention the society intends to establish a colony where polygamy will be practiced.

There need be little fear of that formany has not lost its corner of decadent.

There need be little fear of that Germany has not lost its sense of decency. And it can be expected that the partial attempt to further this uncivilized propagands will end with the jailing of all the polygamists.

Sad as the affair is, it is interesting as showing the futility of grasping with the problem scientifically. These so-called scientists would make of marriage a stock farm or rather a kennel where children would be littered like puopies.

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It is the same error that the Eugenists with all their high-sounding talk are making. Only the Eugenists are working for race suicide. With them the cry is quality, instead of quantity. Every Eugenist believes, of course, as a fundamental principle, that he is the norm of the human race. It is he is the norm of the human race. It is only such perfect specimens as he that should be allowed to propagate. All other family trees are to be dug up and destroyed; It is to be the "survival of the fittest" the fittest being chosen by these physical and intellectual paragons the Eugenists.

Again there need be little worry over the Eugenists. They may talk a great deal, but it is all talk and nothing more. It is bound to have as little in fluence upon the propagation of the race as the refutal of those ministers in Chilaw, no scientific pronouncement will ever avail to tell a man how many or ow few children he must have.

The whole difficulty comes into the domain of religion. Race suicide is due for the most part to sins of immorality. Unlawful restriction of the family by sins of prevention is at the bottom of it. The laws of nature are violated in many different ways and the re-sult is a decadent nation. The laws of nature will provide for the peopling o the earth if they are not broken.

And so it is not scientific twaddle that will remedy matters but rather a sense of sin. Regard for the laws of God, for the laws of nature which he has established: seeing these sins of race suicide as they are in reality works of iniquity will slone redeem those who pursue their lusts and refuse to assume parental responsibility.

Said Mr. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, necessary that our statesmen should at once abandon the absurd and odius war which they have waged for a quarter of a century, and practically for the last fifteen years, against our country's tra-ditional beliefs."

In other words he might say, 'Listen to the Catholic Church. She tells you that race suicide is a sin, a mortal sin, that damns the soul, and it is only by being convinced of that, and of the awfulness of the command of God to respect the laws of nature that the world will, be freed from this impure blot.—

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