

SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY

On the Situation in Ireland.

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy contributes the following letter to the Dublin Daily Independent, in response to a request from that journal to give his views on the present situation in Ireland. He writes:—
(To the Editor "Daily Independent.")

Dear Sir,—Your telegram inviting me to send a message to Ireland on the success of the County Council elections and her march to Home Rule, reminds me painfully of the helpless condition of a country where there is no one whose counsel on any subject will be received with an assent that can justly be called National. For myself, I have no pretensions to advise my countrymen, except an un-sleeping interest in whatever concerns their honor or prosperity. But though, frankly, I expected such an invitation from no one in Ireland less than yourself, I accept the overture as an evidence of the good-will which ought to exist among men who have the common purpose of raising up Ireland anew and putting the emblems and agencies of authority into her hands.

I cordially congratulate the Irish people on their victory at the polls. It was as inevitable, I think, that the constituencies of the south should for the most part vote for Home Rulers as that the constituencies of Down and Antrim should for the most part vote for Unionists. But the Nationalists had a double trust committed to them. They were not only bound to secure a majority for National principles, but to ensure a fair representation to the minority, for it cannot be doubted, I think, that the establishment of National autonomy will be greatly promoted by the fair and generous exercise of the power we have obtained, or greatly impeded by the misuse of it.

To secure Home Rule by law, we must have a majority in the House of Commons, and I have no doubt many of our best friends there would be alienated if the County Councilors showed themselves greedy or unjust. I judge not only on general principles, but on what I may call my parochial experience. In this city of Nice, where I have mostly resided in latter years, there are about a dozen Home Rulers, mostly Englishmen or Scotchmen, who were enthusiastic friends of the cause a dozen years ago; but who have gradually come to consider that till the Irish Nationalists can agree among themselves, no outsider can be of any use to them. And if there were just cause to complain of the County Councils, they would certainly consider our cause hopeless.

To my thinking the present representation of the minority on the Councils is not too great, but too small.

But I trust it will gradually increase until the whole nation is represented in reasonable proportion to its elements; no more and no less, for the Councils ought to represent the whole Irish nation, all its classes, interests, sects, and parties. Though I read with delight the unequivocal victories of the National Party, there were some of their defeats in which I sympathized with the victors. Lord Mounteagle is, I think, the very ideal of a country gentleman, who takes a keen interest in whatever concerns the benefit of the people, who loves and reverences his native country, and who will I trust serve her some day in the Senate of an Irish Parliament. The O'Connor Don has an historical pedigree, as well defined as Queen Victoria's, and it is not good to forget that he is the lineal representative of Roderick O'Connor, the last Ardriagh of Ireland. I can scarcely be said to know the O'Connor Don. I only remember meeting him once 20 years ago, on some public occasion, when our common friend Sir Colman O'Loghlen introduced us, saying to me in a pleasant banter, "Here is your legitimate King." "Well," I said, "whenever he asserts his claims in arms I will take them into favorable consideration. Meantime the question may be adjourned." At that time the O'Connor Don was understood to be a Home Rule member, and since that time I read with surprise and pain his signature to the address of Catholic landlords against Home Rule. But, on the other hand, he made a most useful and effective exposition of the financial claims of Ireland, which renders him peculiarly fit and entitled to take a prominent part in the local government of the country.

I trust the Councils will apply themselves assiduously to the task for which they were primarily created, and show they are fit and determined to manage the public business of their district satisfactorily, but I gladly acknowledge they have other duties which must not be neglected. Almost every man in Ireland is poor-

er because we pay between two and three millions a year beyond our just share in the Imperial expenditure, such a paltry fraction of which is spent in Ireland, or on Irish industries; and our young men fight the battle of life at a serious disadvantage, because we are denied the middle class education which is so abundantly supplied to England and Scotland and to the Irish minority. It is right and natural that the representatives of the people should insist upon these claims, and, moreover, that they should insist on the necessity of creating a National legislature and government.

We have been accustomed to read in English newspapers the smug criticisms of writers who think that a country that has got County Councils can have no need of a parliament. But County Councils exist in England, and she has no intention when I have heard of, of dispensing with her parliament. Ireland is on her march as you say, to Home Rule, and County Councils can aid her effectively in that way. But, trust me, it is a goal she will never reach by their unaided assistance. We want now, as much as ever, and more than ever, a great National Party in the House of Commons. The new Palace of Westminster is an arena from which deadly arrows are often pointed at the breast of Ireland, and also from which at rare intervals important concessions are obtained. None of these latter—for example, the establishment of the tenant's right to that share of the soil created by his industry; the recognition of religious liberty by the disestablishment of the Irish Protestant Church; the creation in Ireland for the first time of an electoral franchise such as exists in England; and the institution of Local Government through County Councils—would or could have come without the presence of an honest and vigilant Irish party.

I have been told many times of late that the experiment of Independent opposition has failed, that members go to Parliament only to squabble with each other, and that we may as well lay down their arms in despair. I am far from thinking so. Ireland has come safely through worse troubles, and if she cannot do so again the fault will be her own. I will take the liberty of speaking on this subject with the freedom of one separated forever from political action by the burden of years. I believe the Irish quarrels can be composed, ought to be composed, and that they must be composed, if this era of our history is not to be recalled with contempt and aversion by our posterity. The late effort to combine the sections of the party only failed because a crowd cannot negotiate, not even a crowd of diplomats, still less a crowd of patriots. But if there be in Ireland three Irishmen in whose integrity and capacity the disputants have confidence whose decision they would be willing to accept, such a committee might confer with each other, and difficulties which look insurmountable would speedily disappear.

Have we three such men? If not, we are poor indeed. But I cannot doubt it. England and the United States have serious difficulties to determine just now, and an eminent and greatly gifted Irishman is selected for that exacting task. And if an Imperial necessity rendered it necessary to fall back on the reserve of retired diplomatists for an incomparable agent another eminent Irishman would inevitably be appealed to. The intellectual resources of Ireland are not exhausted. Three such men as I have suggested could certainly be found, and impediments would vanish before their wise counsels. It is, of course, a sine qua non that the Leaders of the three sections into which the Irish party is divided should be willing to accept their judgment. Cynical persons affirm that this is impossible because the leaders are determined not to be satisfied, but I do not in the least believe it. They have all faults—as which of us has not?—but I am persuaded they love Ireland with steadfast loyalty, and have nothing so near their hearts as to be remembered for having served the cause ennobled in the blood of our race. They have said hard things to each other, but these sarcasms have not made the slightest impression upon me. I have read history. I remember the savage invectives of Flood and Grattan, and the mutual distrust of Mr. Doyle and O'Connell, and I know that exaggeration is a sin to our people.

An Irishman in an eminent position lately said to me: "The incurable difficulty is that we have three jockeys and only one horse to ride." But I replied: "Not so; on the contrary, we have a stud full of horses and an in-

sufficient supply of riders." I told my friend that a colonial statesman devised a plan of organizing a Parliamentary opposition very suitable to the Irish party. His supporters were numerous, vigorous and many of them ambitious, and he distributed their duties into departments in the same manner as the head of a government does with his colleagues. To one was committed the land question, to another finance, to a third education, and so forth. Every man got the business he was fittest for, and he was at liberty to select a committee of half a dozen from the general body of the party to assist him, and the work went on triumphantly. The Irish cause would divide itself naturally into half a dozen departments, of which no one could say which was the most important.

If I was six and twenty, as I was when the first number of the "Nation" issued, I would ask for a department which might be considered an obscure sinecure—to be delegate of foreign affairs. I would like in that character to invite the President of the United States to remember what martyr blood he inherits, and to ask him if an American alliance with England ought not to be preceded by a concession to Ireland of the National rights for which his ancestor died. I

would like to ask a friendly foreign Minister in France to recall the history of the Irish College in Paris, founded by savings from the scanty pay of the Irish Brigade, to give the sons of Irish gentlemen an education denied them by penal laws at home, how it fell before the fury of the Revolution, how, when order was restored a money compensation was granted to Ireland, not one sou of which ever reached Ireland, or Irishmen, and invite the Minister to inquire what has become of the money. I think the most brazen Chancellor of the Exchequer who ever defended the financial robbery of Ireland would be ashamed to tell that story. There ought to be no peace for English statesmen till that debt is paid or openly repudiated. Or perhaps it is to the delegate for education this claim ought to be committed, for the money is surely due to the Irish seminaries. And when he has had an answer on that question, he might ask the financier to supply him with a return of the pensions granted to the mistresses and minions of English Kings charged on the Irish establishment, and which constitutes a large part of the debt employed at the time of the Union, and after to bring Ireland into a condition which would render her resources answerable for the National debts of England.

Character in Handwriting.

There is no study more interesting, for the one who has an inquisitive mind, than that of human character as exhibited in handwriting. In a lengthy article upon the subject, the New York "Sun" gives a detailed account of several most interesting cases in which the fortunes of the contending parties hinged upon the evidence of the great handwriting expert, Mr. Ames. What gave rise to the article was the following:—

The testimony given by handwriting experts will be put to a severe test when the case of Roland B. Molineux, accused of sending a package containing poison to Harry Cornish, comes to trial. In the inquest the spectacle of six handwriting experts coming forward and, on the strength of comparisons of handwriting, declaring that Molineux was the guilty man was witnessed. These six experts are expected to go on the stand again and reiterate their statements. The result of the Molineux trial will do much to determine the value of the evidence of this character."

It would occupy too much space for our paper to reproduce the amusing and instructive stories related in connection with this subject, but certainly the following opinion will be read with interest. Mr. William J. Kinsley, who has attained some prominence in the Molineux case, summed up the position of the experts in this way:—

"I believe, with Disraeli, that nature has given every individual a distinct sort of handwriting, as she has given him a peculiar countenance, voice and manners. Few persons who have not carefully investigated the matter of individuality in handwriting can understand how the telltale peculiarities, which we call characteristics are so thoroughly identified with the handwriting of the individual. People don't even know the peculiarities of their own writing till they are pointed out to them. These peculiarities are acquired in much the same way as peculiarities of voice, gesture and manner, by countless repetitions until they become fixed as unconscious habits.

"The innumerable combinations of letters and strokes give such a variety that duplication of any quantity of one person's writing by another is impossible, and the comparison of handwriting has been reduced to almost a mathematical certainty. If

two pieces of writing are to be compared, the genuine piece is first closely examined by the expert for peculiarities or characteristics. Every point is noted, size, slant, speed, spacing, movement, relation of letters, parts of letters and words. Then the disputed handwriting is examined, and if the same characteristics are noted, there is no doubt that one person wrote both pieces.

"A forger cannot avoid that of which he has no knowledge—he does not step around that which he does not see. There are four things which are impossible to the forger—to know all the characteristics of the hand he wishes to simulate; to be able accurately to reproduce them if he should see them; to know all the characteristics of his own hand, and to sink his own individuality and drop the characteristics of his own hand at will. In spite of skill, conception and practice he will fail to see all of the characteristics of the hand he is imitating, he will not reproduce all that he sees, in addition, is sure to infuse some of his own characteristics into the forgery. In writing a single name the forger often betrays himself.

"Pictorial effect will deceive anybody. A forgery is bound to look like the original, and those who judge writing by pictorial effect cannot avoid being deceived. But comparison on the lines I have mentioned will reveal any forgery. It is infallible. No stronger proof that handwriting is entirely an unconscious product, produced without any reflex action, can be given than the fact that in cases of double character. I tested this once by having a man write a line, and later, while in a hypnotic state, write the same line over again. The writing was precisely the same down to the smallest characteristics.

"In recent years the work of handwriting experts has done so much to explode great frauds and to bring swindlers to a halt that I cannot understand why our deductions are not more generally accepted as accurate. However, it takes time to convince people, but I don't think it will be long before the public will believe that what a competent expert says about specimens of handwriting he has carefully examined is true, no matter how much hangs on his decision."

POLITICS Versus RELIGION.

FROM THE SACKED HEART REVIEW.

Is it not about time for all who call themselves Catholics to consider the very serious question, Which is the more important—politics or religion? The Catholic population of this country is reckoned at ten to twelve millions—say one-fifth of the population of the United States; yet we are constantly submitting to injustice and the supercilious treatment of our Protestant fellow citizens, as if we had no rights which they were bound to respect. They seem to take for granted that this is a Protestant country, and that because they have the majority they think they have a perfect right to curtail our rights and throw obstacles in the way of our prosperity; while the government is perfectly justified in their eyes in aiding the anti-Catholic crusade which is being carried on with so much vigor in our new dependencies,

and, more recently in that infamous attack upon the rights, and liberty, and even lives of the brave but defenceless inhabitants of Samoa in support of the pet king of the Protestant missionaries, and for the introduction of Protestant civilization among a Catholic people. We make an occasional protest in our Catholic papers against the tyranny and injustice of the overbearing Protestant majority, but what does it amount to? The great body of our Protestant fellow-citizens, of course, never read these protests in our papers, and the few who do see them have learned not to regard them any more than the murmuring of a gentle breeze in summer. The crying injustice of denying Catholics their fair share of public money for the education of their children still continues, under the hypocritical

plea of "no sectarianism"—which simply means no Catholicism. This is only equalled by the heartless cruelty and unchristian recklessness for the good of souls manifested in depriving our Indian schools of their means of support, and turning the poor girls, especially rescued from barbarism and endowed with a good degree of Christian culture, back to the wigwams and the disgusting demoralizing habits of savage life. They still continue to deny to our charitable institutions their fair share of material aid while contributing liberally to non-Catholic institutions. The government was glad to avail itself of the disinterested and valuable services of several hundreds of our Sisters of Charity during the late war, but we have never heard that it took any special pains to recognize or reward them. The Sisters do not ask any reward in this world, and unfortunately the government seems only too glad to avail itself, without reward or acknowledgement of their valuable services which are prompted by heaven-born charity, but which are none the less worthy of recognition by a liberal high-toned government.

Who is to blame for this state of things? Of course there is no excuse for the Protestant majority taking advantage of their numerical strength to ignore, over-ride and deprive Catholics of their just rights; but would it not be well for us to inquire whether we, ourselves, are not to blame for allowing them to do so when it might be otherwise? Why should we one-fifth of the population—sit calmly by and take all the indignities that are heaped upon us without any effort to stop it? Why do we not rise as one man and assert our rights in a practical manner. Is it not because (whatever we may think theoretically) we really and practically prefer politics to the just claim of our religion? Are not party affiliations more powerful than our spiritual relations? Why, with a few rare exceptions, are our Catholic politicians who are so eloquent on the stump, so seldom heard in our halls of legislation in defence of Catholic interests? What do their efforts amount to in the conflicts in which their principles as Catholics and their partisan politics come in collision? In voting for officers of public trust and responsibility, who think of asking the question whether candidates will be fair to Catholics? No, it is party, party, —our party right or wrong. The claims of party are superior to every other demand. Surely if Catholics were only truly loyal and alive to the interests of that which they ought to hold dearer than life, they would subordinate their politics to the claims of their religion, at least to the extent of demanding from the individuals or the party for which their support is asked, that they shall not favor the aggressive spirit of Protestantism, but shall insist upon justice and equal rights to all.

Can any good reason be given why the Catholics of this country should not imitate the example of their brethren in Germany, and combine to throw their influence with the men and party that shall do them justice? Protestant prejudice and bigotry are aggressive and stubborn, but once make it sufficiently a matter of interest; show that votes and elections depend on justice being done, and the prejudice and bigotry will melt away and disappear like mist before the rising sun.

For our part we are tired of a state of vassalage. We trust we have sufficient grace to submit to the inevitable with Christian patience and equanimity. But to be compelled to submit to the insolence and superciliousness of an unreasoning, overbearing Protestant majority when we have the remedy in our own hands which fails of application through the supineness and want of interest and high-toned loyalty on the part of her own people this indeed, is hard to bear.

A COMPARISON.

That was a graceful act of the Free Press when it lately pointed to the superiority of the record of the St. Roniface hospital as compared with the Winnipeg General hospital in the matter of immunity from fatal cases. Had the relative number of fatalities from typhoid fever and diphtheria been published, the contrast would be still more startling.—Northwest Review.

Bill's Need Not Use Flags.

In giving judgment recently in a case in which a bailiff's sale was contested on the ground, among others, that the flag was not placed at the door on the day of the sale, Judge Choquette, of the Superior Court, held that there is nothing in the law to order a bailiff to put a flag at the door when he is making a sale, this custom is never practised in country districts, and the learned judge could not see why it is followed in the city.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES.

Under the caption "Fraud is King," the Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times thus vigorously refers to the wholesale methods by which certain articles of food are adulterated.

"We notice a peculiar tendency just now on the part of the secular press to dilate upon the greatness of American trade. We are leading the world, it is proudly pointed out, in every branch of industry in which brains, energy and enterprise are the factors for success. It seems to be necessary, to keep feeding our national vanity, incessantly with some material like this—our greatness in war and our greatness in diplomacy particularly, at the present moment—lest perchance the interested millions might turn their attention to the actual facts of their condition. It is, no doubt, soothing to the men and women who work to reflect that our industrial position is the first of the foremost, but is not a little disquieting to know that our greatness in fraud and adulteration of every kind is quite on par with our commercial supremacy. Wherever it is possible for fraud to get in its hand, in everything we eat or drink or utilize in industrial processes, there our pre-eminence is triumphantly asserted. We have it from the lips of Dr. Wiley, the chief chemist of the Department of Agriculture, that ninety per cent. of the articles sold for food and drink in the United States and exported to the outside world from here are dangerously-doctored—a great many with absolutely poisonous stuff. Canned goods—and in especial green peas—are treated with deadly admixtures. Fearfully poisonous chemicals are used in the making up of "choice" teas. Coffee is liberally treated with chicory and sawdust. Pigments, such as yellow ochre and venetian red, are likewise employed to impart to this sham coffee its "desired tint." Drinks are a special study of the expert. A great variety of berries are employed as substitutes for hops, and such positively dangerous compounds as salicylic and boric acids are commonly used to give beer its appearance of natural fermentation. The stronger spirits and wines are doctored with equally villainous ingenuity. The whole evidence given goes to establish the fact that what practically amounts to a vast conspiracy against the health and longevity of the whole population is a matter of daily employment to thousands of capitalists in the United States. Hence the population who stay at home are as liable to be stricken down by domestic enemies as the soldiers who are ordered abroad to fight the country's battles. Fraud is everywhere—in the Senate, the popular Council Chamber, the factory, the mart. The experienced witness who testifies to this wholesale adulteration might make his case still stronger if he had added what is known to all the trade, that the very chemicals which are used in the processes of adulteration are themselves adulterated with every worthless and dangerous stuff which can be got to resemble them. So much for a high protective tariff which bars out all honest competition and leaves the people at the mercy of rogues.

Thank God every morning that you have something to do that day, which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and do your best will breed in you a hundred virtues which the idle never know.



The little Dutch boy who stopped the leak in the dike with his finger saved his country from overwhelming destruction. You have read about him in your school readers, how he was walking along the dike when he heard a faint sound of trickling water, and knew at once that a leak had sprung in that great embankment which saves Holland from the devastations of the hungry sea. It was early in the night, and no one was near at hand. The leak was small when he found it, but he knew that the action of the water would enlarge it long before morning, and wash away the entire embankment, inundate the country and destroy his own and thousands of homes. So he bravely put his finger in the crevice, and kept it there all the long night through, until help came and the opening was properly stopped. He had saved his country.

Equally insignificant is the entrance of disease into the human system. The beginnings of the most terrible ailments are so small they can be easily ignored at the start. Your health is a dike which keeps out and stops the inroads of dangerous and devastating disease. Whenever it breaks down, no matter how slightly, there is an opening for disease to enter. If the opening is not watched, it will grow larger, until the sweep of disease overwhelms you, and health and perhaps life is destroyed forever.

Fortify your health with Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and you can defy ill-health. You can make your health so strong a bulwark that disease cannot find a crevice through which it can creep. Taken in time, Dr. Pierce's remedies prevent greater and more serious troubles. Hundreds write daily to Dr. Pierce, telling him how these remedies have saved them and made them strong.

Constipation causes and aggravates many serious diseases. It is speedily cured by Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.