

GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.

An Address to the Midlothian Committee at Edinburgh.

Defines His Position on the Question of the Disestablishment of the Church of Scotland—He Declares the Present Parliamentary Institutions Do Not Meet the Demands of the Country.

LONDON, Sept. 27.—Mr. Gladstone today brought his visit to Mr. George Armitstead at Black Craig Castle, near Blairgowrie, Scotland, to a close, and proceeded to Edinburgh. The party arrived in Edinburgh at 6 o'clock this evening. The admirers of Mr. Gladstone were out in force to welcome him. The station was besieged, and as he alighted from the train he was cheered again and again.

Mr. Gladstone's object in visiting Edinburgh was to address the Midlothian Committee, which met this evening in Albert Hall. As soon as possible after greeting personal friends and the committee appointed to receive him, the party entered carriages and were driven to the hall. It had been announced that Mr. Gladstone would in his address to the Committee declare the policy that the Government intends to follow until the next general election. Great interest was everywhere displayed in political circles as to what he would have to say in regard to the Government's programme, and the hall was crowded to the doors long before he arrived.

Mr. Gladstone, when he rose to speak, was received with an outburst of enthusiastic cheers. He began by admitting that he fretted justly over the progress of measures in which he was interested, but he held out the hope that before the close of the year some results would be achieved, especially in regard to local government and parish councils. With reference to the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland, he believed that the bill prepared by Mr. Cameron was designed as a practical settlement of the question and would open the doors for a union of the Presbyterian communions. He hoped that the friends of the Established Church would accept this chance for a moderate settlement.

Mr. Gladstone then turned to the Irish Home Rule bill, and spoke substantially as follows: "In spite of all that has been said the last session of the House of Commons will not have to be recorded as a barren one. The many days spent on the Home Rule bill will not be without a harvest. The fact that the people's chamber deliberately and advisedly passed after a long and searching discussion a bill of such vast importance, is the most significant step in connection with the whole subject of the contentment, happiness and peace of Ireland. (Cheers). The fact is that the present parliamentary institutions are too weak for their purpose. They overweigh and do not meet the demands of the country.

In spite of this sacrifice of the House of Commons during the past session there was a legislative famine. There is something wrong and defective in the present institutions. The condition is intolerable and demands the concentrated attention of the removal of the defects. The evils are immeasurable. On one hand is the nation expressing just demands; on the other hand are the necessary measures to satisfy those demands. But between the two there is a great barrier, namely, the Irish question, which has taxed the energy and mortgaged the time of Parliament generation after generation asks why has this question continued to exist so long and who is answerable for its remaining before us? There is only reply. The responsibility rests with the House of Lords. (Cheers). Who has the remedy in dealing with this great evil?"

Mr. Gladstone then proceeded to review the relations that have existed between the House of Lords and the House of Commons since the passage of the Reform bill in 1832. He cited three cases in which the peers had rejected measures passed by the Commons, the third of which was the refusal of the Lords to pass the Home Rule bill in 1886. This measure having been rejected by the Upper House the question was discussed incessantly until 1892, when the entire country returned a majority in its favor.

"That verdict," continued Mr. Gladstone, "were their grounds for that reversal? A majority of the Lords gave an opinion hostile to the bill, a majority of the Commons an opinion in its favor. Yet it is hardly a case in which one opinion is as good as another. The Peers form their opinion for the masters. They are responsible to nobody and if it proves wrong they will neither be abused nor made to suffer in any way."

"Our opinion is not solely our own, but was formed in discussion with the nation, and was given with all the authority that a national verdict can confer. I claim, therefore, that the Peers do not stand well on their own showing. They certainly stand worse on the showing of their friends in the House of Commons. The latter set up the fantastic plea that the people know nothing of the bill. Necessarily it involves a multitude of important details, but the exception of the retention in parliament of the Irish members, on which we, to the utmost conform to the will of the people, the country displayed no disposition to enter into detail. It was content to leave it to the discussion of Parliament. There could possibly be a more frivolous pretence than the people do not know the bill. The plea that the Home Rule bill was insufficiently discussed is equally flimsy, and the House of Lords did well to avoid these fallacious pretences, the adoption of which would have shown egregious folly and want of tact and skill, for they disposed in four days of a bill that occupied the attention of the House of Commons eighty-two days. Then there is the third plea that the Lords are entitled, indeed, I think they say bound by duty to require a reference to the country. That is not constitution. The doctrine of the constitution shows that if a responsible ministry advises a dissolution of Parliament there ought to be a dissolution at the risk of the ministry and the House of Commons has power which it has frequently exercised to force a dissolution by vote. But no such thing has been recorded at any period of our history as a dissolution brought about by a vote in the House of Lords. Such a contention is a gross, a monstrous innovation, an odious new fangled doctrine, and no men are fonder of these doctrines than the modern Tories, except it be the modern Unionists. But in addition to being a new fangled doctrine, I hold that it is nothing less than high treason if this is to continue to be a self-governing country. But we make this plea, we say if we are punished, why should not the majority in the House of Lords also be punished when it misinterprets the judgment of the country?"

Let us have fair play and no favor. Why should the House of Lords be allowed to pass off with impunity, an impunity which only encourages them to repeat upon the first occasion a similar prank to that they have just committed? Depend upon it, it is an extremely serious matter. On this upposition that you could subject a majority of the Lords to the same penal consequences as those you can lay upon a majority of the Commons there would be something at least like a prima facie case of justice and equality, some small plea for this plea of the House of Lords to the right to correct the judgment of the House of Commons and to send them back to the country. But there is not even the thinnest presumption of justification for such a proceeding. That being so, we have arrived at a very serious position, and the grand question is, how are we to escape from it?"

After passing reference to the intelligence and incomparable unity of the Liberals without which the minority would, he said, have broken down and destroyed the bill without sending it to the House of Lords, Mr. Gladstone continued: "I was not so sure when Lord Salisbury threatened a year ago to destroy the Home Rule bill that the Lords recognized that this might involve the question of their own independent and responsible existence (prolonged cheers). If it should ever happen in the vicissitudes of political affairs that the House of Lords by some accident or collateral process should bring about a dissolution of the House of Commons, depend upon it the people will not consider the Home Rule Bill alone, but will mix with it another question in which the Lords may bitterly lament when it is too late that they ever raised an issue."

After a tribute of respect and admiration for the personal qualities of the

peers as individuals, Mr. Gladstone contended that abstract rights passed by both the Lords and the Commons must always be exercised with the utmost discretion, if those rights are to be permanently reserved. On this occasion he said that discretion has been entirely and absolutely wanting. In regard to the manner of facing the situation Mr. Gladstone said that there could not be procured a cut-and-dried solution of the dilemma, this was neither the time nor the place to consider the matter. He counselled neither violence nor vehemence, all that was necessary was a quiet determination to cling to the hope that better counsel would prevail and induce the House of Lords to grant to Ireland some just satisfaction of her national aspirations. If the worst came, the worst consolation that could be offered would be to remind them of recent history and of the vast changes of the past sixty years, not one of which originated in the House of Lords, or was promoted by the Lords, or the existence of which on the statute book was due to the impartial opinion of the Lords. To every one of those changes the opinion of the House of Lords had been adverse, although its manifestation might have been prudently restrained, and might perhaps be prudently restrained again.

"For my part," said Mr. Gladstone, "I find this retrospect office nearly encouraging. If the nation is determined it will not be baffled by a phalanx of 500 peers. We have the will of the country to execute and cannot submit to the House of Lords, although they bear high sounding titles and sit in a gilded chamber."

REV. BRO. ARNOLD.

He Will Still Be With Us.

Elsewhere we published an account of the mass meeting held on the evening of the twenty-sixth September, in St. Ann's Hall, for the purpose of passing resolutions requesting the religious authorities to retain the Rev. Bro. Arnold as Director of St. Ann's school. Brother Arnold had already left for Quebec when the meeting was held. Mr. Wm. McKay, secretary of the assembly, forwarded the said resolutions to Rev. Bro. Flamen, visitor of the Christian Brothers, and accompanied them with an account of the meeting. In acknowledging receipt of the papers, the Reverend visitor sent Mr. McKay the following very sympathetic and generously worded letter, and we are confident that its contents will be read with pleasure by all our readers and with a feeling of gratitude towards the Rev. visitor, who has so kindly and favorably considered the case.

[TRANSLATION.]

MONTREAL, 30th Sept., 1893.

MR. WILLIAM MCKAY,

DEAR SIR,—On reaching our Mother House, Cole street, this morning, I found your letter of the 28th instant, addressed to me, and the clipping from the Gazette, which you sent me, containing the account of a meeting of the leading parishioners of St. Ann's, held in their public hall, on the occasion of the removal of Rev. Brother Arnold-of-Jesus.

The resolution unanimously adopted by that due meeting, expressing the lively regret caused by that change, and asking me to rescind it, does great honor to the members of the assembly as it also does honor to the worthy religious that they desire to retain at the head of their school. There is nothing surprising in all that to whose ever knows the boundless devotedness of Brother Arnold-of-Jesus and the generosity of the families in St. Ann's parish whose children were confided, for almost seventeen years, to his zealous care.

It is for this that I felt grieved, myself, at the removal, which was in consequence of his advanced years and infirmities rendered necessary. But let not the good people, whom I love and esteem in a particular manner, become too despondent; Brother Arnold is not completely removed from them. After having taken some rest at Fraserville and at Quebec, he will return to reside in Montreal, where he will be intrusted with the inspection of English classes and the visiting also, from time to time, of those in Quebec. These classes will reap great benefits from his experience, and will certainly give even better satisfaction than in the past, the pupils being stimulated by the practical examinations they will pass under the direction of such an able master. The duties of that office will be most agreeable to Brother Arnold-of-Jesus, and, I am sure, will cause him less fatigue than those of the community, which must be followed up daily.

Moreover, the good parishioners of St. Ann's, who can so well appreciate virtue and the spirit of self-denial, will be happy to find in Rev. Brother Prudent-of-Mary, whom they already know, a heart entirely devoted to them, and an ardent spirit that will be unreservedly active in the service of their children.

Hoping this reply will prove agreeable, I have the honor to be, dear sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

BROTHER FLAMEN, Visitor.

Some one observes that the day is lost on which we do not share another's sorrows. But why not his joys? Why should there forever be this assumption of infelicities?

(Continued from first page.)

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB will give on Monday, the 16th October instant, a grand concert for the benefit of the praiseworthy enterprise which has been carried on so successfully all summer. The large dramatic hall under the Jesuit Church, on Bleury street, has been secured for the occasion, and some of the best talent of the city will take part in a splendid programme. It is expected that His Grace the Archbishop will be present. If so, the sailors will present an address to His Grace. The incalculable good which the Club has done since its first opening is not only satisfactory as to the past, but exceedingly encouraging for the future. Great expenses have been incurred in securing the rooms, fitting them up, supplying literature and furnishing the sailors with all species of accommodations. The members of the Club have freely given their time and labor in the cause, and they naturally expect that the citizens of Montreal, who owe them so much for all the good they have done and are doing, should lend a helping hand. Here is a grand opportunity of aiding in this magnificent work, and we hope that on the night of the 16th the Jesuit Hall will be thronged. The programme will appear next week.

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GREAT social reforms are going on in Belgium. Canon Winterer is giving conferences at Mons and is explaining to the Belgians the progress and difficulties of German Catholics. At Liege, Abbe Naudet, a Frenchman, has been delivering very popular lectures. He is trying to reconcile the lower classes of France with the Church. The Abbe is a most eloquent man and is looked upon as a great friend of the working classes. And truly he is their friend in the fullest sense of the term since he seeks not only their temporal but also their spiritual welfare.

A YOUNG MEN'S HALL.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—I am sending you a pamphlet regarding the Y. M. C. A. and the inducements they show in it. I am more than struck with astonishment, since, with our numbers, we cannot strike an arrangement for the clubbing together of the different society camps in the city of Montreal, and get a building like them. Surely it would be a source of benefit, instead of small branches hither and thither. Would ask your kind attention to marked pages in pamphlet. Surely our Catholic Young Men's National, Literary, &c., ought to make a start. Is it to be said of us: "*Dum deliberamus quando incipiendum incipere jam rerum fit*," leaving this for able consideration.

F. B. T. BOWEN.

Montreal, October, 1893.

[This letter touches upon the subject of an editorial that we publish this week.—Ed. T. W.]

Entertainment in St. Mary's Hall.

A very interesting and instructive entertainment was given on Wednesday evening in St. Mary's Hall, under the auspices of Rev. Father O'Donnell and a committee of gentlemen. The object was to raise money for the effacement of a debt contracted in establishing a parochial school for boys. That the establishment of such a school was a work of necessity is clearly evident from the fact that, although it is only entering upon the second term of its existence, the pupils number upwards of 250. The school is taught by secular teachers and has for its director the zealous and energetic pastor of St. Mary's. The programme consisted of a "Polyopticon trip" from Halifax to Vancouver, with amusing incidents, such as "The misadventures of a bashful man and the demon cat." Professor James Wilson furnished music during the evening.

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