

Mr. Gladstone's Programme.

Two things seem to be rendered certain through the course pursued by the Gladstone Government since the opening of Parliament. First, the New Home Rule Bill will, with possibly some amendments, be passed by the present House of Commons. Secondly, although the measure will undoubtedly be rejected by the Lords, the next general election will turn, not solely upon the Irish question, but upon a many-sided programme, most of whose features are calculated to appeal to the local interests of British voters. This, which the Unionists had most to fear, is in the way of being accomplished.

The debate which preceded the first reading of the Home Rule Bill made it tolerably clear that the attack on the details of the measure is destined to miscarry. Mr. Balfour's speech is acknowledged to have been surprisingly weak, and Mr. Goschen, who was counted on to make havoc of the financial proposals, proved unable to subject them to any trenchant criticism. The truth is that the scheme was framed with the purpose of forestalling all possible objections on the part of the most conservative Gladstonians, and thus reducing to a minimum the chance of any organized secession like that which wrecked the plans of Mr. Gladstone in 1886. Such being the case, the more astute Unionist leaders, like Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Chamberlain, abandoned the hope of making inroads into the Gladstonian ranks, being apparently convinced that even the nine Parnellites would ultimately accept the Bill as an earnest of better things to come. Both Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Chamberlain confined themselves to denouncing the principle of Home Rule, as if this had not been thoroughly discussed before the last general election, and as if every member of the lower House had not proclaimed his position in regard to it to his constituents.

From this point, Mr. Gladstone's position in the present Parliament is entirely different from that which he occupied in 1886, and it is remarkable that the difference has not been more generally recognized. In the general election of December, 1885, scarcely a single Liberal had promised the electors to accept the principle of Home Rule, Mr. Gladstone himself had not accepted it. On the other hand, at the general election of last year not a single professed Gladstonian had the slightest chance of being returned unless he pledged himself to adopt at least the principle of home rule, to which his leader had been for six years irrevocably committed. The fact makes a tremendous change in the situation. But this is by no means the only advantage possessed by Mr. Gladstone at the present juncture. He was forced, in 1886, to appeal to the people on the single issue of home rule, which was new, startling and imperfectly understood. Now, on the other hand, concurrently with the Irish project, he is pressing through the House of Commons bills which go directly home to the business and bosoms of the natives of Great Britain. Such is the registration reform, by which the required period of residence is reduced from a year to three months. It is safe to say that scores of thousands of voters are interested in this innovation. There again is the Welsh Suspensory bill, which prohibits the acquirement of any new vested interests in Welsh rectories pending arrangements for the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales. This measure was demanded by 81 out of the 94 members for the principality, and its introduction will bind the Welshmen to Mr. Gladstone with links of steel. So, too, a bill largely increasing the powers of the London County Council and meeting the views of the Progressives, who constitute a great majority of the

metropolitan population, is on the point of being submitted to the House of Commons. The promise to create elective parish councils, which are to control the distribution of small allotments of land, has already had such an effect on the agricultural laborers that have won back for the Gladstonians the seat at Cirencester, which was lost last October. Lastly, the sole chance of defeating the demand for "One man, one vote," by coupling with it the equally plausible demand for "One vote, one value," has been frustrated by cutting down the representation of Ireland from 108 to 80 members—a reduction to which Mr. McCarthy and his colleagues have assented.

We do not believe it would be easy to suggest improvements in the political strategy and tactics which Mr. Gladstone has exhibited since the opening of Parliament.—*N. Y. Sun.*

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No payment will be made to newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority having been first obtained.

FRED WHITE,
Comptroller N. W. M. Police.
Ottawa, March 9th, 1893.

**TENDERS.**

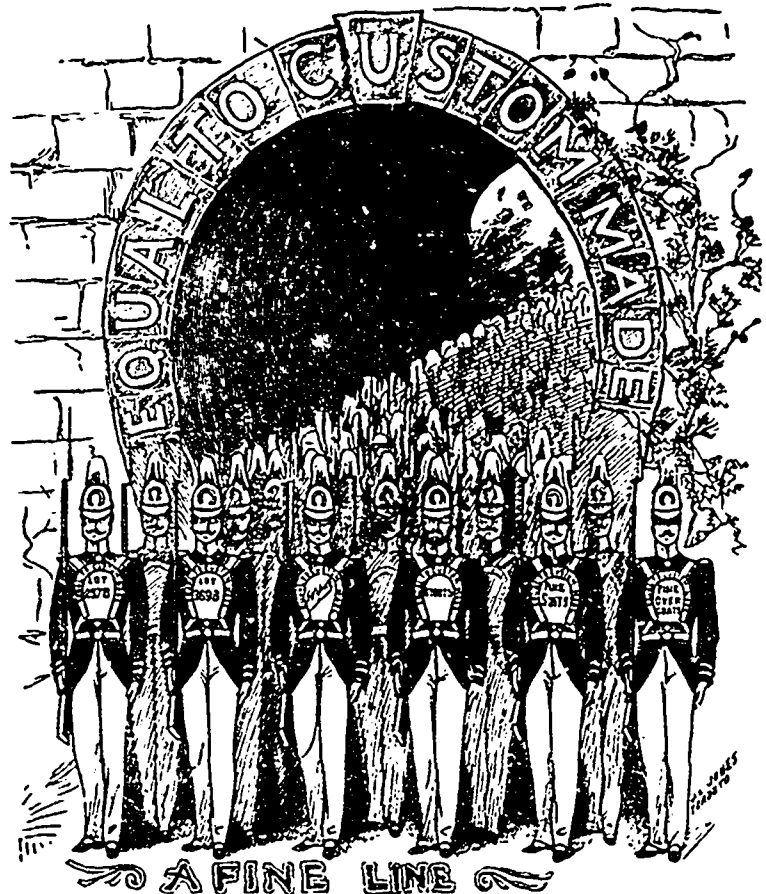
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L. VANKOUGHNET,
Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, March, 1893.

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