

**SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY AND HIS STORMY CAREER.**

A Fellow-Worker with D'Arcy McGee in the Cause of Irish Independence—His Relations with O'Connell—Honoured for Imperial Services in Australia.

Montreal Star, Feb. 14.

Death has removed the doyen of Irish agitators in the person of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, at the age of eighty-seven years. The friend and foe of O'Connell, the intimate of Carlyle, the colleague of D'Arcy McGee, the young Irishman of Ulster, the Prime Minister of Victoria, this is the career brought to mind by the mention of Duffy's name. Though it cannot be said of him that he was as great as O'Connell, O'Leary, or Davis he made up for lack of pure genius by a streak of common sense which won for him fame and riches, while many of his friends, worn out in early middle age by their heroic struggles for the land of their birth, died in hopeless exile. Three young men working side by side in the dingy little office of the Dublin Nation; three strong-hearted Irishmen, a Canadian Minister of Agriculture, an American General, a Victoria Premier—here are McGee, Meagher and Duffy, "the stones rejected by the builders." One of them died at the assassin's hand on the street of Ottawa, cut off suddenly at the height of his career, the other, the inferior intellect of the three lives to receive a knighthood from his Sovereign, as a recognition of his services to the Empire.

**WORKED WITH MCGEE.**

Charles Gavan Duffy was born of well-to-do Roman Catholic parents in Monaghan, in the year 1816. The grim tragedy of '98 was fresh in the minds of Irishmen in those days, and as the boy grew, he drank in hatred of English rule with every breath. An early inclination to literature pointed out his path for him. While a mere stripling he took an active part in an election against a landlord, and as a result some of his father's property was confiscated. Gavan went to Dublin, and became sub-editor of a paper when 23 years old. Five years later he was already prominent in the seething discontent of the time. Young Duffy was a worker, and though his newspaper duties might well have kept him busy, he read for the bar during his spare hours. In 1842 he took a step upon which depended the whole of his future career. With Davis, one of the brightest names in the history of Ireland, and Dillon, the father of the present Nationalist, Meagher, D'Arcy McGee, and Smith O'Brien, Duffy founded the Nation, a journal devoted heart and soul to the cause of Ireland. With O'Connell their leader and idol, they toiled at the time honored Celtic profession of agitation. Surely the atmosphere of the little newspaper office must have been fairly electrical with genius. Then came the dark days, when O'Connell, suspected of timidity by his friends, and accused of treachery by his foes, stood undecided and dumb while all Ireland waited for his call to arms. But the far-famed meeting at Clontarf was never held, and the great Liberator's sun was set. The Nation turned on him, and so did the young Irishmen, who cried, "We'll die for Ireland!" And the "mighty, magnificent, mean old man," answered with a jest: "You and I, boys, will live for Ireland."

**END OF THE YOUNG IRELANDERS.**

When the Courts pursued the gallant young Irishmen, and McGee and Meagher fled the country, the former to glorify Canadian politics, the latter to lead a brigade of Confederate troops in the Civil War, Duffy alone escaped exile. He languished in gaol for nine months, and on his release carried on the old campaign for six years, in Parliament and out of it. But failure, famine, and depopulation had taken the heart out of those who duly listened to him, and then Duffy decided to shake the dust of the Emerald Isle from his shoes forever. In "My Life in Two Hemispheres" he says of his leav-

ing: "I determined to quit Ireland. I could no longer promise the suffering people relief; and to witness injustice without curb and wrong without remedy would render life too painful. An Ireland where Mr. Keogh typified patriotism and Dr. Cullen the Church was an Ireland in which I could not live." So he went to Australia, and rose in Victoria as McGee rose in Canada. After having been Prime Minister, he accepted the position of speaker in the Legislature, which office he held for some years, finally retiring to Nice as Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, K.C. M.G.

**GOETHE WAS DUFFY'S MODEL.**

Goethe became his ideal. He concluded that true philosophy was best displayed by the great German novelist when he shut his ears to the world clamour of the French Revolution, locked himself in his study, and wrote books. So Sir Charles for the last twenty years of his life devoted himself to literature. "Chief among his publications are "Young Ireland," "Four Years of Irish History," "League in the North, and South," "My life in Two Hemispheres." The best society in Europe was open to him success in the new country had healed the wound of failure in the old. His declining years must have been the happiest of his life. Once he wrote to a friend that he was weary of new countries and longed for the green pastures where we wandered of old."

**GLIMPSES OF GREAT MEN.**

It has been said of him that he was utterly incapable of appreciating O'Connell's denunciation of slavery in the United States, that he was a niggard in his praise of the devoted men who took up his task when he laid it down, that he was, to paraphrase Orsini, "a prince in words, a beggar in action." But when Duffy founded the Irish Tenant League, when he defeated the Chief Secretary for Ireland, when he initiated the present system of independent opposition in the House of Commons, surely he was the man of action. His writings show him at his best. He has the polish of the literary man, the easy charm of the cosmopolitan. His pages abound in charming biographical tit-bits of the great men of the century. We are introduced to Bright, Browning, Carlyle, Disraeli, Gladstone, Peel, Mill, Macaulay, Forster, Newman, Manning and Thackeray. Tom Moore went to see him one day, and is described as "A little middle-aged man with pleasant smile and lively eyes, but of a countenance far from comely, and so elaborately dressed that the primrose gloves which he wore did not seem out of harmony with the splendor of his attire." The last of the young Irishlanders has passed away, a grey-haired old man, but his memory will long be kept green on the two continents.

**THE BIBLE THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE CHURCH.**

The Eminent Members of the Newly Appointed Commission for Biblical Studies.

(Special correspondent Freeman's Journal.)

Rome, Feb. 4.—It is only now that people have begun to be alive to the extraordinary importance of the newly appointed Commission for Biblical Studies, but the truth is at last clear. The Bible is to be the battlefield of the Catholic Church for the next half century at least. Even already the reports that have been reaching the Eternal city for the last few years show that almost all countries have been more or less influenced for evil by the rationalistic writers of Germany. Not even Ireland has escaped, as Father Sheahan has pointed out in "My New Curate." The blighting influence in England was made painfully manifest when Mivart openly renounced his faith. The evil has spread to an alarming extent in France; and the worst symptom of it is not the outrageously anti-Catholic tendency of the writings of the Abbe Loisy, which have just been condemned in France. A very considerable section of the young clergy have become infatuated with new theories.

Here in Italy there have been many signs of a dangerous latitude in matters scriptural.

All this is not very surprising when it is remembered that the Vatican Council recognized even thirty years ago that the time had come for refining many things concerning the sacred books. But the troubled state of Italy and Europe generally brought about the suspension of the Council, and Pope Leo, foreseeing no possibility of its speedy resumption of its sitting, has now taken in hand the great work thus interrupted. Cardinal Parocchi, the first head of the new Commission, was no sooner appointed to direct its labors when he was called to his reward, but his place has been at once filled by Cardinal Rampolla, certainly one of the greatest lights of the Catholic Church in our times. And now the Commission is at last in working order. This week the official Osservatore Romano has published the official list of the Consulters—and a very eloquent list it is. I have succeeded in finding out a number of details about its members. It is very important, however, to note first of all that with hardly a single exception the Consulters for Biblical Studies are all noted for their keenness in making use of modern discoveries which tend to throw light in any way on the origin, structure, text and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, while at the same time they are as one in their zeal for the preservation of the integrity of the written word and their veneration for all the declarations of the Church on it.

After the Cardinals who form part of the Commission the two most important members are the French Father Fulcran Gregory Vigouroux, of the Society of St. Sulpice, and Father David Fleming, the Irish Vicar-General of the Franciscan Order. Father Fleming is justly regarded as one of the most brilliant scholars in the Catholic Church, and has devoted great part of his time for many years to the study of modern writers on the Holy Scriptures. Father Vigouroux is easily the first scriptural scholar in France. He has been for some time Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of San Sulpice and of the Catholic Institute of Paris. He is the author of a four-volume work on the manuscripts of Scripture and of another on "The Bible and Modern Discoveries," and he is at present engaged with a number of collaborators on a Biblical Dictionary. These two have been chosen by the Holy Father to act as secretaries of the Commission for Biblical Studies.

Next, perhaps, in order of distinction come two famous Dominicans—Father Lepidi, Master of the Sacred Palaces, for many years Professor of Theology at the Minerva in Rome, and the author of many learned theological works; and Father Thomas Esser, an Austrian, who is secretary of the Congregation of the Index. Monsignor Ceriani is Prefect of the Ambrosian Library; Fathers Hummalhauer and Cornely are two German Jesuits who are at present engaged on a monumental work on the Scriptures; Father Pratt is another German Jesuit, whose name is well known in the learned Reviews of the Fatherland and who has contributed to the Civiltà Cattolica the latest contribution in that great magazine on the subject of the interpretation of the sacred book; Father Gismondi is an Italian Jesuit, who has been for the last fourteen years Professor of Scripture, Arabic, Hebrew, Syriac, etc., in the Gregorian University in Rome, and who has spent a considerable portion of his life in the East studying the languages which throw light on the Bible; Monsignor Lamy, Professor of Sacred Scripture in the University of Louvain, is well known as a writer for the reviews; Dr. Otho Bardenheuer if Professor of Bible Exegesis in the University of Munich, editor of the famous Review of Bible Studies and author of a patrology which is now being translated into Italian; Father Mercati is a writer of the Vatican Library and Secretary of the Commission for the Liturgy; Father Ceresedo is an oratorian and an author of a work on hermeneutics; Father Hoonacker is Professor of Scriptures at Louvain and a prolific writer on Scriptural

subjects; Mgr. Talamo, Canon of St. Peters, is editor of the Rivista Internazionale for Social Studies; Father Grannan, the solitary American representative on the Commission, is Professor of Sacred Scripture at the University of Washington and has devoted many years of study in different European universities to the question of the bible; Dr. Kaulen is Professor of Exegesis in the University of Bonn and one of the collaborators of the Kirschenlexicon; Dr. Schaefer is Professor of Exegesis in the University of Breslau; Father Amelli is Prior of the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino and universally recognized as a profound student of Scripture; Father Clarke England's only representative, has written some books on scriptural subjects; Father Lefrange, O.P., is one of the Professors of Sacred Scripture in the College of St. Stephen in Jerusalem; Father Fracassini, Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of Perugia; Dr. Hoberg, rector of the Academy of Freiburg; Canon Fouard, formerly Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of Rouen, has written much on the early history of the Church, including two volumes on St. Peter and St. Paul, and is now engaged on the life of St. John; Dr. Weikert, Professor of Scripture in the Benedictine College of St. Anselm, Rome, and a famous Rabbinical scholar; Father Schell, O.P., Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, who has been for some time engaged in the excavations of Susa; Canon Gonfalonieri, Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of Florence; Monsignor Legendre, Dean of the Faculty of Antwerp, where he is Professor of Scripture, has made a special study of the geography of the Holy Land and published a map; Mgr. Gutherlet, Professor of Scripture in the University of Fulda; Dr. Veller, Professor of Exegesis in the University of Freiburg; Fr. Poels, Professor of Louvain and author of a series of studies on the sanctuaries of Jerusalem; Father Fillion, of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Paris; Father Mangenot, Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of Nancy; Dr. Weiss, Professor of Exegesis in the Lyceum of Brannsborg; Father Torio, Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of Valencia; Canon Lesetre, of Paris; Dr. Dusterwold, formerly Superior of the Albertin College in Cologne; Canon Chauvin, formerly Professor of Scripture in the Seminary of Laval; Father Balestri, O.S.A., formerly Professor of Sacred Scripture.

It will be seen that the Holy See has spared no pains in selecting men for the new Commission on Biblical Studies who will do honor to the Catholic Church. Papers of all shades of opinion and belief in Europe have commented in laudatory terms of the selections made. The members of the Commission who reside in Rome have already held two meetings. Even now there is evidence of a keen interest in scriptural studies.

**THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.**

Is it one of the signs of our prosperity that in the State of Pennsylvania alone there are 17,000 girls between the ages of thirteen and sixteen working in manufacturing establishments, and that of these 4,000 work all night? In a description of the condition of the latter by the special correspondent of the Evening Post (N.Y.) we find the following: "The tangles are always worst when I am tiredest," said one small girl. "I have to twist back the reel for a long, long time, until all the tangles are gone. The big girl who has charge of our department often scolded me, and sometimes the man who was night superintendent told me he would discharge me if I couldn't do better. Then my head would ache something awful, and I would have to cry, and some other girl would straighten out the tangle." This is distressful kind of reading to people who are troubled with hearts. Do you hear the children weeping, Oh, my brothers?— They are weeping piteously. They are weeping in the playtime of the others, In the country of the free.— N.Y. Freeman's Journal.



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