

act has been performed, if a grand expression has been made by one of their own, such is played upon in every key to the edification of those who listen and to the credit of those who act. But when it comes to the Irishman, he is represented in the vilest of caricature; and how can we blame the stranger if he judges our race by what he beholds on the stage? Have we not heroic deeds sufficient, noble characters enough, inspiring incidents in numbers to present to the public? We do not require to dive into the misty past, to revive heroes of the far away ages, to draw pictures of immortal poets, orators, statesmen, warriors and patriots; we need only picture the Irish gentleman as he is, as he stands before us in his education, his refinement, his high principles and his grand character. That will suffice; and, by so doing, we will be doing credit to our race, justice to our people, and giving the world a true and honest idea of the nationality. It is full time that these caricatures should be done away with, and we rejoice to see that a branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians has been patriotic and just enough to take up the matter and to assist in stamping out one of the most low and contemptible means imaginable of casting discredit upon a high-minded, generous and noble race of men. We hope that this very broad hint will be taken, and that not only our Irish concerts and representations will be purged all over America of this dross, but that strangers who make use of this method of insulting our race will meet with a cold shoulder wherever they go.

#### INDIAN HOME RULE.

On more than one occasion we found it necessary to call attention to the very anti-Irish spirit that animates the Gazette. At all events that spirit pops up at times, and we are now beyond feeling the least surprise when that organ, with its ultra-Toryism, sneers at or seeks to slap at the Irish cause. In its issue of last Wednesday, the 10th October, under the heading "Indian Home Rule," the Gazette goes out of its way to ridicule the cause that is dear to millions of noble-minded people and to insult the feelings of the Irish race, here and elsewhere. We take two short extracts from that short and correspondingly vicious article. It is unnecessary to quote the semi-humorous remarks regarding the Indian representative in the Imperial House. When the Gazette becomes, or tries to become funny, it generally leaves something on record not worth reproduction. Moreover, we are not now dealing with the Indian question of Home Rule, but with the Gazette's expressions concerning Irish Home Rule.

"The promoters of the Indian claim for self government are endeavoring to get the Hon. Edward Blake to preside at their congress with the view of placing their cause in association with that of Irish home rule. It can hardly be said that the latter movement is in such a flourishing condition that association with it can be looked upon as a good omen, but the few score of mild Hindoos who claim to speak on behalf of India's millions are mistaken if they think they can force their fad on the attention of the British House of Commons in the same way as the Irish question has been brought to the front."

So even a Hindoo movement is not likely to profit by being associated with an Irish one—so thinks the Gazette. And that organ thinks far more than it cares to say. It might not suit its purposes to state all its sentiments. It don't exactly call the Irish Home Rule question a fad, but it applies the term to the Indian Home Rule movement, and lets the "few score of mild Hindoos,"

know that they can expect no success if they seek to bring their question of self-government before the British House of Commons. We will now pass on to another mild insinuation followed up by a direct out. Still referring to this Indian Home Rule the Gazette kindly says:

"Perhaps the relegation of the question to the limbo of the impracticable is the best thing that could happen, for if by any chance the leaders of the Indian agitation were to get home rule, they would be the first to implore the interference of the Imperial Government to save them from violence and oppression. Whether Ireland is really fit for self-government is an open question, but there can be no doubt that the vast majority of the people of India do not want to rule; they want to be ruled, and they had rather be ruled by British officials than by their own countrymen."

Here is a broad hint that were the Irish people to get Home Rule, they would be the first to implore the Imperial Government to save them from their own legislation. But of course the Gazette is in a state of doubt; it considers it an open question "whether Ireland is really fit for self-government." How does it come that all over the world, in every popularly and constitutionally governed country, the Irish have proven themselves the very wisest and most successful of legislators? Look over the history of the neighboring States during the past hundred years and you find that Irishmen—not only Irish-Americans, but Irish-born citizens—have given evidence of exceptionally successful legislative powers. In Australia the government of the vast colony has been almost entirely in the hands of Irishmen. Here in Canada they have left no mean record to tell of all they did in the formation of the country. Why then could not the same race govern themselves under a Home Rule system? The Gazette says it is an open question; it has not the courage to say what it thinks and to inform us, according to its stage-coach wisdom, that Ireland is unfit for self-government.

The question, in our mind, is not at all an open one. Firstly, the Gazette and its anti-Irish element must remember that Ireland has not yet had a trial of legislative autonomy or Home Rule under a modern federal system. The Irishmen of this past century and of today have had no opportunity of trying their hands in native legislation. To state, or even hint, that they are not able to govern themselves is an act of meanness and of simple injustice. Then, again, the Irish not having had a chance to make their own laws at home, we should look abroad and see how they succeeded in other lands. Of course, if they failed elsewhere, it is not to be expected that they should succeed on their own ground; but when they have left monuments of legislative power, acumen and greatness behind them in every land where they became legislators, is it not rational to suppose that when they secure an opportunity of exercising these same qualities in a native parliament, they will score even greater successes? Most certainly that is the most reasonable, the honest, the unprejudiced view that should be taken. But the Gazette has proven on more than one occasion, and each time in a very lame manner, that it becomes unreasonable, anything but politically honest, and most terribly prejudiced the moment there is question of Ireland or justice to that land. Every now and again a lengthy, able and historically philosophic and philosophically historic editorial appears in its columns, on some subject affecting the Catholic Church, the attitude of the Pope, or the importance of Papal decisions, and this, while displaying any amount of encyclopaedic erudition, serves to impress the

readers with the fairness of the Gazette towards the Catholic Church. While fully admitting the value of these quasi-Catholic editorials, we must not forget that its tone is always very different and its style much less exact when there is a question of Irish Catholic or Ireland from a Catholic standpoint.

#### EDWARD BLAKE'S CRITICS.

It has been extensively announced of late that Hon. Edward Blake was to deliver lectures in Philadelphia and elsewhere on the situation in Ireland and the prospects of the Home Rule party. In that there is nothing surprising since that gentleman has ever been ready, in Canada or the United States, when absent from his parliamentary duties in London, to cast all the light possible upon this most interesting of subjects and to lend the aid of his great eloquence to a cause that he has shown, beyond all question or criticism, to be dear to his heart. We have been favored with a circular from New York in which Mr. Blake is somewhat roughly handled and decided misjudged both as to his motives and his actions. The flaming headed document comes from the "Irish Independent Parliamentary Party" of New York, and bears in large type the names of the President, Treasurer, Secretary and the whole of the Executive Committee. It is entitled "A warning to the Irish people and Friends of Ireland in America," and as sub-heading, "An Irish Whig Agent in Our Midst." It then proceeds to deal with honorable Mr. Blake in a manner indicative of great absence of delicacy, a want of fair-play, and a lack of knowledge regarding that gentleman. It is one more of these miserable instruments that serve to retard the progress of the Irish cause, by attempting to tear down and shackle men who have sacrificed money, position, home, associations, political ambitions and everything dear to them for the sake of a cause that they honestly believed just, and sincerely sought to serve. A circular that has for object the cutting of the grass beneath the feet of a man like Blake comes to the wrong place when it finds its way into Irish Canadian hands. Knowing the man, the situation and the circumstances as we do, we feel ashamed that any person or persons professing Irish sympathies should lend themselves to an attack upon his personality, conduct or motives.

Men may disagree, and disagree honestly, as to the best means to be adopted to carry to a successful issue the present struggle; but that liberty and right of opinion in no way justifies deep ingratitude towards the country's benefactors, nor excuse ungenerous criticism of one who has done more, in a single year, than any of these patriots ever attempt or would be able to do in a life time. Just imagine the following language:

A circular purporting to emanate from persons styling themselves the Irish Nation of America, who claim to represent the Irish people of the United States, has been addressed to various Irish organizations asking to assist in a reception to be given to a Mr. Blake. (The italics are ours.) Just as if Mr. Blake were some insignificant tramp or itinerant lecturer, and not a man whose name is a household word on both sides of the Atlantic, from the remotest Irish cottage on the hillsides of the Old Land to the smallest hamlet on the continent of America. What good is the Irish cause to derive from such a method of treating one of its sincerest advocates? Whether the policy of one section or the other of the Home Rule party is the better, graver and more learned and more experienced heads than ours have failed to agree; but no matter what our

personal, political, or other ideas may be, we only belittle ourselves in the eyes of a serious world by striving to belittle men of Blake's calibre. The circular goes on: "It will be well for the members of these organizations and friends of the Irish cause to know who this Mr. Blake is, and what he represents, as well as his record in the Irish movement." Evidently the writer of that is one of the few who are really ignorant of who Mr. Blake is. If not, then it is a cruel misrepresentation of the man, and the more so because it is intentional. The rest of the circular is a long tirade against Mr. Blake and the present Irish Parliamentary party. We don't intend, nor would we feel justified, in entering into any arguments for or against the pretensions of the different sections that unfortunately exist in the Home Rule ranks; but we positively object to having one of our first Irish Canadians, a man who has given up his lucrative profession, his high political rank, the enjoyment of a comfortable home, the associations and ties that date from childhood, to go into a new arena and struggle for a principle that he, as does the world, acknowledges sacred and just, ridiculed in any way or misjudged as to his motives and actions. Hon. Mr. Blake requires no special defence at our hands; but we must say that if ever success is going to be the share of Home Rulers, and if ever Ireland is to enjoy that political autonomy for which many noble souls have fought and have died, it will only be when the men who are most self-sacrificing and devoted to the race receive that recognition which is their due, and when the old policy of firing the arrows of partizanship at them becomes buried in the general cause.

In the October number of the Catholic School and Home Magazine, Francis P. McKeon has the following beautiful lines on "Thy Neighbor":

Think no harsh thoughts of him, though he may look  
So cold and proud—thou canst not see his heart;  
And those hard lines—oh, they may make a book  
Where God delights to read a saint's high art!

Speak not unkindly, though his words be short:  
He hath his sorrow pressing dally down;  
Seal thou thy lips upon the quick retort,  
Give wit reproof, and earn thy patient crown.

Deal gently with him, though his way be gruff—  
May not some thorn be turning in his side?  
Oh, every man's a diamond in the rough;  
Or Christ had never been the Crucified!

This magnificent Christian sentiment, so beautifully expressed, recalls an old stanza that has probably long since passed out of the knowledge of our present generation, but it contained a guiding advice:

"Let us talk of a man as we find him,  
And censure alone what we see;  
If any should blame let's remind him,  
That from faults there are none of us free."

There is true poetry in the Christianity that such lives express, and we are glad to see that one of the favorably known writers of the present has touched such a chord upon his lyre.

The London Universe, referring to Mr. Laycock's war upon the Church, gives the following list of his war cries:

"The false doctrines of Rome; the false assumptions of Rome; the arrogance of Rome; the attitude of Rome; the effect of Romish teaching; the disunion in Rome; the intellectual and spiritual condition of Rome; the Pope under the thumb of others; the history of the Popes; a strong protest against Rome; coquetting with Rome; and lastly a call upon Englishmen."

The same organ adds: "We can almost fancy that most even of his own party will be inclined to exclaim: 'Who is this that wrappeth up sentences in unskilful words? (Job xxxviii.)' The Vicar of Hurdfield must be a wonderful man; quite romantic—or rather antic without the Rome."