

—scattered all over Ireland—stated in their published appeal that Home Rule “would result in the all-but certainty of civil war.” (2) The Belfast Chamber of Commerce (see THE WEEK of Sept. 8, 1893), states that “the Bill cannot be enforced in Belfast or Ulster except by coercion; by the force of the empire,” etc., etc. (3) Highly placed military and naval officers wrote to the *Times*—voicing the opinions of others—that if it came to using force, they would not order their men to fire upon the Unionists. Apparently this represents the determination of the majority of the officers. Under such circumstances civil war would unquestionably have happened—certainly in Ireland and possibly so in England. Surely the Peers acted wisely and patriotically in preventing a repetition of the horrors of 1798!

Although the Unionists earnestly wish for an appeal to the country, the Gladstonians are opposed to such a course as the local wire-pullers report strongly against doing so at the present time. In London a strong feeling has arisen since the details of the Home Rule Bill have become known; and it is certain that six Gladstonian seats, won by very trifling majorities—one as small as three—would be lost. It is reasonably certain that the English majority of 71 against Home Rule will be largely increased at the next general election.

Canadians should ponder over Mr. Gladstone's plain statement that the intelligence of the country as a mass is opposed to the Home Rule Bill. The intelligence of a country is to be found in all ranks from the lowest to the highest. Canadians should also ask themselves this question: If the intelligence of Canada was strongly opposed to a disrupting enactment, what would they say of a statesman who knowingly flattered and dickered with the least intelligent in order to dictate to and crush the intelligent? It is very suggestive that notwithstanding threats and intimidations, one-seventh of the Catholics resident in Ireland petitioned against it. In Dublin—city and county—at the Irish average of five to a family, there are 83,800 families of whom 17,707 are Protestants, but there were 45,900 petitions. In the home of Grattan's Parliament evidently more than one-half are Unionists.

One novel feature in this Parliament is the unusual strength of the party tie. Never before in English history have liberal M.P.'s voted so unanimously and so blindly as their leader demanded and so often in opposition to their real convictions. When Fox sided with the enemies of his country in 1793-5, the majority of his party left him and went over to the Tories. They preferred their country to their party. With all our boasted improvement we lack the masculinity of those times; for now people prefer their party to their country. It is an open secret that some of the Gladstonians voted for the third reading of the Home Rule Bill believing and hoping that the Lords would throw it out. The London *Economist*—the leading financial journal in the world and non-political—knowing that the passing of the Home Rule Bill by the Peers would cause a dreadful commercial panic in Ireland, stated in its issue of Sept. 2, “if the Lords do not reject the Home Rule Bill, they will arouse almost as much indignation among Gladstonians as among Unionists. . . . If by any chance it passes, there will be a universal outcry of horror and astonishment.”

It is a common error on this side of the Atlantic to believe that all English workingmen are necessarily Radicals. There are 4,539,000 electors in England, the great majority of course being workingmen. The agricultural laborers alone number 969,000 and they have votes. Yet at the last general election there was a Unionist majority of 71 in England, notwithstanding that in some constituencies it was actually alleged that returning Conservatives meant largely increasing the price of bread—and that returning Gladstonian Liberals would in some mysterious manner raise the wages of workingmen. Half-a-dozen seats, counting 12 on a division, were wrested from the Unionists by these false assertions. Out of 234 English county constituencies the Unionists won 131, almost 56 per cent. These

facts show conclusively that a very large proportion of the English workingmen are either Conservatives or Liberal Unionists.

In conclusion I submit that (1) greater care should be exercised in ascertaining and reporting upon the real opinions of the English people; and (2) that we should always accept at their real value the unanimous resolutions of the “Three Tailors of Tooley Street,” when they claim to speak for the nation.

Your obedient servant,

FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

Toronto, Dec. 24.

#### READING FOR THE INDIANS.

To the Editor of The Week:

Sir,—In your issue of the twenty-ninth of December, 1893, I notice a letter under the caption “Reading for the Indians,” requesting contributions of magazines, papers and books for Indian Schools in the United States. I hope that Canadians will consider the needs of our own schools in these directions before sending their old magazines to American schools. In the Province of Ontario we have flourishing institutions for the education of the Indians, and in the North-west and British Columbia we have many more. To those who are interested in missionary work in these regions I need not mention the names of the schools as they are already well known, but if any person who does not know where to send old magazines and periodicals, particularly those which contain simple reading and attractive pictures, will send them to me, addressed to the Department of Indian Affairs, I will take great pleasure in forwarding them to our industrial schools. As the periodicals are to be used in work in which the Government is directly interested, they may be sent to Ottawa free of postage.

Yours truly,

DUNCAN C. SCOTT.

Ottawa, 2nd Jan., 1894.

#### MR. GIROUARD'S HISTORY OF LAKE ST. LOUIS:

##### LITERARY MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

One of the most notable of the many notable and important additions recently made to Canadian historical literature is “Lake St. Louis, old and new, illustrated, and Cavalier de la Salle,” from the pen of Mr. Désiré Girouard, a gentleman heretofore known to us as an able advocate at the Montreal bar, and as one of the most enlightened representatives of his Province in the national Parliament. This noble, monumental work owes its appearance at this time and in its present form to the recent World's Fair. It is a Columbian edition, intended to mark the historical connection existing between the little town of Lachine, in the East, and the stately city of Chicago, in the West, both of which places claim the honor of having had La Salle, the discoverer of the Mississippi, as a resident, in the early days of their history. Although much of Mr. Girouard's work relates to Lachine, St. Anne, Isle Dorval and places round and about Lake St. Louis, the ground occupied by the author extends far beyond, and may be said to cover an extensive portion, not only of the Island of Montreal, but of the Ottawa Valley as well. The book is unique of its kind, not only as regards originality of design, but in the happy treatment of its subject and the splendid character of its *tout ensemble* as a specimen of Canadian bookmaking. The task undertaken by Mr. Girouard was evidently a labour of love; seeing that he was born in the neighborhood, if not on the very shores of the historic Lake whose story he tells and that Lachine and Dorval have alternately been his home for many years past.

Jacques Cartier, too, the county he represents in Parliament, covers a large portion of the country forming his theatre of action. While the scenery of the whole of this favored region is exceedingly picturesque and easily counted among the most attractive in the Dominion, its history abounds in events and incidents highly dramatic and romantic in character. Both story and scenery have found interpretation in the songs of Moore, and in one of the luminous and fascinating books of adventure of Washington Irving. Who that reads has not felt the charm of the description in “Astoria,” of the departure from Lachine of the fleet of voyageurs en route for their far distant goal on the Columbia River? Our own John Fraser, from Glengarry, in his book of “Sketches,” has likewise preserved some entertaining facts and recollections connected with one portion, at least, of the country referred to; but it required all the ardour, perseverance and ability of a Girouard to frame a history out of the scattered materials at hand—to bring together and put into a harmonious whole the various fragments and details of information hid away in many an ancient depository and storehouse. Time and space will not permit of our entering more fully into the subject on the present occasion. Suffice for us to say, that the learned juris-consult has succeeded in producing a local history so complete and reliable in its treatment and character, as to deserve a place in Canadian collections alongside the best efforts of Hart, Lighthall, Scadding and LeMoine. It is a work of which both the author and the Dominion may well feel proud, and we trust that the patriotism and enterprise which are so evident in its production may meet with proper recognition and encouragement. Certainly, no public library on the continent can afford to be without a copy of the book which, it may be explained, includes under its ample cover, besides a variety of new and valuable matter, the contents of three previous publications from the pen of Mr. Girouard, viz: “Le vieux Lachine et le Massacre du 5 août, 1639;” “Les Anciens Fort de Lachine et Cavalier de la Salle;” and “Les Anciennes Cotes du Saint Louis avec un Tableau des Anciens et Nouveaux Propriétaires.” Before dismissing the subject, we cannot resist the opportunity of expressing the gratification we have experienced on finding by this book that we have among our legislators another public man with tastes and addictions for something above and beyond Canadian politics. In England, France, the United States and other enlightened communities, the number of statesmen and public men who, in addition to their ordinary pursuits, cultivate a taste for literary and historical study and investigation, is large, and includes, past and present, some of the greatest names in the literary firmament, as, for instance, among English men of letters, Campbell, Brougham, McCarthy, Mackintosh, Gladstone, D'Israeli, Bulwer, Macaulay and the 14th Lord Derby; among French, Guizot, Thiers and Lamartine; and among American, Bancroft, Motley, Prescott, Everett, Hawthorne and Irving. In the Dominion, unfortunately, we cannot make as satisfactory an exhibit in this as in other fields of thought and investigation. Here the number of public men with literary tastes is not as large as it should be under the fostering influences surrounding us. Moreover, some of the little band, like the scholarly and brilliant Davin, are not the product of the Canadian