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A CRY FROM IRELAND.

BY N. J. O'CONNELL FRENCH.

What message is flashed through the ocean, From 'neath its billows and foam— Then over prairie and mountain To our distant Western home?

Is this the work of God's hand? No—'Famine's a curse that the landlord Brought to our beautiful land;

The harvest has failed, yet the landlord Demands, like chrysope, his gold— Pay the rent or your homesteads forfeit;

O, God! in a land fair and fertile, Comfort and splendor so nigh, On the soil once owned by our fathers Must a nation perish and die?

Why, strangers have come to the rescue— Strangers in blood and in race, Shall our hearts not feel for our mother One touch of pitying grace?

On the Brink of Starvation—Process Server Attacked.

LONDON, January 12.—A Dublin despatch says that although the Government have summoned Davitt, Daly, Killen and Brennan to appear before the Court of Queen's Bench, it is not expected further proceedings will be taken against them.

The distress in Ireland is increasing. Five hundred inhabitants of Skulebog District, County of Limerick, are on the brink of starvation. They proceeded to-day in a body to Croom, and got four cart loads of bread by the urgent representation of their extremity.

At a meeting at Birkenhead yesterday, the Mayor presiding, it was resolved to raise a subscription for the Duchess of Marlborough fund.

Davitt, Daly, Killen and Brennan to-day received notices commanding them to appear before the Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin, on the 17th instant.

LONDON, January 12.—At the village of Knocklickard, County Mayo, Ireland, on Saturday a fierce attack by a crowd of men and women was made on a process-server and a force of constables. The latter were almost overpowered and compelled to use their swords and bayonets. Several women were severely wounded. This maddened the men, and it was with great difficulty that a terrible loss of life was avoided.

DUBLIN, January 12.—A despatch from Cork states that large parties of men are parading the streets, carrying black flags and loaves of bread stuck on poles, as symbols of the popular ideas and popular queeting among the masses who are out of work. Much anxiety is expressed as to the result of the threatening demonstrations, and fears are entertained of serious bread riots, unless relief is speedily provided.

Amongst the speeches delivered at the Irish meeting in Sheffield was one by Mr. Mundella, M.P., which was characterised by great friendliness to Ireland, and in which the speaker declared that he would support even more emphatically than he had done in the past "the advanced Irish party in the House of Commons."

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CHARLES S. PARNELL, M. P.

CHARLES STEWART PARNELL, Esq., M. P., was born in 1846, at Avondale, in the county of Wicklow, Ireland, and was educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge, England. He was little more than an age on his initiation into Irish politics; but, from the first he took the popular side, and has never wavered in his allegiance to the cause of the people.

He belongs to a distinguished Wicklow family which settled in Ireland in the reign of Charles the Second, and soon became Irish to the back-bone and intensely national, and have for generations been identified with the struggle for independence. His grandfather, Sir John Parnell, was Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, previous to the passage of the "Act of Union," and to the last opposed that iniquitous barter of the liberties of Ireland.

Mr. Parnell is the reverse in appearance to one's ideal of an Irish political demagogue. Young, tall, slender and self-possessed in his manner, he looks—what, indeed, he is—acknowledged to be, even by the most virulent of his critics—a perfect gentleman. He is not by any means gifted with the eloquence of a Demosthenes, or the accomplishments of a Cicero. He lacks the brilliant poetic fancy that lent such charm to the magnificent orations of Richard Lalor Shiel, and, later on, to the lofty and eloquent utterances of Thomas Francis Meagher.

From the time he rises to speak until he sits down he arrests your whole attention. You see at a glance that he is no mere trading politician. He is not one of those slimy creatures who would swim with the popular tide for a time, but sell their 'patriotism' on the first lull of opportunity that presented itself in the shape of a situation as Junior Lovell of the Treasury or Admiralty, or any other snug berth that would put money in their purses.

The following sketch of the Irish leader, taken from the New Quarterly Magazine:—"At present the 'active party,' as they call themselves, or the 'Obstructionists,' as the newspapers call them, are by far the most popular in Ireland. They have a leader of singular ability, and of still more remarkable fitness for the place he holds. There never was a greater mistake made in our time than that which the English press generally made at first with regard to Mr. Parnell. Mr. Parnell has a Parliamentary capacity which may almost be described as genius. He has been compared to Smith O'Brien; but he has infinitely greater capacity than Smith O'Brien had, and, indeed, resembles Smith O'Brien in nothing that I can see except his absolute sincerity. Mr. Parnell's sincerity is of that kind which unfriend-

ly observers would call fanaticism. He is eaten up with the zeal of his purpose, and his devotion makes him indomitable. In his Parliamentary work he is slow in getting hold of a particular subject; but when once he has mastered it he can make such use of his knowledge as hardly any other man in the House, certainly as no other young man is able to do. No detail, however small, escapes him. He has greatly improved in speaking since he entered the House; but he only aims at being a debater, and never makes the slightest attempt at being eloquent. I emphatically declare that I never heard of any dispute between Mr. Parnell and any occupant of the Treasury Bench on a question of order or of proceeding in which Mr. Parnell did not prove to be right in the end. That is the great difficulty which the Government have

in him, and it is dimly certain to you that if you oppose him you will not be elected any more. If the Home Rule Office, in King street, Westminster, were the Palace of Truth, there would be a good deal blurted out there which would prove that I have not inaccurately described the feelings with which Mr. Parnell is regarded by not a few of his present colleagues."

Farming in the Northwest.

We have received from the Hudson Bay Company a pamphlet entitled "Manitoba and the Northwest." It purports to give a vast fund of information to the intending settler regarding the great wheat fields and stock raising lands of the Northwest. The productiveness of the soil along the Red River, Assiniboine and Little Saskatche-

which exist in so many parts of the Western States, are here entirely unknown. In summer the heat is by no means oppressive, the nights being always cool and bracing. In winter the cold is steady and no greater, as a rule, than is met with in all parts of the western part of the continent north of Chicago. The fall of snow is much lighter than in most parts of Canada, seldom reaching two feet in depth.

CHARACTER OF THE LAND.

In Manitoba the country is generally level prairie, with fringes of trees on the banks of the rivers and creeks. West of Manitoba the land is more rolling, and interspersed with numerous small lakes and ponds, where enormous numbers of wild geese, duck, plover and snipe abound. The Little Saskatchewan is already becoming a favorite resort for emigrants, as many as 100 persons, crossing the ferry at a point called Tanner's Crossing, on their way westward.

What this country wants to fill it up rapidly, and to carry off its surplus products, is a line of railway, and this the Government is now energetically prosecuting.

EXPERIENCE OF SETTLERS.

The experience of a few settlers are given, not as the fortune of a few, but the success of all industriously inclined:—Near Westbourne, 80 miles west of Winnipeg, not far from the southern end of Lake Manitoba, a farmer who settled upon 320 acres four or five years ago, and who was then without means, has now a large well stocked cattle farm, from which last year he realized \$2,000 in cash from the sale of cattle to new settlers coming into the country.

In the Riding Mountain country, about 40 miles beyond Manitoba, a settler took up a homestead of 100 acres last spring. Seven years ago he was a farm laborer in Devonshire, England. He emigrated to Canada and worked on farms near Stratford. Came to where he now lives in April, 1873, and in September last, had a fair sized log house; had broken up 10 acres of land, which next year he will sow with wheat; had a pair of oxen, plough, harrow, &c., had a large garden fenced off in with an excellent crop of potatoes and vegetables, and had cut on the prairie and stacked sufficient hay to last him through the winter.

Schools and churches are located at points easily accessible. The population is rapidly increasing, and with the influx of settlers better facilities will be afforded. The fare for emigrants is quoted at \$29 by Chicago, or \$21 via Duluth. A settler who desires to avoid the hardships of breaking in wild land can secure comfortable homes at a moderate cost. For this a capital of \$2,000 is essential. This is considered sufficient to ensure a competency and stock a farm with all necessary implements.

Further information on this interesting topic may be obtained by addressing the Hudson Bay Co., Montreal.

Destitution Unexcelled—One-Third of the Population Starving.

DUBLIN, January 11.—A number of unemployed labourers on Friday plundered the meat and bread shops. Process-servers violently resisted in Killanure, County of Galway, the parish priest causing the bell to be rung to give warning of the approach of the savers.

The Bishop of the Killala Diocese, comprising all Northern Mayo, writes that in Ballina Town, with 6,000 inhabitants, there are over 2,000 in a state of starvation. The Bishop says if the Government will not come to the rescue by instituting public works, we shall have more deaths from starvation here this year than in 1846 and 1847, when 3,000 died there from starvation. Letters from Catholic dignitaries of various other parts of Ireland also declare the distress to be very great.

LONDON, January 10.—The Catholic Bishop of the diocese of A-hony, Ireland, in acknowledging the French subscription for the relief of the distress in Ireland, dwells on the pitiful condition of his flock. He declares it is painful to have to stretch out a hand to America and France rather than to flourishing England, which yearly receives millions from Ireland as taxes.

Owing to want of snow in the woods lumbering operations in the Belleville district have been greatly retarded, and numbers of teams have been sent home.

Arrangements have been made for the shipment of from 100 to 150 car-loads of square timber from Hastings to Belleville. The timber will be rafted and forwarded to Quebec on the opening of navigation.

The total value of imports at the port of Liverpool, N.S., for the last year was \$56,843, against \$88,050 for the previous year. The total exports for the year were \$109,333, against \$154,233 in 1878. The collections for the year 1879 were 5,732 and \$7,252 in 1878.

BISMARCK'S GLOOMY CONDITION.

A Confirmed Misanthrope.

DUBLIN, January 12.—Bulletins from Varzin give most discouraging accounts from Prince Bismarck. His sufferings from insomnia do not abate, and the most powerful agents which the physicians dare to employ have thus far proved unavailing to produce refreshing and consecutive slumber. The Prince, still following his usual regime, eats a hearty dinner late in the day, forcing himself to do so, although his appetite is extremely deficient, and his stomach soon after his meals rejects the food which had been thus forced upon it. In conversation with his intimate friends the Prince gives way frequently to expressions of profound despondency and dejection. He repeats the remarkable expressions to which he gave utterance some weeks ago respecting the pitiful outcome of all the work for Germany, which has absorbed his time and strength for so many years. The critical position in which Germany now is, including the imminent prospects of war with Russia, the undoubted rejuvenation of France, and her ascension to the standing of a first-class civic and military power, which he did all that lay in his power to prevent, and the complication in which the Empire is involved on all sides, of which the Prince talks almost continuously, burden his mind and unquestionably aggravate the disease under which he is suffering.

The influence of his wife, to whom he is devotedly attached, is sufficient on some occasions to soothe and quiet him temporarily, but when deprived of it, he at once reverts to his previous talk and burdensome anxiety. The Prince's mental disquietude has now developed into hypochondria, and the opinion is expressed, even among the personal and political associates and friends of the Chancellor, that his work is done, and nothing now but an extraordinary constitution, already broken and impaired, stands between him and death, which is regarded as a probable event of the near future.

Awaiting a Decisive Struggle—Alarming News.

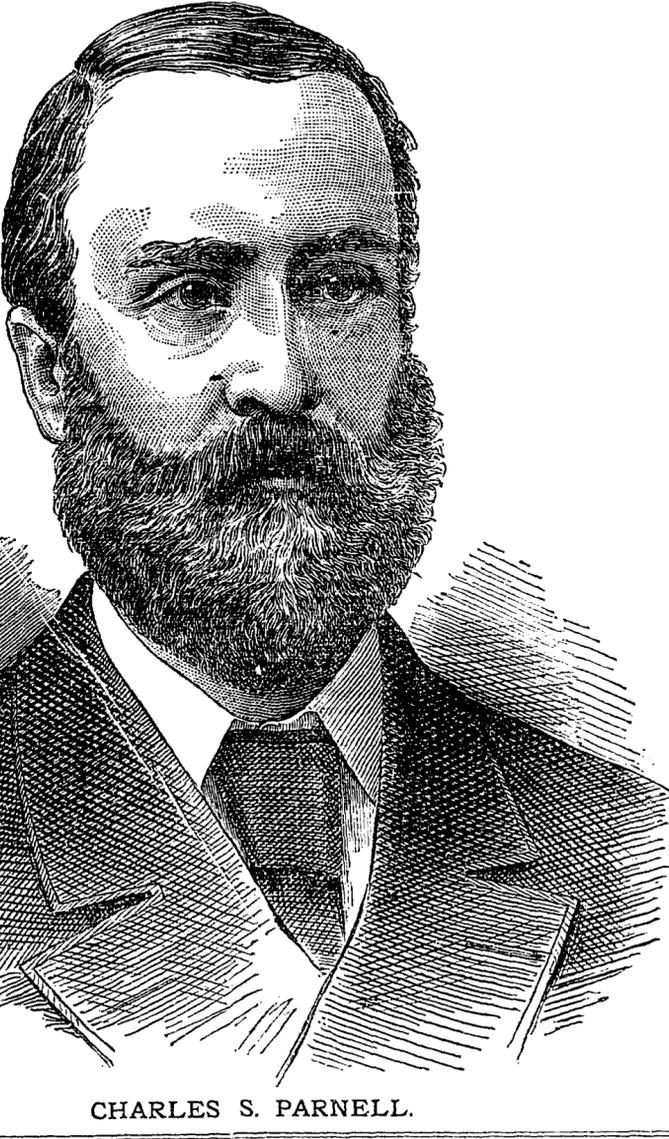
LONDON, January 12.—A despatch from Kabul says the British troops in the Kurum valley are expecting a general attack from the tribes.

LONDON, January 10.—A cable despatch says Mohammed Jan, with Musa Khan, son of the ex-Ameer, has occupied the fortress of Ghuzni with a strong force. Mohammed is said to have 12 guns. A serious struggle is anticipated in case of an attempt to dislodge them. In reply to a communication from General Roberts, he is declared to have exhibited no disposition to listen to propositions looking to a compromise. Mohammed is believed to have been reinforced by several thousand of Sher Ali's regulars, from whom the cannon probably were obtained. He has assumed political as well as military authority, and is collecting the revenues in the name of Musa Khan, whom he pretends to regard as the rightful reigning Ameer, though temporarily kept out of his capital by the British. He sent emissaries to Turkestan, commissioned to stir up the people there to engage in immediate warfare upon the British as a common enemy. The probabilities are said to be that on account of his high reputation as a soldier and commander, he will have no inconsiderable success in raising men to join him in Ghuzni, and begin hostilities on their own account from a home basis. It is not believed that General Roberts will hazard an advance on Ghuzni before spring. The rumor that Abdul Khan is raising a force in Kohistan for Mohammed Jan is regarded as well authenticated. The fact that while Ghuzni is understood to be the most important in the matter of the military operations of the insurgents, and the strongest for resistance in the country, no efforts are proposed towards its capture, is held here to be significant of the existing situation of the British in Afghanistan.

THE MONTREAL DELEGATION.

Presenting Resolutions to His Excellency the Governor-General.

OTTAWA, January 11.—At noon yesterday a deputation appointed at a meeting of Irish citizens of Montreal, held on December the 23rd, waited upon His Excellency the Governor-General, and presented him with a petition to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen. The deputation consisted of Messrs. C. J. Coursol, M. P., and Ryan, M. P., and Mr. F. D. McNamee. The petition embodied the resolutions passed at the meeting. The deputation was most cordially received at His Excellency's office in the Eastern block, there being also present Earl Grosvenor and Major De Winton. Mr. McNamee, as President of St. Patrick's Society, acted as spokesman, and said the resolutions embodied in the petition which he was about to present, had been passed at a public meeting held in the city of Montreal, at which a deputation had also been appointed to forward the petition to His Excellency to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen. The petition was then handed to His Excellency, who said that he would have pleasure in forwarding it. He then entered into conversation with Mr. McNamee, expressing the hope that they had all subscribed to the Duchess of Marlborough's fund. Mr. McNamee replied that the Catholic clergy of Montreal, who had been consulted, had stated that there was no immediate necessity for relief; were it necessary, he had no doubt that a liberal amount could be raised. His Excellency said they could rest assured that the money would be well expended; he had no doubt that in several of the counties considerable distress prevailed, and suggested that emigration to this country would be a desirable thing. Afterwards he conversed with Messrs. Coursol and Ryan, M.P.s, and the deputation withdrew. The members of the deputation left for home yesterday afternoon.



CHARLES S. PARNELL.

in their dealings with him. He has the faculty of making his opponent go wrong. What can you do with a man who not only contrives to keep himself always technically in the right, but has the tormenting faculty of making those who oppose him put themselves in the wrong? It would be idle to suppose that any gifts of Parliamentary debate, or cleverness of Parliamentary tactics, could make a man really formidable who had not something of a cause behind him; and Mr. Parnell has a cause, and is terribly in earnest about it. He is a positive terror to some of his colleagues. They dread him far more than the occupants of the Treasury Bench do. Make it your own case. Put it that you are an Irish gentleman with a liking for Parliamentary life and the sort of social distinction a seat in Parliament confers; and that you have, perhaps, a wife and daughters who are fond of London society in the season, and like to be invited to evening parties and balls in great houses. You get into Parliament perhaps at considerable expense, and after having to declare yourself in favor of Home Rule. You do not want to hear much more about Home Rule. A debate once in the session would be well enough, and you are quite willing to go into the lobby with your party to please your constituents. But otherwise you wish to keep on the best of terms with the House and with the leaders on both sides; you are glad to have a smile and a shake of the hand from any of them, and to meet them often in society. That is your ambition; what more reasonable on the part of a quiet and sensible person? But there rises on the horizon your political world this pale, indomitable, terribly earnest young man who will insist on harassing the Government, the leaders of the Opposition and the House in general, night after night; who cares nothing about society; who has no sympathy with your genial little ambitions; who does not mind even though five-sixths of the House detest him; and who is composedly ready to take any manner of martyrdom that Parliament or society could possibly inflict upon him. You cannot afford to repudiate him altogether, for your own constituents greatly admire him and believe

he obtained by addressing the Hudson Bay Co., Montreal.

A FUTURE SOURCE OF WEALTH.

The country is well adapted for raising cattle, the prairie grass being peculiarly nourishing and in unlimited quantities.

So excellent is the prairie grass that cattle driven for hundreds of miles across the plains, towards a market, improve steadily in weight and condition, as they proceed on their journey. An English nobleman has lately satisfied himself of this by personal examination on the spot, and has already started a large stock farm in the Little Saskatchewan country. Horses remain out throughout the winter, the depth of snow being light, and when brought in, in spring, are in better condition than when turned out at the beginning of winter. They are frequently horded in bands of from one to two hundred, in charge of one man to prevent their roaming too far. The climate of Manitoba and the Northwest is extremely healthy. Fever and ague,