

GLADSTONE DECLARES WAR

UPON THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

A Definition of the Attitude of the Party in view of Mr. Gladstone's Probable Resignation.

LONDON, March 1.—When Mr. Gladstone entered the House of Commons at 3.30 o'clock this afternoon he was greeted with a storm of cheers which lasted several minutes. He walked directly to his usual seat and held a whispered consultation with John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland, and Sir William Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer, who sat on either side of him. Lord Rosebery, who is looked upon as the coming premier, occupied a seat in the press gallery.

The Speaker put the question that the amendments of the House of Lords to the local Government bill be considered, when Mr. Gladstone arose and addressed the House in what in many respects was the most remarkable speech he has delivered for many years. He showed no sign of waning power except for an occasional slight huskiness in his otherwise resonant voice.

Mr. Gladstone began by saying that the Government had reached the conclusion that the time for passing bills back and forth from one House to the other had ended and had decided upon a definite course. "To continue the process would be loss of dignity to both Houses, and the Government has decided to stop the operation and take a decided course. The Government had the choice of rejecting the House of Lords' amendments and abandoning hope of passing the bill, or of accepting them under protest with the hope of soon reversing them. The Government adopted the second choice. The action of the House of Lords regarding the bills of this session has raised a question of the gravest character. Two of these bills, the Home Rule bill and the Employers Liability bill, occupied the attention of the House in committee 100 days. They involved vast labor. Members of the House of Commons have worked through this session almost double the length of time of any session on record and with an uncalled amount of intensity. This labor was for the purpose of enacting beneficial legislation. The House of Lords, without giving it much consideration, WRECKED THAT LEGISLATION."

Mr. Gladstone said he remembered a book published in 1880 called "Fifty Years of the House of Lords." The contents of the book left upon the mind of every Liberal a painful but firm conviction that the action of the House of Lords during these fifty years had been grievously unsatisfactory. After further reviewing the action of the Lords in the past on various vital questions, Mr. Gladstone said:

"We have now come to a more acute stage. The question now is whether the judgment of the House of Lords is not only to modify but to annihilate the whole work of the House of Commons. The Government has not been anxious to precipitate or unduly accentuate a crisis. It has been anxious rather to save something from the wreck. We are, therefore, compelled to accompany our acceptance of the amendments of the House of Lords to the present bill with the declaration that the differences between the two Houses cannot continue. Without using any hard words or without presuming to judge motives, we feel it our duty to state the indisputable fact that the issue is raised between a deliberative assembly elected by the votes of seven million men and a different kind of an assembly, though it were occupied by some men of virtue and talent. That controversy, once raised, must go forward to its issue."

Mr. Gladstone said he was rejoiced that this issue had been postponed in many cases, partly owing to discretion and reserve. In the use of the enormous privileges which the House of Lords had on various occasions showed, he was afraid that the epoch of that reserve, discretion, and circumspection had ended. Otherwise the members of the Opposition must feel that in some way or other

THE SOLUTION HAD BEEN FOUND

for the tremendous contrariety and incessant conflict on matters of high principle and profound importance. Between the representatives of the people and those filling the non-elective chamber he admitted that the House of Commons

could not take it upon itself to pass judgment on the matter or be the final judge of its own case. There was a higher authority than the House of Commons. There was the authority of the nation, (cheers and counter cheers), which must in the last resort decide the crisis at once. The Government would regard the decision as absolutely final. The time had come, Mr. Gladstone continued, to invite this decision of the people. The circumstances under which the decision would be invited constituted a question of the gravest character. His own duty for the present lay in attracting attention to the fact that in considering the amendments of the House of Lords, the House of Commons dealt with an inseparable part of the question. The amending of the Parish Councils bills, viewed in this light, had become a profoundly acute issue, which would demand and receive settlement at an early date from the highest authorities. If the Government should ask the House to accept the mutilated bill the advice would be given under a grave sense of responsibility. The Government were properly unwilling to do unnecessarily anything which would stimulate the sharpness of the present crisis. They hesitated, therefore, to consign to destruction the only portion remaining from the arduous work of the expiring session. (Loud Liberal and Radical cheers.)

MR. BALFOUR AND MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

[Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, leader of the Unionists, was cheered by the Opposition as he rose to reply to Mr. Gladstone. The speech just made by the Prime Minister, he said, amounted to a declaration of war upon the House of Lords. He did not fear the Prime Minister's covert threat. If the Government would appeal to the country the Conservatives would welcome the attempt to make public opinion of the House of Lords the issue.]

Lord Randolph Churchill spoke next for the Conservatives. If the Government should choose to begin at once the battle royal on the constitution they never would get to the Newcastle programme or the budget or even the Queen's speech. This declaration of war on the spur of the moment was founded on a slender basis. If the Lords had not amended the Parish Councils and Employers' Liability bills the Prime Minister would not have proposed nor even suggested their destruction. Apparently the minister had not cared to destroy the Upper House on account of the rejection of the Home Rule bill. It was absurd to denounce this and proclaim a protracted agitation throughout the country for the abolition of them merely because the two houses disagreed over a few amendments. There was no justification for this holding up the House of Lords for the execration of the people. Liberals would find that they had made a fatal mistake in joining the movement whose goal was the abolition of the Upper House.

S. Storey, Radical, delivered a vigorous speech against the House of Lords.

After the debate Edward Majoribanks, Chief Liberal whip, announced that the House would be prorogued on Monday until March 12.

AN IRISH VIEW

LONDON, March 1.—The following statement of the committee of the Irish Parliamentary party was given out late last night. The purpose of the statement is to define the attitude of the party on the main Irish question—Home Rule—in the event of Mr. Gladstone's withdrawal from office: "So much excitement has been created by rumors concerning the position of Mr. Gladstone that it may be well to point out that the Irish members remain calm, because in their judgment there really is no mystery in the matter, no occasion for surprise or sensation. Everyone, especially every politician, who is not blind to the manifest facts, must have been well aware for no inconsiderable time that the retirement of Mr. Gladstone from the office of Prime Minister, or at least some modification of his position, resulting in lighter labors, if not in lighter responsibility, had to be kept in view as an event that could not be long deferred. The one wish among the Irish members is that Mr. Gladstone may continue in the post of supreme director as long as he finds it possible to do so. They believe he will so continue until he finds himself unable to further persevere. But at his great age, with its burdens of infirmity, the time when he can no longer discharge to his own satisfaction the arduous duties of the premier-

ship may suddenly arrive, and the fact that it may arrive without notice is what constitutes the peculiarity of their present situation. The Irish members believe no conclusive step has been taken, so that the situation remains at this moment substantially the same as it has been for some time past. The reconstruction of the Cabinet in its most vital part by a change in the premiership, would be an event affecting so materially the whole political position that the Irish members are confident, regard being had as to the state of parliamentary and political forces, and of the position of home rule as being the foremost issue to be submitted at the next election, that no definite or, at any rate, irrevocable step would be taken by Mr. Gladstone without an opportunity being given them to present the expression of their views."

FROM THE SEVEN HILLS.

[Via the London Universe.]

The Osservatore Romano denies that the Vatican has inspired or revised Count Soderini's pamphlet on the condition of Rome.

A Catholic Congress was opened at Rome in the hall of the Academy of Arcadia, under the presidency of Prince Francis Massimo, on Thursday.

Cardinal Ledochowski, Prefect of the Congregation of the Propaganda, has forwarded a letter to the Superior-General of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, thanking them for their Apostolic labours in foreign countries.

The Lenten sermons are being preached as customary by Father Francis of Loreto before the Holy Father, the members of the Sacred College, and the prelates and personages of the Pontifical household. The Abbe Stiltz, of the diocese of Paris, is the preacher at St. Louis of the French.

The Holy Father has recently received the Reverend General of the Ministri of the Infirm, who presented him a contribution to Peter's-pence; a deputation of the Virtuosi of the Pantheon, who offered him a bronze bust of himself; the Superior-General of the Sisters of Bon Secours; Father Balestra of Genoa, and a deputation from the College of Mondragone.

Father Beneditto di Nilia da Calitri, formerly Capuchin missionary in England, armed with special faculties by Mgr. Sallus, Secretary of the Holy Office, has received the abjuration and admitted into the bosom of Holy Church Mrs. F. L. Radley and her daughter, Miss H. A. Radley. Signora Merry del Val, wife to the Spanish Ambassador to the Vatican, and her daughter acted as sponsors to the converts respectively.

On Sunday last the Holy Father promulgated in the Hall of the Throne of the Vatican Palace, in presence of the Cardinals, Prelates, and Consultors of the Congregation of Rites, the Decrees authorizing the proceeding with the beatification of the venerable servants of God, Anthony Grassi, priest of the Oratory, of the diocese of Fermo, and Jean d'Avila, the famous spiritual director of St. Theresa.

The annual anniversary Mass for the repose of the soul of Pío Nono, put off from Ash-Wednesday, has been celebrated with the usual pomp at the Vatican. Cardinal von Hohenlohe, dean of the Cardinal-Priests created by the late lamented Pontiff, officiated, and Leo XIII. assisted at the throne. At the end of the service a small catafalque was placed before the throne, and the Pope, vested in cope and red stole, gave the absolution.

The Jubilee festivals of His Holiness terminating on Sunday, the solemn Triduum will be concluded on that date at the Church of the Gesù in Rome. A ceremony will also take place in St. Laurence in Panisperna, where Mgr. Joachim Pecci received his episcopal consecration half a century ago. On the Sunday morning the committee of the Jubilee will make a distribution to the poor of 20,000 tickets for bread, 2,000, for meat, and 2,500 for soup.

From Rome it is stated that Cardinal Ledochowski is on the eve of sending in his resignation as Prefect of the Propaganda for reasons of health.—His Holiness is finishing his Encyclical on the union of the two Churches (East and West).—The negotiations between the Vatican and the Quirinal concerning the Patriarchate of Venice have been broken off.—In the Pope's circle it is affirmed

that His Holiness is dissatisfied with the press comments on the Soderini pamphlet. So far from wishing to modify his policy of reserve towards Italy, he is bent on emphasising more than ever his estrangement. We give these rumors as they reach us, in no case binding ourselves to their authenticity.

NUNS DIE OF FEVER.

CUTTING A WIDE SWATH AMONG THE RELIGIOUS OF PORT OF SPAIN.

The Catholic News of Port of Spain, Trinidad, issued under date of January 26th, says: It is our painful duty to announce the deaths of two more nuns, at the Convent of St. Joseph, this city, which makes four fatal cases at that institution of the fever which had stricken about ten of the Sisters barely a month ago. We begin, however, with the death of the Very Rev. Mother Olympe, of the Port of Spain Convent, which has found the deepest echo of all in the community. She had fallen in the last days of December, and after a long and uncertain battle with the fever, she finally succumbed on Sunday morning last at about ten o'clock. Her funeral, at five o'clock the same afternoon, was one of the most imposing functions of the kind which has been witnessed in Port of Spain. His Grace the Archbishop officiated, and the members of the clergy assisting and in attendance were the Very Rev. Father Lemire, C.S.P.S., superior of St. Mary's College; the Rev. Father Julien, C.S.P.S.; the Very Rev. Father Hilaire, O.P.; other Dominican Fathers and Fathers of the Holy Ghost Congregation.

Three days before the death of Very Rev. Mother Olympe, Very Rev. Mother Misericorde, superioress of the Arima Convent, who had fallen ill with fever while in attendance on the former, passed away to her eternal rest at the convent here. She died on Thursday afternoon, the 18th inst., and her funeral, at which His Grace the Archbishop officiated, took place the next morning at 8 o'clock. The deceased nun was greatly esteemed and popular not only in Arima, where she conducted the convent with such marked ability and success, but in Port of Spain also. Her loss will be severely felt in Arima. R. I. P.—Catholic News.

DEADLY SOUTHERN POLITICS.

MEMPHIS, March 3.—The most sensational tragedy in the history of Mississippi occurred at Kosciusko, the county seat of Attala county, to-day. S. A. Jackson, a member of the State Legislature and one of the most prominent Democratic politicians in the state, was shot and instantly killed, and Samuel Russell and William Sanders, two innocent bystanders, fatally wounded, by Rev. W. P. Ratliffe, also a member of the Legislature and one of the leaders of the Populist party in Mississippi. The tragedy was the culmination of a political feud of long standing, which was brought to a climax by a bitter controversy. Ratliffe published an editorial in his paper, the Vindicator, reflecting on Jackson's vote in the recent contest in the Legislature over the election of a successor to United States Senator Walthall. Jackson replied in a card in another paper, in which he denounced Ratliffe as a liar. The two men met at the court house in Kosciusko to-day for the first time since the publication of Jackson's article. There was a large crowd on hand attending a bankrupt sale by the sheriff. No one noticed the meeting of the two men until they began scuffling in the court house door. Both Ratliffe and Jackson pulled their revolvers and began a terrible duel to the death. When the smoke of battle cleared away Jackson was found with a bullet hole in his forehead, while his right arm near the shoulder was shattered by a glancing shot aimed at his head. A few feet away lay Samuel Russell and William Sanders, two bystanders, with mortal wounds. Russell was shot through the head and expired in a few minutes. Sanders was shot in the thigh and is expected to die before morning. Ratliffe discharged every chamber of his revolver and, finding that he had no more ammunition, he coolly stood and watched the writhing of his victims until the sheriff arrested him and took him to jail.

Jack: I declare, if Miss Sears isn't getting grey. Jess: No wonder, poor thing, she has had so much trouble to conceal her age.