

Sweet Island Home.

BY W. J. MULCHINSKY.

Girt by the bounding river's foam,
Sweet Island Home,
Green be thy shades, and o'er thy bowers,
Light speed the hours,
And winter, with its chilly blast,
Must come at last,
Deal gently with a spot so fair,
My heart is there!

Full many a proudler I've seen,
A gem of grace,
Set in the sunlit ocean's fold,
Of living gold,
But when the rays of the high cascade
Their rainbows spread,
And deck their river with care,
More beauty there.

For, with the tears of morn and eve,
They dew the
Ancestral way of the waterfall;
And then with all
Their azure tints and purple dyes,
Robbed from the skies,
Paint the gay fabric, to declare
Their presence there.

Off by thy mansion's stately pile,
Sweet river side,
Is heard the lover's timid ray
At close of day,
Say, does thy queen, with smiles as sweet,
Allot rings greet,
Or thy voice, in the twilight air,
Remembered there?

Say, does she wander forth alone,
At early dawn,
When the wild waters dance along
With merry song?
Or to her vine-scented bower,
At vesper hour,
Does she, with lute in hand, repair,
And wish me there?

If fondest wishes have the power
To sway the tide,
The brief, sad hour of toil and strife,
A mortal life,
Forth to that river-side I'd fly,
If but to die,
For over my grave an angel there
Would kneel in prayer.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

THE REFERENCE TO IRISH AFFAIRS.

PROSPECTS OF AN EXCITING SESSION.

The following is the portion of the Queen's speech having reference to Irish affairs:

My Lords and Gentlemen:—

The Commission which at the close of the session I informed you I had issued to enquire into the state of the agricultural depression throughout the United Kingdom is pursuing its labors. Meanwhile a serious deficiency in the usual crops in some parts of Ireland has rendered necessary special precautions on the part of my Government to guard against calamities which might befall the distressed population. With this view they have called upon the authorities charged with the duty of administering relief, to make ample preparations for the distribution of food and fuel, should such a step become necessary, and also to stimulate employment and labor by advances on terms as liberal as those presented by the existing law. I feel assured that you will give your sanction to the course that has been adopted, where it may have exceeded the power entrusted to Parliament to the executive of the Government.

Mr. Shaw (Home Rule) moved, on behalf of the Irish members, an amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech at the earliest moment, condemning the Government's failure to take efficient measures to relieve the distress in Ireland, and will call for them to do so.

Sir Stafford Northcote, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave notice that he would move to-morrow for the adoption of a Bill sanctioning the measures for the relief of Ireland already taken, and for further relief.

Sullivan, the Home Rule member for Louth, gave notice that he would move to-morrow for the introduction of a Bill for the protection of life and property in Ireland by suspending the serving of writs of ejectment from payment of rent.

Mr. Newdegate (Conservative), member for Warwickshire, gave notice of his intention to offer resolutions providing for suspension of members as a penalty for the obstruction of legislation.

Home Rule Shaw proposed the amendment to the Address, concluding with this statement:—"It is essential for the peace and prosperity of Ireland to legislate immediately and comprehensively on the question relative to land tenure, the neglect of which duty is the true cause of the constantly recurring distress in that country."

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ADDRESS.

London, Feb. 5.—In the Commons to-day, O'Donnell (Home Rule), gave notice that he would move an amendment to the Address in reply to the Queen's speech, calling attention to the systematic neglect of Irish affairs, and also to the factious misrepresentation of the acts of Irish members of Parliament by the Government and their organs.

Mr. Mulholland (Conservative), member for Oxford University, moved the address in answer to the speech from the Throne.

Mr. Carr, in seconding the motion, stated that the distress in Ireland was not so general as had been represented. He contended that any interference with the land question should be conducted with all due safeguards.

The Marquis of Hartington said the Greek question ought to be taken up and settled as speedily as possible. He criticized the recent interference of the Government in Turkish matters as likely to lead to future complications, and pointed out that the reforms in Asiatic Turkey were still in abeyance. Speaking of the Austro-German alliance, he said he thought it would be well for England to look to her own security. He criticized the annexation of Transvaal, argued that the population of Afghanistan are now in a worse position than before and asked for explanations regarding military executions in Cabul. He hoped the Government would, at the earliest moment, state definitely what steps had been taken to relieve the distress in Ireland, and contended that the Government had prolonged the opportunity for the obstruction by unnecessarily continuing the existence of Parliament.

Northcote (Chancellor of the Exchequer) replied. He regretted Hartington had not given any explanations touching the attitude of the Liberals in regard to Home Rule questions, and said there was nothing in the state of the country rendering dissolution necessary. The Opposition must bear its share of the blame attached to toleration of obstruction, as they had not supported the endeavors of the Government to terminate obstruction. The Greek question he said is still under consideration. The financial difficulties of the Porte added to the difficulties in dealing with the question of the Asiatic reforms. The Austro-German alliance gave great pleasure to the Government, as it is likely to be conducive to the peace of the world. Her Majesty's Government, he said, had no wish for the annexation of Afghanistan. The Government, he claimed, had not been remiss in taking what steps in Ireland they thought necessary upon information received, and he added, the Government would ask for a Bill of indemnity for loans granted. If the object of Shaw's amendment was to register a vote against the Government, it would be right he should offer it, what was ignorant of the Government's proposal regarding Ireland.

Mr. Shaw then moved an adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to after a desultory discussion, in which several Irish members participated, as to whether Shaw should move his amendment before or after the Government's proposal had been made known.

The House then adjourned.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Onslow (Conservative) moved, and the Earl of Russell (Conservative) seconded, the Address in answer to the speech from the Throne. Both referred to the distress in Ireland.

Lord Beaconsfield then spoke. He maintained that the Balkans were an intelligible frontier for Turkey, and said that the Government had made a proposition of which there was every reason to hope would bring the Greek affair to a conclusion. He also announced that a telegram, just received from Sir Bartle Frere gave promise of carrying out a scheme of confederation in South Africa. He said the Government was opposed to the annexation of Afghanistan, and asserted that the charges of cruelty against General Roberts were unsupported by documentary testimony. Home Rule he defined to mean dismemberment of the United Kingdom. The Duke of Argyll followed, and attacked Roberts and the Anglo-Turkish Convention.

Lord Cranbrook replied to the Duke of Argyll, and defended the Government. The House then agreed to adjourn.

London, Feb. 6.—Redmond (Home Rule) moved, and Mahon (Home Rule) seconded, an amendment to the address.

Shaw, in support of the amendment, said he did not wish to condemn the Government for what they were going to do in the future, but for what they had done in the past. If the Government had offered to make advances to Irish farmers in the first instance, at the rate of one per cent., they might have done much to avert the calamity now upon Ireland. The Government ought also to have given greater powers to the Boards of Guardians. He said a gradual process of starvation had been going on in Ireland for some time. He did not wish the Government to lavish too much money on public works, because the people were demoralized by the system in which money had been wasted in 1847. It was discreditable to England's greatness that in Ireland three-fourths of the people should be reduced to a condition barely removed from famine by two or three bad harvests. He acknowledged that the problem to be solved was a difficult one, but the difficulty was not insuperable.

O'Donnell (Liberal) said the proper course was to lend money to farmers, not to landlords.

The debate was continued by the following Home Rulers: Charles J. F. W. Ward, O'Brien, Butt, Martin and MacCarthy, all of whom condemned the Government's plans as inadequate.

Plunkett (Conservative, Dublin University) said Parnell's utterances would only be received with loathing, and their results might be an agitation which would end in a bloody resistance to the law.

O'Donnell (Home Rule) rose to a point of order to this expression.

The Speaker ruled Plunkett's language unparliamentary.

Plunkett submitted to the ruling of the Speaker and qualified his language slightly.

Sullivan (Home Rule) energetically defended Parnell.

Lowther, Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, stated that no case of death from starvation had occurred in Ireland.

Henry (Home Rule) moved the adjournment of the debate. Agreed to.

Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, obtained leave to bring in a Bill to render valid the proceedings for the relief of Irish distress, and make further provisions therefor. He explained that advances would come out of the fund at the disposal of the Irish Church temporalities.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A PRIEST IN CINCINNATI.

From the Cincinnati *Impress*, we learn that on Wednesday, the 29th of January 1884, Rev. James J. Bent, of Lexington, Ky., came to this city and registered at Hunt's Hotel. He appeared to be ill, and yesterday he was found kneeling by a chair—dead.

The deceased was born in Wexford County, Ireland, about the year 1844, and came to this country when only two years of age. He studied at Bardonia, Ky., and at Bourbonnais University, Illinois, and was ordained a priest in Covington about nine years ago. The different missions assigned to him in the course of his ministry have been executed with commendable zeal and success. His last post of duty was at Lexington, Ky. His age was thirty-five years at his death. The remains were removed to Covington yesterday evening, and the funeral, with Requiem Mass, is appointed for nine o'clock on Friday morning at St. Mary's Cathedral, Covington.

Some thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees.

BRITISH "UNLAW."

BISHOP MORAN, OF OSORY, ON BRITISH LAWLESSNESS.

At the instigation of the Mayor of Kilkenny, Bishop Patrick Francis Moran, of Osory, made the following reply to the Hierarchy of Ireland:

I beg to thank the Right Worshipful the Mayor for the kind words he has spoken, and you, gentlemen, for the enthusiasm with which you have honored the toast just now proposed. Surely there never was a time when it was more necessary that we should be united and that all the sons of Ireland should be of one heart and of one mind than at the present day. The present time is full of serious anxieties and of grave forebodings for our people, and I am sure no one will deny that we are passing through a crisis the most severe that for many years has fallen upon our country (hear, hear). Three years of bad harvests culminated in a winter the most severe that our oldest inhabitant has ever witnessed (hear, hear). If springing thought with it some cheer, if prospects, they were soon blighted by the continuous rain of summer (hear, hear). In many places the potato crop was a complete failure. In many districts, too, particularly in the west, the advent of the present winter found the cereal crops unripe, whilst no provision for the winter had been made, for, in fact, throughout the summer there was not sunshine sufficient to prepare the peat for firing. Then the depression of trade in England and the competition from the vast States beyond the Atlantic left this little stock in the hands of the poor farmers, and thus without money, without credit, without provisions, without work, surely the prospect is a gloomy one (hear, hear), but these are passing evils to which we hope a remedy may soon be applied. There is

ANOTHER PERMANENT EVIL, however, which lies at the root of all the anxieties and sufferings of our farming class. It may justly be styled a radical grievance which our people have, for a long time, sought in vain to redress, but which if I am not wholly mistaken, has been brought within the range of the practical policies of our legislators, by that wonderful agitation which, like a restless tide, has swept over this country during the past few months (cheers). The evil to which I refer is the defect—I should rather say the injustice—of those laws which regulate the tenure of land (hear, hear). No one is ignorant of the manifold injustice which results from such laws. They are not the work of our time. They have come down to us from a dark and dreary period when the whole legislation of the country seemed to have for its object to crush the moral and material energy of our people. In the English chronicles of the 12th century

WE OFTEN MEET THE WORD "UNLAW" And through this word seems to be no longer in use, it appears to me that it serves better than any other to express the moral and material energy of our people. The historian of the Norman Conquest of England defines it to mean the making use of the law of the land, not as a guardian and guarantee of liberty and justice, but as an engine of tyranny and oppression and injustice. A good deal has been done of late years to amend these laws, but a great deal still remains to be achieved. In this country we are fortunate in having several landlords who are noted for their kindness and liberality. It is not they who have made these laws. Not more, I do not hesitate to say that it is the moral and material energy of our people, that makes at all tolerable the laws to which I have referred. It is against such laws that our people have joined in united protest. They ask to have these wrongs redressed, and it seems to me that they ask only for what they have a perfect right to demand. In the newspapers, indeed, from beyond the channel, extreme in their hostility to Ireland, have

ACCUSED OUR PEOPLE OF COMMUNISM AND FENIANISM. We indignantly repudiate the groundless charge (cheers). Our people are not Fenians, they are not Communists (no, no), they are not lovers of injustice (no). I do not hesitate to say that there is not in the world a people so devoted to duty and to every high principle of honor and honesty, and justice (hear). In the beginning of the 19th century, the high official of the Crown, Sir John Davis, whom no one will accuse of sympathy with this country, reported to the Government that there was no people under the sun that loved justice as the Irish people (cheers). And, let me ask, what was it but this invincible attachment to honor and justice, and religion that sustained our people throughout these centuries of grinding oppression.

UNDER WHICH ANY OTHER NATION Would have succumbed? And if, in later times, we have achieved moral victories, of which any people might justly be proud, and which are an honor to the age in which we live, what was the secret of our success but our unaltered attachment to those same principles of justice and of honor (cheers). And if we look forward to future triumphs, if we are resolved that every wrong under which our people suffer shall be redressed, and every right asserted, on what have we to rely but on the same unchanging principle of honor and justice? Some few people may, indeed, be found to utter words of Fenianism or Communism; but

WHAT CARE WE FOR THESE RECKLESS MEN Who are sure to turn up in every crisis of our country's history. We know their wickedness is surpassed only by their folly. The good sense of our people heads them not, but tells them to stand aside. They are the worst enemies of every just cause, and no matter what mark of patriotism they may assume, or what honeyed words of love of country may be on their lips, they are in their hearts traitors to that cause which they profess to serve, enemies of religion, and enemies of their country. The year of office of which our worthy Mayor now entertains promises to be in many respects an eventful one (hear, hear). It is very generally supposed that before many months the present Parliament will be dissolved, and that a general election of our representatives will be held, and it is most probable that in the future Parliament many questions will arise of vital interest to our country. The electors should hold in mind that the interests of Ireland are in their hands, and that the

result depends entirely on their being faithful to the trust reposed in them. If they return men of honesty and independence, then Ireland's interests are secured. I mean by men of honesty, men who will not seek to delude us with visionary schemes, with what the illustrious O'Connell used to call moonshadows of moonshine, but men who know the wants and grievances of Ireland and apply themselves earnestly and perseveringly to remedy them. And I mean by men of independence men who, no matter what may be their sympathies with either of the great parties who struggle for the helm of the State in England, will never allow such sympathies to turn them aside from the path of duty which they owe to Ireland.

CHESTER GLASS IN ROME.

A VISIT TO ST. PETER'S.

Rome, January 3rd, 1880.

St. Peter's, the great cathedral of the Mother Church of Christendom, is the largest place of worship in the world. Built upon the ruins of the Circus of Nero, the spot is hallowed by the blood of the first Christian martyrs. It is a considerable distance from the centre of the city, being about half an hour's walk from the cross. The way is through narrow streets, with no sidewalks, and along which one walks at considerable risk of being knocked over by the cabs which are in Rome very numerous and are driven in a manner quite careless of the lives and limbs of pedestrians. After crossing the Bridge of St. Angelo and passing under the shadow of the great castle of St. Angelo, one comes in a few moments in sight of the Piazza of St. Peter's. This piazza, with its famous obelisk, its two beautiful fountains, and its vast colonnades, supported by 254 massive columns and surrounded by colossal figures of 162 saints of the Church, is well known every where. The cathedral itself at first disappointed me; I had heard so much and read so much about this wonderful edifice that I suppose nothing could have quite fulfilled my expectations. The building did not look old enough nor lofty enough to suit me. The cathedrals of England are in some respects much more beautiful than any on the Continent. In England they are generally surrounded by trees, and very often approach by an avenue of oaks, while in Rome niches and caves hang the beautiful ivy. For instance, the church at St. Andrew's, where Shakespeare is buried. There nothing could be more charming than its situation and surroundings. By the side runs the Tiber, with so many associations of the immortal past. Several avenues, overtopped by stately trees, lead up to the cathedral door. The ivy clings to the venerable smoking walls, and the green sward stretching down to the river, all tend to give a home-like charm to the place. The case is very different on the Continent; here all the churches depend for their attractiveness solely upon the beauty of their architecture. They are generally situated in the midst of a city, surrounded by busy streets, and not a tree or a blade of grass in sight.

It is over a month ago since I first saw St. Peter's. The impression I then received has gradually worn away, and I now never forget the magnificent piazza and cathedral without seeing some new beauty in them. From the first, I was not in the least disappointed with the interior. Standing near the front entrance, and looking up the nave the sight is a grander one than I ever saw before inside any edifice of the ably preserved, perhaps the most beautiful of the kind in the world. In front of it is a marble staircase leading down by a double flight of steps to the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle. A railing surrounds the confessional; around it I counted ninety-seven lamps of gold which are never extinguished. St. Peter's at least a dozen statues, and have tried from different points of view to form a proper idea of its vast proportions. I know that St. Paul's—Wren's great masterpiece, and the largest Protestant cathedral—could be placed inside this enormous structure and still leave room for several respectably-sized churches. Another St. Paul's, but still so wonderful is St. Peter's proportioned that it is a difficult matter to appreciate it properly. I found the golden lamps somewhat of a guide. When standing near the entrance, these lights look to be two or three feet away from the ably preserved, perhaps the most beautiful of the kind in the world. In front of it is a marble staircase leading down by a double flight of steps to the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle. A railing surrounds the confessional; around it I counted ninety-seven lamps of gold which are never extinguished. St. Peter's at least a dozen statues, and have tried from different points of view to form a proper idea of its vast proportions. 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