

## THE GIFT OF FAITH.

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(Reported for the TRUE WITNESS.)

"Blessed are the eyes that see the things which you see, and the ears that hear the things which you hear."

And what, I ask you, my dearly beloved brethren, had the disciples of Jesus Christ seen, and what had they heard, that our dear Lord should make them these congratulations? They had seen His miracles, they had seen the witness of His humiliations, they had seen how He was persecuted by men, they had heard His doctrine, but they had not seen His triumphs, not even His resurrection from the dead. They had seen only the beginnings of Christianity—they had seen the child in its cradle. What could our dear Lord say to us, were he to appear amongst us on this day—now that 1800 years have expanded our views; now that we see Christianity, not any longer an infant but a full grown man; now that the gospel is spread all over the world? would He not pronounce us thrice, aye, a hundred times happy for seeing the things which we see, and hearing the things which we hear. And why is this happiness ours?—Because we have received from God the gift of Faith. It is the greatest gift that God can bestow upon man, and my dear brethren, you can never be thankful enough to God for having bestowed it upon us.

What do we understand by the gift of Faith? Faith, on the part of God, is a supernatural gift bestowed gratuitously upon man, in order that by this gift, man may be enabled to submit, willingly and cheerfully, to the teachings of God's revelation. On the part of man, it is the virtue by which he believes all things that God has revealed. I say it is a supernatural gift. It cannot be the object of science. The object of science is the natural world. Science can investigate the course of the stars, the layers of which the surface of the earth is composed, the nature of plants, the nature and conduct of the animal creation—all that belongs to the abode of man. I can go farther still—I can investigate the ideas of reason; but further than this it cannot go. It cannot overstep its own boundaries; it cannot transcend its limits; it cannot rise from the natural to the supernatural. Now, the objects of Faith are not natural. They are above the comprehension of reason. And, because they are above man's comprehension, above the sphere of reason—it follows that science cannot make them the subject of its investigation. Therefore, if you have Faith, it is not because science has given it to you. It is because it is the gift of God, gratuitously bestowed by Him upon you. Faith is not the result of investigation, not the result of study, not the result of reading. Investigation, study, reading, may be necessary, and are necessary, to bring before us the facts of revelation. They are necessary to remove the obstacles in the way of belief, but they cannot confer upon you Faith; they cannot give you the strength to believe what God has revealed; they cannot bestow upon you that moral power which accepts the truths of revelation without the least hesitation. Faith is not the consequence, not the result, not the reward of natural virtue. A reward must always be proportionate to the action of which it is the reward, and the reason of this is simply the justice of God. Because God is just he is bound to reward all virtue, but he is bound to reward it in its own sphere. Natural virtue, he rewards by giving a natural reward; and supernatural virtue, by giving a supernatural reward. Now, as Faith is something supernatural, and natural virtue does not transcend the sphere of the natural; it follows that Faith cannot be the reward of natural virtue. No matter how good a man may be, how just towards his neighbors, how faithful to his wife and children, how honest in all his dealings; he cannot claim, as the reward of these natural virtues, the gift of Faith from God. Hence we see often enough that men who lead good lives, are good citizens, good fathers of families, good husbands, honest in business transactions with their neighbors. We see that these men live in fidelity, die in fidelity, and we know that they must be lost in their infidelity. On the other hand, we see men whose whole lives are steeped in crime, whose vices and sins have grown over their heads—we see these men, all at once, touched by God's grace, and humbly seeking admission to the Holy Catholic Church. Why is this? It is simply because Faith cannot be the reward of natural virtue. Faith is a gift of God, and it is a gratuitous gift and is bestowed upon us, not because we have deserved it, but because God wishes and chooses to give it to us. It is a gift which enables us to accept all those truths which He has revealed, without any exception or limitation, which enables us to believe that which our reason can never comprehend. For tell me, can you comprehend by reason that in God there are three persons, that each of these three persons is God, and yet that these three persons are only one and not three Gods? Can you comprehend by reason that in Jesus Christ there are two distinct natures, the nature of God and the nature of man, united hypostatically, i.e. in one and the same person? That the Blessed Virgin is a Virgin and yet a mother; a mother without the loss of her virginity; a Virgin before the birth of Christ, in the birth of Christ, and before the birth of Christ? That by the pronouncing of a few words by the priest at the altar, the substance of the bread and wine is changed in the body and blood of Jesus Christ? That by the pronouncing of a few words to the penitent, all his sins are washed away, and his soul made whiter than the driven snow? Reason cannot comprehend these truths. It requires a powerful effort to accept them as true. This power is given by the gift of Faith. Is not, evidently, the gift of Faith the greatest gift that God can give us? Faith is the source of all our happiness. It is the source of our happiness in this world, and the source of our happiness in the next world. No creature can be happy unless it be in the element for which God has created it. Now God did not create man to drink, to sleep, to work like a mule, and then to rot. He made him for a higher design, a nobler aim. He made man that he might know Him and serve Him, and in this knowledge, this service, he might work out his design and make out happiness in Heaven. Therefore, man cannot be happy unless he is in that supernatural element. He cannot be happy unless his desire for knowledge is satisfied. Can a man be happy when his mind is always in doubt? when this doubt concerns his own salvation, the end for which he exists? He cannot; neither wealth, nor pleasure, nor the amusements of life, will make him happy as long as his mind is deprived of that certainty which he naturally seeks. Hence we read of men who, although they wallow in wealth, are surrounded by all the luxuries, have a good wife and happy children around them—we read of such men putting an end to their existence. And why is this? Because they are not happy. They are not happy because there is the desire—their longings are not satisfied. They have not that certainty which alone can make a man happy. Faith, on the other hand, gives that certainty. When you believe, you know that you are standing on a solid rock. The winds and waves of doubt have no influence on you. You know that you are God's child, that He is your Father, that he provides for all your wants. If he sends you affliction, you know that it is not because he does not love you, but because he loves you. When you have faith, you are happy in adversity and in prosperity, when you are sick and in good health, in the state of grace, and, I venture to say, you are happy even when you

are in the state of mortal sin. When you have faith, you know you have a foundation upon which repentance can be built. Faith is the basis of all supernatural virtue. You are required to lead a life of chastity, and this is required, not only from young men and young women, but also from married men and women. All are bound to lead a chaste life, each one according to his condition. Now, I ask you, is it possible for fallen human nature to lead a chaste life such as is required by Christianity? I say it is not—to be chaste in our words, in our thoughts, in our actions. Our actions might be controlled by human considerations; but who can control our thoughts? who can enter into our hearts and control our desires? The supernatural faith of God alone. Therefore, I say that without faith it is impossible to lead a supernatural life—to practice virtue, and not-virtue of the natural order. Does not Christianity require of each and every one that he should even love his enemies? now, I ask you, is the love of our enemies something that can be required of unassisted nature? And yet it is law and we must perform it. This is a supernatural virtue and only supernatural grace can assist us to practice this virtue. Therefore, again I say without faith it is impossible to lead a supernatural life. Faith is the basis of our happiness in heaven. Holy Scripture tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Does not Holy Scripture also say that nothing defiled can enter into the kingdom of God. If Faith is the means by which our soul is purified, by which the stain of sin is removed, then it follows that Faith is the basis of our happiness in heaven. Take away Faith and the foundation of man's happiness crumbles into the dust; take away Faith and all his hope of the future is gone; and his life dwindles into a withering sentimentalism; take away Faith, and you deprive him of his happiness; and you have made man a savage—worse than a savage, a brute with no hopes, no aspirations beyond the hopes and aspirations of his belly. Take away Faith and you have robbed him of everything that ennobles him; of everything that makes him worthy of the title of manhood; of that signature which God gave him when he created him, that is to say, the image and likeness of God.

Therefore do not expose your Faith to danger. Do not read Protestant or infidel works, you must drive from your minds all doubts concerning Faith to harbor a doubt, to entertain it willfully, is already an act of treason; it is doubting the veracity of Jesus Christ. Avoid all unnecessary associations with those outside the Catholic Church. If you do not, you expose your Faith to danger of being lost. Children should not be sent to Protestant schools. Young men and young women should not be allowed to associate unnecessarily with Protestants for it exposes their precious Faith to danger of apostasy. How many Catholics will say to the priest, "Father, I may convert such and such a man?" Let me tell you one little piece of truth: I am an old missionary though young in years. I have travelled all over the world. I have given sermons in every large city of the United States, in England, Ireland, and in Scotland, and I tell you here that for every Protestant who is gained to the Catholic Church by a mixed marriage, ten Catholics are lost to the Faith. The work of conversion God has given to the Apostles. Your duty is to give a good example of Faith and submission to the laws.

We must be Catholics, not only here in Church; we must be Catholics in our home, in the counting house, in the work shop, in the streets, in our education, in our politics, in our inner life. The Church needs our consolation in her struggle against infidelity. Let our lives, then, be in accordance with our Faith, so that we may live good Catholics, die good Catholics, and earn in Heaven the reward of our good lives here below.

## SEVEN HOME RULERS' WORK.

A TWENTY-THREE HOURS' SESSION IN THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT.

A climax was reached on Tuesday night and yesterday in the obstruction of business in the Imperial Parliament by the handful of Irish Home Rulers, led by Messrs Parnell, member for County Meath; Biggar, member for County Cavan; and O'Connor Power, member for County Mayo. On numerous occasions during the present session have these *enfranchised* of Irish discontent driven Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to despair, goaded Mr. Gathorn Hardy, Secretary of War, to the verge of madness, and irritated Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, to a state of mind of which his name gives only the faintest idea. All this has been done by making use of the rules of the House to make the House as unruly as possible. Never were six hundred engineers more conspicuously hoist with their own petards than the "noble lords," "right honorable," "honorable and gallant," "honorable and learned," and plain "honorable" gentlemen of the Imperial Parliament. You would call it filibustering in America, but it is called by every name which irritation would bounce to the lips of the profane or studied depreciation could suggest.

In addition to the three members already named the obstructionists count in their slim but determined band Mr. Francis Hugh O'Donnell, the lately returned member for Dungarvan, whose fierce and vehement oratory has been poured out like witch oil upon the already troubled waters of the House, and who at a rhetorical bound leaped into the will of old England. Captain Nolan, of the artillery, member for County Galway, has also efficiently helped to scatter the obstruction grape-shot. Mr. Harley Kirk, the member for Louth, a farmer who has little to say but is ever ready to vote when the Government is to be harrowed, is also one of the band, which finally includes Mr. Edward Dwyer Gray, member for County Tipperary, son of the late Sir John Gray and proprietor of the Dublin *Freeman's Journal*, having succeeded his father in the directorship of that influential paper. At various times the obstructionists included Mr. Richard Power, member for County Waterford; Major O'Gorman, member for the city of Waterford, of the heavy weight and wit of the House; and, by a strange chance, Mr. Whalley, the monomaniacal Pope and Jesuit hater, member for Peterborough, North Hampshire.

A month ago the obstructionists held the House for fifteen hours on one pretext after another, but the session which began at four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon and ended at ten minutes past six last evening, a continuous session of twenty-six hours, was the longest ever passed through by the British Parliament. Throughout the greater portion of the time scenes of the wildest excitement were enacted. The seven obstructionists who pitted themselves against the six hundred were beaten at last, and the air will echo with the story thereof for weeks.

Almost anything in the shape of Government business has been good enough for Messrs Parnell and Biggar to attack; but the South African Confederation Bill, which provides for the absorption *volens volens* of the Transvaal Republic, founded by the Dutch Boers, into a federation with the Cape Colonies, was especially objectionable to them. The annexation is strenuously opposed by the Boers themselves, and hence, giving the Irish Home Rulers a parallel case to that of their own country, the bill was attacked tooth and nail. The half-dozen or so obstructionists could not hope to prevent the bill ultimately from becoming a law, but they were resolved to oppose it at every clause, and to it they went. There were seven of them, as already enumerated.

Alarmed at the ineffectiveness of all previous measures to curb the Irish Parnellites, the Govern-

ment made preparations to wear out the resistance by physical means. It was arranged that the House should be attended night and day by relays of fresh members, who were to carry on the fight until exhausted nature compelled the handful to succumb. The leaders of the Opposition cheerfully gave their assistance. Mr. William E. Foster, declaring that, though sixty years of age, he would sit it out and stick until the end.

By six o'clock on Tuesday evening the House was under the Committee of the Whole on the South African bill. At once the trouble began. Every device in the shape of amendments on which the House could be divided was resorted to. At an early stage the motion, now terrible to English ears, that "progress be reported," was made. It simply means that no more business can be done on that measure. Out filed the members to the lobby for the division, and back they looped again, fresh and active at first. Motion debated by an enormous majority. No matter, to it again. More amendments are offered and more divisions follow. It at last becomes like a walk of Weston and O'Leary. No sooner are the honorables in than they are out again. It becomes very wearying.

Many of the English members left the House at nine o'clock to return at midnight. A fresh relay arrived at four o'clock. The obstructionists now found the work tiring on them; and adopted the tactics of their opponents and rested in turn.

Whoever rose to speak was greeted with the most deafening howls, and hence, when a fresh amendment was offered or the terrible "that progress be reported" was presented, the divisions took place in solemn silence, the greatest bitterness was exhibited by the majority, who were kept moving in and out during the slow process of counting the "ayes" and "noes." The Irish members kept up a ghastly good-humor. Fresh doorkeepers and policemen were provided to relieve the wearied officials.

At four o'clock Mr. Hugh C. Childers, a member of the Gladstone Cabinet, took the chair in place of the ordinary chairman. At five o'clock Mr. W. H. Smith, the member for Westminster, succeeded Mr. Childers in the chair. Daylight gradually came in. The gaslight was extinguished and the sun shone on a very haggard assemblage.

In the course of the night Mr. Parnell proposed an amendment which was simple nonsense, saying he did not intend to make sense. The amendment was refused by the chair after a scene bordering on violence.

Another incident of the night occurred when Sir Stafford Northcote, the leader of the House, in one of the momentary pauses, declared that the Government intended to pass the bill if they had to sit through the vacation. Upon this Mr. O'Connor Power, who had been made aware of the Government tactics, charged the Government with having organized a conspiracy to crush the Irish members. Immediately the House was in tumult. The chairman demanded the withdrawal of the word "conspiracy." Mr. Power tried to explain, but the cries of "withdraw" drowned his voice. He finally withdrew the expression.

Mr. O'Donnell having tried to justify the conduct of the obstructionists, Mr. Butt, the Home-Ruler, declared the Irish party repudiated Mr. O'Donnell, and said that if he thought Mr. O'Donnell did represent the Irish party he (Mr. Butt) would retire as from an Irish brawl.

Sir Andrew Lusk, liberal member for Finsbury, said the proceedings cut at the foundation of constitutional government.

Messrs. Monk, liberal member for Gloucester City, and Anderson, liberal member for Glasgow, urged action by the Government and suggested the censure of the obstructionists.

Mr. Gray, of the obstructionists, said the responsibility for the demoralization of the House rested on Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Strong measures should have been taken at first.

Sir William Vernon-Harcourt, liberal member for the city of Oxford, said the reason that stronger action was not taken was not on account of the weakness of the House, but to show the character of the contumaciousness to the country and give the obstructionists rope enough.

Mr. Gray cried, "Hear, hear," sneeringly. Sir Patrick O'Brien, a Home-Ruler member for King's County, objected to this, and intimated that Mr. Gray was a "humbug" and a "damned fool," which expression he had to withdraw as unparliamentary.

At seven o'clock new relays of English members began to arrive, and were received with frantic cheers by the members whom they would relieve. The necessity of keeping the Parliamentary quorum of forty prevented many from leaving even when utterly worn out.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer again appealed to the terrible seven to abandon the hopeless contest. It was in vain. The offer was rejected, and the amendments and motions to report progress were offered, and the filing in and out went wearily on.

At ten o'clock yesterday morning the Irish seven, after their eighteen hours' combat, were much exhausted. Farmer Kirk was so weak that it was necessary to support him in his tramps and in a chair. O'Donnell was greatly distressed. Parnell was white as a corpse, and had great black rings about his eyes. Gray and O'Connor Power remained fresh. Biggar was asleep. Shortly after he returned to the House and took the opportunity, on a motion to "report progress," to say that he had had a good sleep and a good breakfast, and was now ready for any amount of legislation.

Messrs. Parnell and O'Connor Power then went out to rest, relieved by Mr. Biggar and others.

Just before noon the Chancellor of the Exchequer intimated that he would move the suspension of the obstructionists, and a messenger was sent privately to bring the Marquis of Harrington, the leader of the Liberals, to second the motion. This measure, however, was not resorted to. Shortly afterward, Sir Stafford Northcote having been invited by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, liberal member for Sandwich, to take swift and strong action in the matter, thanked his supporters for the assistance he had received, made a final appeal to the minority to yield, and hoped that, in the absence of the honorable gentlemen whom he expected to arrive shortly, the committee would persevere with the bill.

Mr. O'Donnell affected to regard this as a threat of coercion, and said that under the altered circumstances he would retire from the contest. As long as it was a question of physical endurance he and his friends were prepared to go on. This practically ended the fight on the African bill, which was then pushed forward in committees and completed at ten minutes past two amid thunders of applause. During the contest the chairman of the committee was relieved four times, and there were in all twenty-two divisions in as many hours.

The House then proceeded to take up other bills. A violent scene followed in the discussion of the Judicature (Ireland) bill again caused by Mr. Parnell. This bill, which involves and changes the constitution of the Irish law courts in several ways, and rakes up the question of patronage in the court offices, has been bitterly contested by the Irish members, and they have succeeded in making many important amendments. Mr. Parnell has been very active in this.

So the obstructionists retired exhausted after their bitter fight. The feeling throughout the country is one of exasperation against them. Through the long twenty-six hours' session the scenes throughout were animated and sometimes stormy. Within recent history there has been no parallel to this sitting. The House of Commons sat twenty-five hours on the Slavery Emancipation bill, but not on account of obstruction.

## THE GREAT TURKISH VICTORY.

GRAPHIC PICTURE OF THE FIGHT AT PLEVNA.

LONDON, Aug. 3rd.—The *Daily News* correspondent sends from Pardin, near Plevna, a graphic account of Tuesday's battle, the substantial facts of which are as already telegraphed to the United States. The following closing scenes give a vivid idea of the extent of the Russian disaster. The correspondent is with Prince Schachowsky's command, and does not purport to give any account of the condition or losses of General Krudener's corps, and that now all hope of success anywhere was dead. Prince Schachowsky had not a man left to cover the retreat, and the Turks struck without a stint. They had the upper hand for once, and were determined to make the most of it. They advanced in swarms, through the dusk; on their first original position, and captured the Russian cannons before the batteries could be withdrawn. The Turkish shells began once more to whistle over the bridge above Radashova, and fall into the village behind, now crumpled with wounded. The streams of wounded, wending their painful way over the bridge were incessant. The badly wounded mostly lay where they fell. Later, in the darkness, the Bash-Bazons swarmed over the battlefield and spared not. Lingered there on the ridge till the moon rose, the staff could hear from below the cries of pain and entreaties for mercy, and the yells of the blood-thirsty fanatic triumph.

The Turks had our range before dark, and we could watch the flash of flame over against us, and then listen to the scream of the shell as it tore by us. The sound of the rifle bullets was incessant, and the escort and retreating wounded were struck. A detachment at length began to come straggling up. But to give some idea of disorganization, when a company was told off to cover somewhat the wounded in Radishova, it had to be made up of men of several regiments. About nine o'clock the staff quitted the bridge, leaving it littered with groaning men. General Krudener sent word in the morning that he had lost severely, and could make no headway, and had resolved to fall back on the line of the river Osma. There had been talk of his troops being fresh, of renewing the attack to-day with his co-operation, but we have no troops to attack with. The moderate estimate is, that we have lost two regiments, say 5,000 men out of our three brigades, a ghastly number, beating Eylau and Friedland. This takes account of General Krudener's losses. We, too, retire on the Osma river, about Bulgareni, and to the best of our weak strength, cover the bridge at Sistova. Not a Russian soldier stands between Tirova and Plevna, and only a weak division of the eleventh corps stands between Tirova and the Shumla army. I look on Prince Schachowsky's force as no longer for this campaign to be counted as a fighting integer.

So, on this side of the Balkans, there remains but the ninth corps, already roughly handled,—once at Nicopolis and once at Plevna; one division of the eleventh corps, and the Ruskuk army. If the Ruskuk army is marched to the west against Plevna, then the Turkish army of Ruskuk is let loose on the Russian communications to Tirova. The advance over the Balkans is seriously compromised. The Russian strait is so bad that scattered detachments have been called up from out of Roumania, and the Roumanian division, commanded by General Mann, which crossed a day or two ago, at Nicopolis, has been called up to the line of the Osma River. We are falling back on Bulgaria with all speed, leaving the Bulgarian villages to the tender mercies of the Turks. On our left General Skobeleff was very severely handled, having lost 300 men out of his single infantry battalion.

## THE RETREAT.

The same correspondent, telegraphing from Simnitsa, under date of August 1st, gives an account of the retreat. He says:—"The road from Poreidin to Bulgareni, was cumbered with broken and retreating troops, wholly destitute of order, officers without soldiers, soldiers without officers, without cohesion, and mostly without arms. At the narrow bridge, near Bulgareni, there was wild confusion, and a complete block of tumbrils, ambulance wagons, provision waggons, officers' caissons, led horses, and carts filled with wounded, all jammed in describable chaos. There had been wounded all along the road, but the bulk of the wounded began a little way beyond Bulgareni, and extended in an unbroken line to Sistova. They were mostly carried in ox carts, the severer cases in ambulances, and large numbers tramped on foot. Immense numbers of wounded had tramped the whole way from the battlefield, and were already entering Sistova at five o'clock yesterday evening. They have walked nearly forty miles in twenty-four hours, wounded as they were. Nearly all those wounded, however, managed to walk out of the battle. The bad cases were mostly left where they fell. The staff officer, with whose estimate I am inclined to agree, thinks the whole force lost between 6,000 and 7,000 men in killed and wounded. A brigade of the thirty-second division suffered most heavily. Besides the terrible loss of men, it sacrificed the imperial banner of one of its regiments. The whole of the thirtieth division have been smitten sorely. All the three brigades of Prince Schachowsky's command are for a time in a state of disorganization."

## THE IRISH "OBSTRUCTIONISTS."

We take the following extracts from the N. Y. *Herald* correspondent regarding the obstructionists:—

Twelve months ago the names of these gentlemen were scarcely known beyond the circles of their immediate friends and those who read daily every word of the parliamentary reports. To-day they are better known, are more frequently spoken about, and to a certain extent, are more powerful than many of the gentlemen who are supposed to rule English destinies. There is scarcely a debate in which they do not figure; there is not an English newspaper in which they are not mentioned in terms of abuse. The *Times* passes judicial sentence on them; the *Daily Telegraph* bursts into tears over their obstinacy; the *Daily News* is decorously vicious, and the *Standard* is in a white rage. The funny journals of course, follow suit, and *Punch*, *Fun*, *Judy* and others crack jokes at the expense of the pair, sometimes witty and nearly always coarse.

I will now let Mr. Parnell himself speak in explanation and defence of his policy. Having written to him respecting an interview I received a courteous reply in the course of a few hours. Mr. Parnell invited me down to the House of Commons, and there I met him in one of the lobbies.

"I am pleased to find," said the member from Meath, "that your paper takes an interest in our proceedings. You wish to present my views to the American people?"

I bowed assent.

"Let us take a walk, then, on the Terrace, and have a talk on the subject."

The Terrace is a long walk which looks on the Thames, rolling by. It is a deliciously cool spot in hot weather, and in the long evenings, it is much affected by the youthful members given to cigars, gin cobbles, and the wearing of white waistcoats.

Correspondent—You have endeavored to remedy this state of things?

Mr. Parnell—We have endeavored to put a stop to the transaction after half-past twelve o'clock at night of any fresh business which requires discussion. When the House has sat from a quarter to four to half an hour after midnight, we think it has done a good day's work and ought to be sent home.

Correspondent—What has been the effect of your action?

Mr. Parnell—The effect has been startling. This session we have prevented the Government from getting through at least three fourths of the work which they had laid out for themselves at the beginning of the session. The remaining fourth represents about the capacity for work of the Imperial Parliament.

Correspondent—Your action has subjected you to a great deal of ridicule and vituperation in the English press.

Mr. Parnell—I don't consider it the duty of an Irish national member to regulate his action by the comments of English journals. An Irishman who thus allows himself to be influenced by English opinion becomes a snob and a dunkey.

Correspondent—Pardon me for the remark, but is there not some resemblance between your line of conduct and that of the filibusters in the United States Congress?

Mr. Parnell—Oh, by no means. We cannot in any justice be called filibusters. Filibustering, as I understand it, was an attempt, by making dilatory motions, to waste time and so prevent the Presidential count being obtained by a certain day. We, on the contrary, never make purely dilatory motions. Our success depends not on our waste of time, but on the fact that the English Parliament has more work than it can do.

Correspondent—Your action has met with some disapproval from other members of the home rule party?

Mr. Parnell—Oh, yes.

Correspondent—Their objection, I understand, is that you only irritate your opponents, that it would be better to try a policy of argument and conciliation?

Mr. Parnell—The policy of argument and conciliation has been tried and found wanting; we never did get anything, we never will get anything by soft speeches and an humble demeanor.

Correspondent—Will not the inconveniences to English business caused by your action produce a strong feeling against you in England?

Mr. Parnell—Be it so; that will be all the better for the Irish cause. It is only by bringing the inconvenience home to their own doors that we can make the English government clearly understand the evils of the present system. When they have suffered at our hands a little of the inconvenience we have been so long suffering at theirs they will begin to see our demand for a change of legislative arrangement in a very different light.

Correspondent—Do you think you have lost any votes for the Home Rule cause by the course you have adopted?

Mr. Parnell—As yet certainly not. On that point I am quite certain.

Correspondent—But in time you surely are certain to lose the sympathy of the liberal party, on which the Irish cause has principally to rely. Will they not be forced by the violence of public feeling in England against you to cast you off, and refuse all alliance with you, even on points they were formerly willing to concede?

Mr. Parnell—Our action may produce an estrangement from us of the liberal party for a time. But this feeling will, I have no doubt, pass away. They will see in the end that it is we who are following a truly liberal policy. Decentralization, the increase of local power, is the guiding principle not only of the Irish Home Rule party, but rightly understood of the English liberal party also.

Correspondent—Can you point to any other result of your action?

Mr. Parnell—Yes. It has always been asserted by Englishmen that they would be only too glad if we took part in the discussion of English affairs, as they do in that of Irish affairs. Well, we have taken the hint, and you see the reception we have met. We always believed that this professed anxiety of Englishmen for our intervention was a pretence. We have now proved it to be so.

Correspondent—What will you do in case the half-past twelve rule is not passed next session?

Mr. Parnell—Well, we must only adopt other means. I have no doubt we shall find some quite as effective as those we have adopted up to this.

Correspondent—Do you anticipate good results for the Irish cause for your line of action?

Mr. Parnell—You see what two men have been able to do. If for two we had twenty, what results might we not hope for? We could make all business absolutely impossible.

Correspondent—And then?

Mr. Parnell—Why, then, the English Parliament would be compelled to yield and to offer a compromise. You may be perfectly sure that, whether we succeed so thoroughly, we, at all events, will do something. Up to the present with our soft talk and gentle ways, we have done nothing—absolutely nothing.

## A TALK WITH MR. BIGGAR.

My conversation with Mr. Biggar was one of short duration, for he is a sharp, brusque speaker.

Correspondent—You are not wholly satisfied with the present Home Rule party?

Mr. Biggar—No; some of the members rarely attend; others are lukewarm, but the great thing I blame is the tendency of so many of our members to become absorbed in one of the English parties. This may suit the vanity of some talented gentlemen, anxious for oratorical fame, and therefore desirous of cultivating popularity in the House. But it is utterly opposed to my idea of our duties. We ought to keep ourselves completely apart, distinct and independent.

Correspondent—You disbelieve in the policy of conciliation?

Mr. Power—When the English Parliament is reconciliatory to us we ought to be polite to them; but it is equally our duty as men and as representatives of a nation to return insolence for insolence, blow for blow.

Correspondent—You are not one of those, then, who care for the opinion of the English Parliament?

Mr. Power—The opinion of the English Parliament is nothing to us. It is our Irish constituents we ought to solely think of.

Such is the obstruction policy. It has created as much enthusiasm in Ireland as anger in England. At the next general election there is certain to be a distinct Parnell and Biggar party, and there can be little doubt that they will find many supporters. With a body of twenty or thirty Home Rulers, determined in character and pledged to obstruct all business, the English Parliament will, indeed, present a spectacle to make angels weep.

## AN EVENING SCENE IN THE RUSSIAN CAMP.

A correspondent of the London *News* who accompanied the Fourteenth Corps in its march through the Dobruja, sketches an early evening scene near Trajan's Wall. Along the road, perhaps half a mile away were some Turkish horsemen on the slope of the next hill, and beyond this rise was a long unbroken ridge, with the Turkish camp extended along the summit in an irregular black line, with here and there white tents. The Russian army was drawn up in the foreground for the evening hymn which is always sung at sundown. The soldiers stood there in parade with their white caps under their arms, singing in chorus the sweet vesper hymn, with an interlude from the bands and bugles. The long lines of men without their accoutrements standing in reverential silence while the bands played a strain, and then joining in the chorus with solemn earnestness—the twilight hour, the presence of the enemy, the grand lines of the encircling hills, all made it a scene to be remembered.