



EDITORIAL NOTES.

"AMERICA, daughter and sister of England," is a line in Swinburne's recent effusion. The Boston Pilot, referring to this extraordinary verse—more extraordinary from the pen of such a world-famed poet—very quaintly remarks: "So long as we remain within the prohibited degrees of kin and cannot get married, it is all right; but it is confusing for Uncle Sam to be daughter and sister at once to the individual whom he only knows as John Bull."

AT BRIDGETON, New Jersey a number of madmen—some fifty in all—have formed a suicide club. It was organized on the 22nd February. A cigar dealer, John Pierce, was elected president, and one Edward Cummings was appointed secretary. The reports from that locality say that they paraded the streets, each wearing a red ribbon with the skull and cross-bones upon it. Each year, on Washington's birthday a supper is given, and the member who draws the black-ball must die within the year. The first supper took place on Thursday last. We cannot see what ghouliah attraction there can be for any sane man in this suicide association, nor can we understand what reasoning they adopt to induce people to believe that there is some possible benefit to result from such madness. If these men are insane they should be locked up in some asylum; the State should see to it. On the other hand, if they claim to be sane, the course to be adopted by the authorities seems to us quite obvious. Before any one of these fools is allowed to put his crazy project into execution, the law should interfere, and the State should arrest them all—Pierce, Cummings and the other forty-eight—on a charge of conspiracy to take human life. If we mistake not the statutes of New Jersey would accommodate them with from seven to fourteen years in the State prison, where they might carry out their suicidal mania, if they saw fit, without incurring the danger of having it become contagious amongst the weak-minded citizens of the world. We would advise the authorities over there to put their law into immediate execution, and it might serve to rob such organizations of the tinsel of romance that seems to be their special attraction. Prison walls, gaol board, a pile of stones and a hammer are very good antidotes to a suicidal mania; we suggest the trial of them at once.

THE GRAND ORANGE LODGE of Belfast has called a meeting of the Unionists to take place on March 2, in the Ulster Hall of that city, when they will formally declare their opposition to Home Rule. The manifesto contains the following very peculiar language, especially coming from such "loyal" men as the Ulster Orangemen. "We demand either union with Great Britain or complete separation from Great Britain. We would accept the latter sorrowfully but courage-

ously, as the only alternative left to a deserted and betrayed people, but we would resist to the death any attempt to force upon us a bastard combination of the two." We learn also that these "very liberal-minded," "non-bigotted," and "loyal" gentlemen have arranged that all opponents of Home Rule shall "simultaneously withdraw their deposits from the Post Office savings banks and purchase arms to be used in case physical force should become necessary to prevent the assertion of Irish Home Rule in Ulster. Enquiries are already being made with a view to contracts for a supply of the latest improved weapons, and an Orange Club at Dungannon has received an offer from a Birmingham factory of 1,000 Martini rifles." It would be almost a pity not to give these boasters a chance of learning how really weak they are when standing out against the power of Great Britain. The power that held Catholic Ireland in cruel subjugation during a whole century, despite the appeals of the sympathizing nations and the frowns of every lover of justice, is not likely to shiver in presence of a handful of Orange bigots, even though armed to the teeth, now that the world at large smiles its approval upon the act of tardy justice soon to be consummated. Ulstermen need not think, for a moment, that they are going to frighten the British Government under the present circumstances. We would be ready to wager that the day upon which the Irish Legislature would be established, all the foam would vanish from the boasters' cup and no more submissive and "loyal" men in all the Empire would be found than these same Ulster Orangemen. Their bark is worse than their bite. The only difficulty with them is that they could not understand a kindness nor appreciate real "British fair-play." It would be more galling to them to receive even-handed justice from the Nationalist Legislature than to be the victims of a tyranny. They would prefer to suffer any injustice rather than to be forced to acknowledge the error of their ways. And yet such is the bitter cup they will have to drink to the dregs. Their heads will yet burn with the coals of kindness and justice that the hands of a Nationalist Government will heap upon them.

A DESPATCH from New York, dated 25th February, reads as follows: "The National League of America to-night issued an address to Irishmen, which is signed by the president, secretary and treasurer, and in part is as follows: Irishmen we ask you not to be deceived by these Home Rule measures. It is absolutely unworthy of the traditions and the genius of the people. A sovereign Parliament in Ireland, with complete control over her own affairs and not subject to the caprice of English parties should alone be acceptable to the Irish people."

What is the matter with the "National League of America?" The members of that great body should reflect that they are living in the United States and not in Ireland. They should remember that the failure of this bill, through any lack of support at home and abroad, will leave Ireland without a hope for the next fifty years to come. They should also consider that it is the Irish at home that would suffer in consequence, not the

members of the National League in America. No matter how the Bill fares the Irish in the United States will be no worse or no better off as far as they are individually concerned; but, if, because a radical measure cannot be obtained, they are to discourage and refuse aid to the present gigantic move, then the people of Ireland must suffer the loss of every hope and suffer it just as the doors of Liberty's antechambers were being flung open. It is very unfair to Gladstone, to the Home Rule Party in the British House, and to the Irish cause, to throw any cold water upon it at this juncture.

AMONG the features of the Home Rule Bill, not previously detailed in these columns, are the electoral apportionment and membership of the College Green Parliament, in the following manner:—

"In the event of the passage of the Home Rule Bill it is provided that the Irish Legislature shall be summoned to meet on the first Tuesday in September, 1894; whereupon the Irish representatives in the English Parliament shall immediately vacate the 103 seats now occupied by them and make way for eighty successors, to be elected from the counties and boroughs on the following scale of apportionments:—

Counties Carlow, Fermanagh, Kildare, Kilkenny, King's, Longford, Louth, Queen's, Waterford, Westmeath, Wicklow, 1 each.....	11
Boroughs Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Derry, Newry, Waterford, 1 each.....	6
Counties Armagh, Cavan, Clare, Dublin, Leitrim, Limerick, Londonderry, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo, Wexford, 2 each.....	24
Borough of Cork.....	2
Counties Antrim, Donegal, Down, Galway, Kerry, Mayo, Tipperary, Tyrone, 3 each.....	24
Boroughs Belfast, Dublin, 4 each.....	8
County Cork.....	8
Total.....	80

The Lower House shall consist of 103 members, practically representing the present Irish contingent in the British House of Commons.

The Upper House shall consist of forty-eight members chosen from the following counties and boroughs:—

Counties Armagh, Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork (West Riding), Donegal, Fermanagh, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, King's, Leitrim & Sligo, Londonderry, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Queen's, Roscommon, Tyrone, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow, 1 each.....	25
Borough of Cork.....	1
Counties Galway, Limerick, Tipperary, 2 each.....	6
Boroughs Dublin, Belfast 2 each.....	4
Counties Antrim, Cork (East Riding), Down, Dublin, 3 each.....	12
Total.....	48

All voters at elections for the Upper House must have a property qualification to the value of \$100 in real estate owned or occupied by them. The members of that House are chosen for eight years; half of the number to retire every fourth year and the vacancies to be filled by new elections."

ARCHBISHOP CROKE has made an appeal to the Irish parties to unite in a grand convention on the eighth of March, to consider the Home Rule Bill. He says the convention can only be effective, if all Irish members of Parliament, who are Home Rulers, join heart and soul. He ridicules the proposal to hold a separate Parnellite convention on that day. It is evident that the leading minds in Ireland

are anxious for the cementing of both factions of the Home Rule party, and it will be worse than disloyal to the cause of Ireland if any interest whatsoever, is permitted to interfere in that united action.

THIS HAS BEEN an exceedingly cold winter, but there have been many more severe ones in Canada. The coldest winter the world ever knew, we are told, occurred in 1435. "The season was not only cold beyond endurance, but it lasted unusually long. In a large portion of middle and western Germany the frost was so severe during the month of May that skaters used the ice and on May 12 sleighs were generally used. On St. John's day, June 24, the windows were frozen and no vestige of vegetation was to be seen. Spring was ushered in during the last days of June." This may seem an extraordinary or even exaggerated report; yet the editor of this paper has seen, here in Canada, almost as severe a spring. On the sixth of May 1884, at the head waters of the Canadian Black River, he, in company with Mr. John S. Poupore, brother of the ex-M.P.P. for Pontiac, crossed a two mile lake on the ice, the source of the Moose creek, with two spans of horses, six sleighs, which latter were loaded with a whole black smithing outfit, six barrels of pork, ten of flour, a number of boom-chains and a ton of hay. On the fifteenth May, that year, the ice was still solid in the mouth of the Victoria creek. If such was the case in northern Canada, it is not surprising that in Germany a similar state of temperature existed in 1435.

MR. REED HOLMDEN, of Ottawa, has commenced the publication of a *Civil Service Review*. Its first number under his editorship appeared on last Saturday. It is a fortnightly, devoted to the interests of the service. It was high time that such an organ should appear. While there is very much to criticise in the service and in some of its members, yet the whole body has ever labored under a great disadvantage. They had no mouthpiece to voice their interests, and the honest, hardworking, worthy citizens who are members of the service have always had to bear the burden of the faults committed by the few. We have known Mr. Holmden for years; his journalistic experiences are very extensive, and his abilities are adequate to any post in realm of newspaperdom. He is at once a clever and conscientious writer, and one who is fearless and exact in all that he pens. We wish him every possible success in his new enterprise.

IT IS THUS the Protestant editor of the *Arena*, after unmercifully scoring the A.P.A., expresses himself with regard to that fanatical society:

"If the organizers of the societies of revamped Know-nothingism can find any warrant for their conduct, either in the scriptures or the conduct of their fellow citizens of Catholic faith, we will cheerfully take back our words. If they can't they should go to the end of the earth and get somebody to push them off."