

THE STORY OF A VIOLIN

Of all the dusty little shops in the crowded Rue St. A.—, old Hamel's was perhaps the most so; and yet it was for these things that an open carriage suddenly stopped one summer morning, and the foreign-looking gentleman who alighted, entered the dusty doorway.

Inside the shop he paused before an odd jumble of curious things—gobbeys, little marble statuettes, bits of quaint porcelain, queer old musical instruments, and here and there a gilt canary cage hanging above. From the mist of this medley the sound of a clear sweet violin arose, and floated past the gentleman through the shop to the street.

"What would Monsieur be pleased to have?" inquired the old shopkeeper. "I heard some one playing a violin here," replied the gentleman. "It seemed a sweet-toned instrument; and seeing those others in your window there, I thought it might be for sale. Is it so?"

"Oh, certainly! There are some fine instruments here, and great bargains. This that you have done me the honor to admire is a genuine Stradivarius."

"Monsieur cut him short. "Ay, but just bring out whoever is playing back there, and let me hear a little more of it. My own ears are all the recommendation I care for."

"Tony, bring the violin in here. "My grandson, Monsieur," he said, as the boy entered, "who loves better to try every violin that comes into the shop than to earn a day's wages at selling. No turn for business whatever; as I've told him—however well he may play the violin."

But the boy, with his eyes bent dreamily upon the violin, scarcely seemed to hear. He was a slight, thin-faced lad, with a mass of jet black hair curling around his neck, which, together with his sweeping black lashes, made him seem paler than he was.

The gentleman took off his glasses and rubbed his eyes. "Your grandson?" he repeated, glancing from the boy to the old man. They certainly did not resemble each other.

"My daughter's child, Tony Marelli. As Monsieur sees, this violin is of the oldest wood. "Nay, I care nothing for the age of the wood!" said Monsieur, waving the instrument back. "If it were made yesterday and sounded to suit me it would be all the same; for, even if my eyesight were better, I know nothing of a violin by its looks; I have never handled one. But my ear is true, and I know well enough at it if it screeches or sings; and I thought of surprising my little daughter with this when I go back to Leipzig."

"The boy flashed a smile. "She is to be pleased look at Monsieur!" "She is to begin practice this autumn, and I should like her to have an instrument of tone. Be good enough to play something else, my lad!"

Hamel handed Tony the violin, and he obeyed. A soft, haunting strain sweetened the air of the little shop. The stranger put on his glasses, and stroked his beard, smiling.

"Ah, yes, I have heard that before! It is one of my brother's pieces, and it proves your violin a good one; for the tone is very like his, and that is excellent. The price, then, please?"

Hamel, with a shrewd glance at his would-be purchaser, named a goodly sum. Monsieur took out his check-book and paid it unhesitatingly, requesting that the violin be cased and taken to the carriage.

But where was the case? Among such a huddle of things it was possible to lose almost anything. Tony, with a regretful look at the violin, hurried himself to search about.

"But it was here half an hour ago, grandfather!" he said, wondering. "Ah, maybe so, maybe not! Who knows? You are dreaming most of the time, Tony. There! You will break something, poking about so. Keep quiet, I will find it."

"Oh," said the gentleman, good-naturedly, "no need to hurry! Just send it any time to-day, — Hotel R., Room 20. I do not leave till night."

A nice little instrument that sings very prettily as with any other,—oh, quite as happy! For a violin made yesterday, if it sounded to suit him, would be all the same to him as if it were old as the hills and of the most beautiful workmanship. You heard him, my dear! Hence observe my management here. By putting a case to hand into the Cremona's case, I content Monsieur and profit myself a clear fifty napoleons. A quick bargain, and both sides pleased. It takes a business head for that, Tony."

Tony leaned against the counter, stupefied. "You did that, grandfather!" he gasped; and then like a swift wave, these dashed over him the memory of his dead mother, and their life in Florence. She was a poor little widow ever since he could remember, but they had been very happy together; and her one thought had always been to teach him what was right so far as she knew, and help him to keep to it, even since he knew anything at all, he had heard her soft voice saying: "Do right, my Tony, and grow like thy father." And now his own grandfather—his mother's father!—what had he done?

"Oh, don't be alarmed, Tony!" the old man was saying, as he drew the real Cremona from behind the heap on the floor and placed it carefully in a box on the counter. "Don't be alarmed! Nobody will be the wiser. And if such a thing should happen as the gentleman's becoming so, he will come back here, when I will explain my little mistake and exchange the instruments. But it is only that in the Cremona, and in my hurry, I picked up the wrong violin. A million pardons, Monsieur! Here is your Stradivarius, which I had not noticed before." And he bowed mockingly.

Tony's eyes blazed like black coals. With a protesting gesture, he stepped forward; but his voice trembled so that he could hardly speak. "Grandfather, you should send the Signor his violin quick,—the one he paid for, I will take it to him. You can exchange it now. He must have it!"

Old Hamel turned away with a shrug and a smile. "O Tony, Tony, you have much to learn, my son! I am really a greenhorn. Bah! What a milkop for business!"

The boy had grown very white when Hamel told what had been done, but now his face flushed crimson. Picking up his cap, he went to the richly colored Stradivarius, lifted it from its cushions, and as if it were some living, lovable thing, he hugged it to him, while he turned to the old man.

"Grandfather, I will go to rectify your mistake," And he moved toward the door. "You will?" said Hamel, stepping after him, his face darkening with sudden passion. "Couldst not take it from you, boy? But never mind. Go if you will. But send the fiddle back to me. Don't come rounself!"

Tony trembled. What was to become of him? He had no money, no friends in France, if any where. Clutching the violin, he sank back against the doorway; a shudder ran through him. For the first time in his life he knew the temptation to be dishonest. Opportunities had often come to him, but they had not tempted him. Even the worst poverty at Florence, where he had always been something to which he could look forward—his little earnings by street fiddling,—something which would put bread into the mouths of the dear little mother and himself; and she had always made a home for him, even if it were only a garret. But now he had no one except his grandfather; and nothing—not even the strength to labor. What but starvation and misfortune lay before him if he crossed the will of the old man?

Tony lifted his eyes, and saw Hamel's anger distorted face and frowning brows bent upon him. "Do right, my Tony, and grow like thy father." His soul heaved at his words as plainly as though they had only just been spoken; and the memory of that voice was like a delivering angel. He raised his head and suddenly grew pale again.

"I will go, grandfather." And, clasping the violin, he passed into the street.

A gentle rap on the door of Room 20, Hotel R.

"Do see Monsieur," explained the servant to the gentleman within, as he ushered in a boy.

"En?" said the gentleman, turning his glasses upon Tony. "The young violinist! Come in. And what brings you! With another violin too! Want to sell out your stock eh?" And the gentleman smiled grimly.

"The boy answered then pale. "I am Tony Marelli, Signor. I have come to correct a mistake. The wrong violin was given you, Signor, in— in the hurry. I bring you the Stradivarius." And he held it out.

"What!" cried the gentleman. "How is this? A mistake? I have not the violin I paid for?"

"No, Signor. The violins got exchanged somehow. But I came as quick as I could with the right one. You will see the difference at once by comparing them. This is—oh, a violin for a king to play on, Signor!" (The boy's love of the instrument broke out in forgetful enthusiasm.)

The gentleman looking at Tony did not speak. Perhaps the silence recalled the boy to himself. "They said he was Hungarian, Signor, though he lives in Leipzig. Perhaps you have had the happiness to hear him many times?"

"Yes," said the gentleman, "I have heard him many times." "Ah! And you may even know him, Signor?"

"Well, yes," answered the gentleman stroking his beard. "I have met him." "Some day," began Tony animatedly, and stopped. With a sort of shiver he once more held out the violin. "Pardon, Signor! I was forgetting. Will you please examine this, and give me the other violin?"

Instead of taking it, the gentleman removed his glasses and gazed at Tony for a moment very steadily. Then he rose, and going to a table upon which his violin case rested, he took out the violin within, and resumed his seat.

"Many persons," he said quietly, "would think this mistake altogether a hoax, Tony Marelli, and would have both violins examined by a connoisseur especially as I told your grandfather and you that I know nothing of violins save their faces beyond lying, and I believe yours is one of them. Moreover, I trust you for other reasons. But it is only natural I should seek in some way to confirm my opinion. As I have said, my ear is not readily deceived: it is a family acuteness for tone. Let me hear you play this violin, then the other."

The boy, with a levinish desire for personal success, did as he was bid. When both instruments had been tried, the gentleman exclaimed with delight at the tone of the Cremona, then added: "You play well, my young violinist!"

Tony prepared to go. But how was he to get his grandfather's violin back to him? He was forbidden to return himself.

"Signor," he said in embarrassment, "I shall not return to the shop to-day—or soon. If you would be so good as to have this left there for me, it would be a great kindness. For I do not know just whom I could leave it to. He paused, coloring.

"Certainly," said the gentleman. "But not going back? You have found a better place?"

"No, Signor." "No? Off for a holiday?"

"No, Signor. I—that is, I don't know." "Upon my word," said the gentleman, laughing, "you're a funny fellow. But I see you are interested in the violin. Tell me about it. I am interested in training, and as you are so I am curious to know why you are not to return to the shop. Tell me, have you displeased your grandfather?"

The boy could not resist the kindness of that voice. "I—I am afraid, Signor," he faltered. "And why? Tell me why?"

"For answer a dame of color swept the boy's cheeks and brow. "Too much playing, is it?"

"No, Signor." "Ah, well, you do not wish me to know," said the gentleman, as he rose hastily and laid a hand kindly upon the boy's shoulder. "But I think I understand this matter, anyway. Do not go to your father, child. If you have brought me the Stradivarius, and then the pent-up tears gushed through Tony's fingers, that strove to hide his face.

"And you are not to go back at all? Answer me, my boy. Not at all?"

"A low sob and an almost inaudible 'No, Signor.' "Then I will tell you where you may go if you wish with me to Leipzig, to learn to play of the violinist, Talmador Orad, himself."

during this period. When I awoke to the fact of my dense ignorance, I felt resentment; and I confess I do to this day.

Protestants never think of such a thing as reading Catholic books, or periodicals; or anything that smells of Rome. I never did; and yet I was, of all men, not a bigot. It is an inborn and fostered prejudice of many generations. But this is not all. Not only are Protestants absolutely ignorant of Catholic teaching, prejudice and distorted caricature, and call it 'Romanism.'—Truth.

GRATTAN'S PARLIAMENT

AN INTERESTING REVIEW OF A LATE PUBLICATION ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE HON. SENATOR POWER OF HALIFAX

This Irish Parliament died when it voted for the Legislative Union with Great Britain in 1800. The repeal of that union was the great object of patriotic Irishmen from 1800 to the death of O'Connell in 1847. From that time to Isaac Butt's proposal in 1873 of a scheme of Home Rule based on the federal system, there was really no lawfully organized organization in Ireland with a definite plan for a change in the constitutional relations between the Great Britain and her sister Kingdoms. Since 1873, however, relations have been discussed from every point of view, and frequent references have been made to the Irish Parliament which sat in College Green, Dublin, from 1782 to 1800. No doubt well informed statesmen and politicians in Ireland have been fairly familiar with the constitution and history of that body; but to most people outside that country and to a large portion of those living in it the term 'Grattan's Parliament' has conveyed a very hazy impression. The desired light upon this interesting institution has now been placed before the public in a work entitled—"Grattan's Parliament, Before and After," written by M. McDonnell Bodkin, Esq., and published by T. Fisher Unwin, London.

Mr. Bodkin was educated at Tullage Jesuit College and the Catholic University, was admitted to the Bar, did duty for some time as a newspaper reporter, was a Nationalist M. P. for North Roscommon from 1862 to 1895, was appointed to his present position of County Court Judge in 1907 and is the author of several prose and verse books. The results of his varied experience are, we think, to be found in the work now being considered. The language throughout, even if no regard were had to the quotations classical and English—of which there are a reasonable number—is that of a scholar, and the style shows the ease and fluency of the practiced writer for the press. The statements of law and facts indicate a legal opinion, while showing a clearness and condensation that do not always characterize lawyers' written efforts; and there are many touches of the "old parliamentary hand." Finally, while there is no attempt to hide the writer's sympathies, the blemishes and mistakes of his heroes are not hidden, and the evidence is summed up after the manner of a judge. The author has succeeded in carrying out the undertaking of his preface; he does "Nothing extenuate nor set down slight in malice," and he has given his book in a high degree the "essential quality" of being "readable."

Inasmuch as comparatively few of our readers are likely to have a chance to read Grattan's Parliament, we take the liberty to set forth more of the substance of it than would be altogether justifiable were it readily accessible.

Amongst the Parliaments that legislated for Ireland before 1782 the first to which attention is called is the triennial convention held at Tara, established by King Oiam Fodhlag about 960, and which, according to the English writer speaks highly of this "grave, deliberate, and sedate" national council. Like praise cannot be bestowed upon the Anglo-Irish legislation that came after Henry II's invasion. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the statutes, from those of Kilkenny in 1306 to those of Henry VIII, were intended for the English pale, and which constituted comparatively a small part of the island, rather than with the "Irish enemies," therein than with the "Irish enemies." Those enemies had no rights recognized by law. Mr. Bodkin begins his second chapter with the following paragraph:

"English policy in Ireland from first to last had three distinct objects. First, the complete subjugation of the Irish land; secondly, the persecution of Irish religion, and, thirdly, the destruction of Irish industry and commerce. To understand the rise and fall of the Irish Parliament it is necessary to briefly indicate by what methods these three objects were attempted and accomplished."

Fortunately, in a notice such as this, one is not expected to give the evidence produced in support of the statements made in this paragraph. It is enough to say that Mr. Bodkin clearly establishes their truth.

It does, however, seem appropriate to give one extract from the chapter which deals with the religious question: "Only for a brief period in 1689, the Irish Parliament, did the Catholic majority exercise power in their own country. In view of the charges of intolerance now current against Irish Catholics it is interesting to recall some of the proceedings of that Parliament."

"The Catholics, however, provoked to rebellion by the bitter persecution to which they were subjected, were probably, writes Mr. Lecky, 'scarcely a man in the Irish Parliament of 1689 who had not been deeply injured by the penal enactments in his fortune and his family.' Yet that Catholic Parliament, by its first Act, an Act which the Protestant historian confesses to be 'of an advance of the age,' established for the Catholics the right of English Parliaments to legislate for Ireland, laid down the doctrine of Irish liberty, long after vindicated by Grattan and the volunteers."

At page 51, Mr. Bodkin says: "The first regular journals of the Irish House of Commons, still extant, open with the official record of a Parliament summoned in the eleventh year of James I., and extend in an unbroken series to the extinction of the Irish Parliament by the Act of Union. But those earlier assemblies were of spasmodic origin, of irregular duration, and of little or no authority. It was not until the Irish Commons came to sit in the old House in College Green that there was anything even faintly resembling a Parliament in the modern acceptance of the word."

The first step towards the erection of the existing structure in College Green was taken on the first of January, 1728, when "six thousand pounds were voted towards providing materials and building a new parliament house." The new house would seem to have been occupied about 1739. The building, however, did not receive its finishing touches till 1787. It was then "an architectural masterpiece."

Chapter VIII headed "The Irish Parliament" opens with an account of the "stately and gorgeous ceremonial" attending the visits of the Viceroy and the most eloquent and convivial which characterized the sessions.

At page 82 we are given the other side of the medal. "The Irish House of Commons with all its splendor and eloquence was, in truth, even after the coming and triumph of Grattan, a goodly assembly of the 'idle, the indolent, and the corrupt.' Not merely were four-fifths of the population wholly excluded from membership and franchise, but even the Protestant minority of half a million had no real representation in Parliament.

The House of Commons consisted of 300 members, and in the year 1783 consisted of the following: 32 Counties returned Knights 64 7 Cities returned Citizens 14 University of Dublin returned Representatives 2 Burgesses 220 81 Of which the people returned 219 Of which the patrons returned 60

Total, 300 "Two hundred members of the House were chosen by 100 individuals, and 30 great borough holders controlled a working majority of the House."

But "the Parliament of those days (before 1782) was not merely corrupt; it was also disabled. Administration was wholly outside its function and its powers of legislation reduced to a minimum by British control."

"In 1495 the English Deputy, Sir Edward Poyning, summoned a scratch parliament of his adherents to devise plans for resisting the Yorkist tendencies of the Anglo-Irish colonists. By one provision of the Act passed in this haphazard fashion all laws which previous to this date had been passed in England were made binding on Ireland. By another the independence of all future Parliaments in Ireland was destroyed."

"It provided that 'all causes and considerations for calling a Parliament in Ireland and all the Bills which were to be brought forward during its sessions must be previously certified to the King by the Chief Governor and Council of Ireland and affirmed by the King and his Council under the Great Seal of England, and that any proceeding of an Irish Parliament which had not been so certified before the Parliament was assembled should be void and of no effect."

"By an act somewhat modified and the Irish Privy Council was allowed to send over Bills for the approbation of the English Privy Council at a time when the Irish Parliament was actually in session." p. 87 sq.

"But though the right of the English Privy Council to originate, alter or veto ordinary Bills was generally conceded, the claim to originate or alter a Bill of Supply was fiercely opposed. In Ireland, as in England, the point was taken that supply was a voluntary gift of the Commons and belonged exclusively to their province, wholly exempt from foreign suggestion or control."

As a matter of fact, against the principle contended for by the Commons was recognized on one or two occasions, the general practice was to submit money bills as well as all others to the English Privy Council.

Mr. Bodkin's Tenth Chapter bears the heading "The Pioneers of Independence" and deals with three men whom he deems entitled to be so described. The first is William Molyneux in the reign of William III, published a little book entitled "The Case of Ireland as England stated," which "raised the author to instant popularity in Ireland." On the other hand, "it was condemned by the British Parliament and directed to be burned by the common hangman. The only apparent practical result was the passing of an English Act which expressly declared the powers of the English Parliament to legislate for Ireland and asserted an appellate jurisdiction in England over the Irish Courts of Law."

Swift is spoken of as the chief pioneer, and his Drapier's Letters and other writings are discussed briefly although in an interesting way.

Lucas was the third of the protesting patriots to denounce Poyning's Law; but "the House whose privilege he championed directed his book to be burned by the common hangman and the author to answer at the bar the charge of breach of privilege. A prosecution was threatened and he fled to England 'to avoid,' as Lecky tells us, 'imminent imprisonment.'"

In Chapter XI, the hero of Mr. Bodkin's book appears on the scene. We are told that, "The Parliament which Henry Grattan entered in 1775 as a nominee of Earl Charlemont for a feeble borough was equally distinguished for its brilliancy and its corruption." He very shortly became the leader of the popular party. His first important motion, one for retrenchment, was rejected by an overwhelming majority.

"Meanwhile, however, a new and tremendous force was rapidly coming into play. England's military power was reduced to its lowest ebb at the close of the disastrous war with America. The Irish coast was threatened with invasion and the Government had

neither money nor men to oppose the invader."

"Under those circumstances the country, beginning with Belfast, resolved to make ready for its own defence. Such was the origin of the Irish Volunteers, an almost miraculous achievement of patriotic energy. Suddenly in the midst of this poverty-stricken and almost unpopulated island a national army, uniformed, disciplined, effective, organized by no other impetus and dependent on no other support than the patriotism of the people. The enthusiasm spread like wildfire from Ulster over the other three provinces till the entire country was enrolled.

"The enrollment was at first restricted to Protestants. The enslaved Catholics were forbidden to bear arms and were excluded from the ranks of the Volunteers. They had, indeed, little hope from the movement; foreign invasion might improve their position; it could not make it worse than it was. But somehow they caught the contagion of patriotic enthusiasm and freely contributed from their poverty to the military organization from which they were excluded by their faith."

"It is estimated that in the prime of its power the national army of volunteers numbered at least 300,000, disciplined men, fully armed, equipped with artillery, and officered by the most distinguished men in the country. "The volunteers from the first applied themselves to the furtherance of the national prosperity of Ireland and later to the national demand for independence."

"The influence of the volunteers made itself felt even in a Parliament adorned with corruption but resident in Ireland, and therefore wholly immune to Irish public opinion. Grattan was there ready and eager to take advantage of the working spirit of patriotism. "The hour had come and the man."

A resolution, originating with Grattan, carried in the Commons, and this policy was most strenuously supported by the volunteers. As a result "Lord North introduced a Bill in the English Parliament to allow Ireland free trade in wool, woollens, glass, leather and all other forms of manufacture to all the ports of the British Colonies and plantations hitherto closed to her commerce." This Bill became law without any delay.

Chapter XIII is devoted to "The Struggle for Independence." We are told that, "The leader and people were alike convinced that the independence of the Irish Parliament was the only security for the permanence of the concessions already gained. Their appetite had been whetted by the first taste of freedom, and Grattan, in defiance of almost all the patriots by whom he was commonly supported, declared on the bold stroke of a declaration of Parliamentary Independence."

"On the 19th of April, 1780, he for the first time moved in the Irish House of Commons a declaration of Irish rights. That the King's most excellent Majesty and the Lords and Commons of Ireland are the only power to make laws for Ireland." His speech on that occasion he ever delivered. No extracts can do justice to its surpassing eloquence."

Our author proceeds, however, to give some striking extracts, the reproduction of which lack of space forbids. "The splendid appeal was made in vain to a House of Commons subservient and corrupt. The motion was indefinitely adjourned, and no entry of it was permitted to appear on the journals of the House of Commons. But the moral effect of speech and motion was tremendous."

Grattan's appeal found a prompt response in the great Volunteer Convention at Danganannon. The resolutions adopted at this remarkable gathering may be looked upon as the sure forerunners of the patriotic triumph which followed soon after.

"The first resolution declared that 'the claim of any body of men other than the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland to make laws to bind Ireland is unconstitutional, illegal and a grievance.' The last resolution, at Grattan's special instance, proclaimed that 'as men, as Irishmen, as Christians and as Protestants, we rejoice in the relaxation of the Penal Laws of our Roman Catholic fellow subjects, and that we conceive the consequences to the union and prosperity of the inhabitants of Ireland.'"

"A few days later Grattan again moved a declaration of Irish Parliamentary Independence in the House of Commons. The speech was replete with historic research, logical argument, powerful appeal, and behind it was the driving force of the Volunteers. In spite of arguments and eloquence he was defeated by a majority of 137 to 68.

"But this was a Pyrrhic victory for the Government, the harbinger of an ignominious defeat."

On the 16th of April, 1782, Grattan wound up an eloquent speech by moving resolutions demanding the repeal of the English Act of George I., which meant 'binding on Ireland; protesting against mutilation or suppression by the Privy Council of England or Ireland of Acts passed by the Irish House of Commons and finally proclaiming: "The Kingdom of Ireland is a distinct Kingdom with a Parliament of her own, and that there is no body of men competent to make laws to bind the nation but the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland, nor any Parliament which hath any power or authority of any sort in this Kingdom save only the Parliament of Ireland." * * *

"The Declaration twice rejected, was unanimously carried with the enforced consent of the Government."

"The popular rejoicing over this victory may be imagined. In England it had been recognized that the alternative of concession was defiance, and England, once humbled and humiliated by the American war, had no forces that could hope to cope with the Volunteers. Only one reply was possible. The Duke of Portland, addressing the Irish House for the first time, proclaimed his satisfaction that he was enabled by the magnanimity of the King and the liberality of the Parliament of Great Britain to assure you that immediate attention has been paid to your representations and that the British Legislature has occurred in the resolution to remove the causes of your

discontents and jealousies and are united in a desire to gratify every wish expressed in your late address to the throne."

"The declaratory Act of George I. was repealed in England. Poyning's Law was repealed in Ireland. The Irish Parliament shook off its broken fetters and was free." p. 138.

Chapter XV, deals with "The Independent Parliament." At the risk of being thought tedious, we shall give its opening and its closing sentences. "The Parliament was free, but the country was not free. Grattan had indeed liberated the Irish Parliament from English control, but he had not submitted it to the control of the people of Ireland. Unreformed and corrupt as we have seen, the Irish 'Independent' Parliament faintly represented the views of the Protestant minority, the great Catholic majority it did not represent at all. In the words of Moore's 'Captain Rock':

"Ireland did still prelude, Like a sugar loaf turned upside down, To stand upon her smaller end, and the attitude was fatal to the equilibrium of her constitution."

Grattan's Parliament failed to justify Grattan's boast that it had 'moulded the jarring elements of the country into a nation. Four-fifths of the people were still outside the constitution, but of him at least it may be truly said that the wish was father of the thought."

"Still Grattan spoke truly when he said that the Parliament was the 'greatest that ever sat in Ireland.' There was an amazing assemblage of statesmanship and eloquence in the walls of the old House in College Green."

"Mr. Redmond has more than once declared that it is better for a country to govern itself badly than to be well governed by a foreign nation. His view is amply justified by the results of Irish Independence. The Irish Parliament as then established, was a failure, which is discussed in Chapter XVII, which is a legislative body; it's one redeeming virtue was that it was Irish. In spite of all its other limitations the years between its establishment and its fall, between 1782 and 1800, were the brightest in the history of Ireland."

Hard upon Grattan's great victory came the quarrel between him and Flood, which is discussed in Chapter XVII, under the heading "The Rift" and the consequences of which were most disastrous to the cause of Irish Independence.

The quarrel was begun by Flood who when the Act of George I. was repealed and his rival was at the height of his fame, began at first to insinuate and afterwards to boldly declare that simple repeal was wholly ineffectual and insufficient. The power thus abandoned by England might, he contended, be resumed; Ireland's only real security was an Act of renunciation by England.

"To this Grattan vehemently objected. As our author says—"The distinction taken by those two great men was the distinction between Tweedledum and Tweedledee;" but, as so often happens in the cases of such futile controversies, the contest was most bitter and prolonged.

"A few years later a Renunciation Bill was passed declaring the independence of the Irish Parliament and the Irish law courts by the first Act that was retained forever and at no time hereafter be questionable or questioned."

"If Flood was most to blame in the inception of the dispute Grattan was most to blame in its conduct. He represented the suggestion of a Renunciation Bill with something like ferocity. When Flood put down a motion for inquiry on the subject Grattan moved and carried an amendment refusing leave to bring in heads of a Renunciation Bill. Flood's doctrines found favor with the Volunteers, and as Grattan refused to consider their views, "the conduct of affairs passed from Grattan's control to Flood's, and Flood, though a man of commanding ability, was no adequate substitute for Grattan. He was moreover, hampered by the open hostility or lukewarm support of his greater rival."

We cannot go into the details of this struggle nor give even a summary of the speeches delivered in the House of Commons by Grattan and Flood. Mr. Bodkin closes this painful though interesting chapter with the following paragraph:

"In later years Grattan regretted his vitriolic speech. He spoke with much respect of Flood and paid a graceful tribute to his memory when he died. But the evil was done. Each of the two great leaders of the Independent Irish Parliament was committed to relentless hostility to any policy, however admirable, that was supported by the rival. A fatal jealousy was engendered, 'The direful spring of woes unnumbered,' their common country."

Shortly after the quarrel between Grattan and Flood there was held in Dublin, a second great convention of the Volunteers, summoned for the purpose of dealing with the subject of Parliamentary reform.

"There were two candidates for the presidency of this great Convention. On the one hand the feeble and timid Conservative Lord Charlemont, who had reached to prominence solely through his early connection with Grattan, and on the other the fearless democrat Earl of Bristol, the Protestant Bishop of Derry. Surely never were two rivals in sharper contrast. The Bishop of Derry, of whom too little is remembered, might be described as an Irish Wolsey, with this distinction, that Wolsey was a plebeian turned aristocrat while Bristol was a noble turned democrat. A British noble and an Irish Bishop, he forgot alike mix and coronet in his character of patriot." p. 162.

"Flood used his unbounded influence with the Volunteers to secure the presidency of Lord Charlemont, who, like himself, was opposed to Catholic Emancipation, which Flood's rival, Grattan, and Charlemont's rival, the Bishop of Derry, both strongly supported." * * * "The Convention contented itself with a moderate scheme of Reform, which Flood undertook to introduce at once in the House of Commons. "It was a delicate, difficult and dangerous task. The Bill, though moderate in form, threatened two-thirds of the members with political extinction. Grattan's fiery and eloquent determination might have forced it on a reluctant House of Commons, but Grattan was for