

classes in England and elsewhere such as few men, whether religious teachers or ethical reformers, have ever displayed. His scheme is, as the *Spectator* says, "a good, big, honest scheme for going down to the bottom and reaching the lowest residuum." Nevertheless had the same scheme been propounded by almost any other living man, no matter how brilliant his talents, or how fervid his rhetoric, who had not previously proved himself possessed of the art of ruling with strict discipline, maintained through a lengthened period, large masses of men and women of the class his scheme is intended to reach, not only in Great Britain but in distant countries, it would have been received with coldness or derision. It is, of course, easy to conjure up many seemingly insuperable objections to the scheme itself, and almost to demonstrate the impossibility of anything like complete success. Notwithstanding, the feeling prevails that it can do no harm and may do incalculable good to give it a trial, and, as above intimated, it is a relief to those who have long groaned under a sense of helplessness in the presence of an evil so enormous in its kind and dimensions, to know that something on a large scale is to be tried and that they may help in making the trial. It is no small tribute to the moral impression which General Booth has made that no one seems to have any doubt of his integrity and fitness to be entrusted with the control of the large sum of money for which he so boldly asks. On the whole, it is not too much to say that the grandest scheme of the century, if not of any century, for the rescue of the submerged masses is about to be put in operation, and that, that man or woman who does not at least desire to invest something in the experiment must be unenviably sceptical or callous.

THE fierce and prolonged struggle between Parnellites and Anti-Parnellites in the Irish Home-Rule Party has ended in a truce rather than a victory. The stronger and more reputable section has withdrawn its forces, leaving the minority, under its unscrupulous but wily and resolute leader, in possession of the sinews of war. The scene of conflict will now be transferred to thrice unhappy Ireland, destined seemingly by a malevolent fate to be the field of perpetual strife. There is always something savouring of the ungenerous in denouncing a great leader when he is down, no matter by what crime he may have wrought his own downfall, and had Parnell shown any elements of moral greatness, to offset in some degree the astounding moral turpitude which has amazed friends and enemies alike, we should be sorry to add the feeblest note to the chorus of a nation's condemnation. But his utter disregard of the interests of the cause which he was supposed to have so much at heart, the brutal unfairness with which he has used his position as Chairman to prevent the voice of the Party from making itself heard, and above all, his absolute insensitiveness, real or assumed, to the moral aspects of the question, all combine to raise him to a bad eminence as the most unscrupulous man in British public life. What the result of the struggle on Irish soil may be, it is useless to attempt to guess; yet upon that result depend the future relations of the Gladstonian Liberals to the Home Rule question, and to British politics. A renewed struggle for Home Rule under different auspices; a *modus vivendi* of some kind between the Government and the Parnell wing of the Irish members, with some modified form of Home Rule, or some enlarged scheme of land purchase as a substitute in the background; a re-union of the divided sections of the Liberal party, with Home Rule thrown overboard, under Gladstone, may be regarded as each among the possibilities of the near future. Meanwhile the long-suffering British people must be almost ready to welcome anything not really dishonourable which would promise a speedy end to the long blockade of Parliament by the Irish question. To them it must seem that a renewal of the struggle by a divided and weakened party, with the prospect of another five or ten years' contest on the floor of Parliament, would be about the greatest of all possible evils. All parties will wait the *denouement* with intense impatience. Meanwhile the one redeeming feature of the present affair is that the moral sentiment of the nation has so far prevailed, for, however interested politicians may attempt to deny or disguise it, it is clear that the moral convictions of British Nonconformists and other electors have, more than any other cause, or all others combined, forced both the Gladstonian chiefs and the Irish seceders to maintain the determined attitude which has led to the repudiation of Parnell by two-thirds of his Party in number, and nine-tenths of it in weight.

"ASIA on the Pacific and the Behring Sea" is the title of an interesting article, by Hyde Clarke, published originally, we think, in the *Asiatic Quarterly* and now laid on our table in pamphlet form. The first half of the article deals with the new routes to India and Australia which have been opened up by means of the American and Canadian transcontinental railways, and the bearing the new connection thus formed with the East is likely to have on Eastern relations, and on the policy of India in particular. A new course of policy, naval and military, is acquiring consistency, and greater safeguard is being established against Russia, which "has reached the Pacific only to encounter the Americans and the English." Though the States and Russia are on opposite shores of the Ocean, the inter-communication is small and not without materials for irritation arising out of the close Russian system and the attempts of individual American adventurers to trade with Russian settlements and in Russian seas. The flattering Russian courtesies which for a time told powerfully upon the feelings of Americans have lost their influence, while the American visitor now finds himself at home in the old country, claims a hereditary interest in its monuments and its great men, and looks upon the village or the hamlet from which his pilgrim forefather started as in a sense his own. The ties of blood are reasserting their power; the press, the telegraph, the novelist, the preacher, and the actor are all bringing to bear influences in the same direction, and the columns of the *Times* give evidence of the constant increase of inter-marriages on both sides of the Atlantic. But interesting as it is to follow the writer as he traces the development and trend of old affinities under new conditions, it is his historical sketch of the Behring Sea controversy which has drawn our attention particularly to this article. One cause of obscurity in connection with this matter is, Mr. Hyde Clarke thinks, the importation into geography of the new phrase Behring's Sea, adopted by the American Secretary of State for the special purpose of proposing it as a close sea. New Albion and Nootka Sound, the seat of the English settlement founded in the last century, have disappeared from the present maps. The former name was given by Drake to the countries he had discovered in that neighbourhood and of which he proclaimed Elizabeth Queen. This was the foundation of the British claims on that coast and on British Columbia, claims which were maintained not only against the Russians but against the Spaniards long before the advent of the Russians. We cannot follow the historical sketch of these struggles, but such details as the arrival of the *Sea Otter* and the *Nootka* in Prince William's Sound in 1786 show that the sea on the Eastern, which is now the Russian side of what it is proposed to term the close sea, was then free to navigation. In 1789 the seizure of two or three British vessels, with some valuable furs, by the *Iphigenia*, a Spanish warship, the hauling down of the British flags which had been erected by Lieutenant Meares of the *Nootka* the year before, and the hoisting of that of Spain in its place, very nearly led to a war, but the firm attitude of Pitt and the British Government brought about, after a long series of Spanish shufflings and evasions, the convention signed at the Escorial, October 28th, 1800. By the first article the buildings and lands seized by the Spaniards were to be restored, and by the second reparation was to be made, while the third secured that the subjects of both nations should not "be disturbed or molested, either in navigating or carrying on their fisheries in the Pacific Ocean, or in the South Seas." Article IV., indeed, provided that British subjects should not navigate, or carry on their fishery in the said seas within the space of ten sea leagues from any part of the coasts already occupied by Spain, but Article V. gave free access to the subjects of both nations in any settlements on the coast of North America formed since April, 1789. The drafts of the despatches in connection with this matter are said to be in Pitt's own handwriting.

AS a consequence of the events above described, Captain Vancouver was sent out on a voyage of discovery in 1791. In 1792 he discovered the strait separating the Island which now bears his name, from the mainland. On the coast, apparently as far north as Nootka, Captain Vancouver found the fur trade established and a number of English and American vessels engaged in it. The chief fur at that time was that of the sea otter. In 1822 the Duke of Wellington was commissioned to the Congress of Vienna, specially charged to deal with North-West American matters. This mission seems to have arisen out

of an ukase of the Czar in 1821, claiming exclusive dominion over the Pacific, and a monopoly of a hundred Italian miles from land. Against these pretensions the British Government had immediately protested, as shown by letters attached to Lord Salisbury's despatch of August 2nd last. The United States resisted the pretensions with equal vigour and required Russia to enter into a convention. "In 1822 the Russians seized the Boston brig *Pearl* for whaling in Behring Sea within 100 miles of the coast line. The United States compelled the *Pearl* to be restored, and the damages of her owners duly paid." These facts are not new and the rest of the history is familiar, and is brought out in the Blue Book. Mr. Clarke comments, however, upon the strange fact that the officials of the American Department of State should have so studiously avoided, as if forgetting, well-known incidents in American history, as also the despatches of their own eminent statesman, John Quincy Adams. On the other hand he gives deserved credit to the many American papers, including the *New York Herald*, which have shown great fairness in dealing with the question. It is also curious, he thinks, that the British Colonial and Foreign Offices did not bring forward the despatches of 1822 and 1825 until the very last period of the correspondence, and failed entirely to avail themselves of the preceding circumstances in connection with the action of Mr. Pitt, which have an important bearing upon the question. Mr. Clarke also quotes, as suggesting comment, the clause at the close of Lord Salisbury's despatch in which he observes that "British Columbia has come into existence as a British Colony at a comparatively recent date," without reference to the previous history dating from 1787. He further makes a suggestion to the effect that seeing that the merchants and ship owners of British Columbia have been the chief actors in local events, it would have been better had the claim put forward been more prominently that of British Columbia, "which has its own Agent-General," rather than that of the Dominion, which he seems to think creates jealousy and ill-feeling, and adds that the Ministers of the Dominion of Canada have not themselves put forward in its full effect the case of British Columbia." We have elsewhere seen allusions to the fact that the intervention of the Canadian Government seems to have had an irritating effect on Mr. Blaine, as indeed was pretty clearly shown in one of his despatches. Those who suggest this view apparently forget that the negotiations are necessarily conducted by the British Government, that that Government does not communicate directly with the Provincial but only with the Federal authorities, and that, moreover, constitutionally all matters affecting trade and commerce come exclusively within the domain of the Government of United Canada, of which British Columbia, like every other Province, is now an integral part. "The impression made by the Blue Book is," says Mr. Clarke, "that the despatches of Lord Salisbury show great ability, as do the local despatches of Sir Julian Pauncefote, and that Mr. Blaine has not made a single point." Some of the American newspapers have admitted nearly as much.

THE passing of the International Copyright Act by the House of Representatives at Washington, and the virtual certainty of its early passage by the Senate, show that the United States is about to free itself from a reproach of long standing. For many years past many of the most honourable and high-minded men in the Republic have been strenuously calling for the passage of such an Act, in the name of simple honesty. The gist of the measure now about to become law is that foreign authors, in countries which extend similar privileges to American authors, may secure copyrights in the United States. The most onerous condition is the provision that, in order to secure such copyright, the work must be reproduced in the United States from type set up there. This clause, designed for the protection of publishers and printers in the Republic, will, we suppose, seem somewhat less burdensome, in view of the fact that the duty escaped will go far to cover the cost of reprinting. It has been argued that under this law American authors will be benefitted by the discontinuance of the cheap reprints of English works, while the printers will profit from the protection the new law affords in requiring reprinting of the foreign copyrighted works. But it may be questioned whether the competition in authorship will not be increased rather than diminished under the new Act. If not, the American printer must lose more by the falling off in the work of reprinting the pirated books than he will gain from the