

well that their chances of victory were small against such overwhelming odds, and the very fact of their making the mad attempt they did proves that they must have been moved by the courage of despair. But whatever their guilt, the denial of quarter to unresisting fugitives is an eternal disgrace to the arms of a civilized nation. It must not be forgotten, moreover, that the accounts we have of this and other struggles is entirely *ex parte*. The Sioux have no reporters and no official despatches to give us their side of the story. If newspaper reports be true—which Heaven forbid!—at least one Canadian was present at the cowardly murder of "Sitting Bull," and actually secured a piece of his scalp to send home as a trophy! The same despatch tells us that this scalp was taken while the poor victim was writhing in his death agony. We sicken at the thought of such atrocities. We had always supposed scalping to be a characteristic of Indian savagery. If white soldiers, in addition to refusing quarter to fleeing enemies, and even to women and children, have taken to the scalping knife, do we not well to ask: "Which are the barbarians?"

"BUT yesterday the word of Cæsar might have stood against the world; now lies he there and none so poor to do him reverence." Substitute for Cæsar, Bismarck, and Mark Antony's account of the downfall of the greatest of Romans might be used almost literally to describe the change which the year just closed brought to the great ex-Chancellor of Germany. If the account cabled from the London *Times*, and said to be vouched for as correct, can be relied on, the fall of Bismarck was both more unexpected and more humiliating than was generally supposed. And yet the story, so far as it relates to the overweening egotism and obstinacy of the man, and the final rebellion of the young Emperor, though somewhat dramatic, does not lack verisimilitude. It is quite in keeping with what we know of the two characters. The same can hardly be said of the act in which the Empress Frederick is introduced. A powerful stretch of the imagination is required to enable us to picture the man of blood and iron, the proud and relentless conqueror of France, as humiliating himself before the woman he had so deeply injured and imploring her intervention to save him from the fate impending. It is true that it is not for himself but for Germany that he is represented as pleading, and in this respect the audacity of the assumption is characteristic. But whatever the history of his tragic downfall, the fact remains and will go down in history that amid all the mutations in personal fortune ever wrought by the blunders of a statesman or the caprice of a monarch, that which the year 1890 saw in the case of Prince Bismarck has few parallels in the suddenness and completeness of the overthrow. The story has a moral for purblind statesmen who forget to conciliate the good-will of subordinates as well as for those who depend upon the favour of monarchs.

A GOOD many months ago we were enabled to give some interesting particulars of a successful voyage by a British merchant vessel through Behring's Straits, along the southern shore of the Arctic Ocean and up one of the long rivers, the Yenisei, we think it was, for many hundreds of miles into the interior of Northern Asia; almost in fact to the Altai Mountains on the northern boundaries of the Chinese Empire, where these magnificent rivers take their rise. It is now announced that other English vessels have just returned from another successful voyage, having passed into the Arctic Ocean and up the Yenisei to a point where their cargoes were transferred to small steamers and taken far into the interior. The event is of much greater commercial importance than might at first thought be supposed. The impression that used to prevail a quarter or half century ago that Siberia was a vast snow-covered and ice-bound waste is being rapidly dispelled. It is now becoming known that it contains immense tracts of fertile soil, that it has rich mineral deposits, and that the climate throughout a large part of it is not only healthy, but well adapted for the growth of the hardier cereals and other products of the north temperate zone. Siberia is, in fact, in about the same latitude as our own Canada, and is said, by some, to be equally productive. The great obstacle to its development has hitherto been its isolation. On the east are vast deserts shutting it off from the Pacific, on the south almost impassable mountains separating it from China and Turkestan, and on the west the great Russian plains. Hence, if it be the fact, as Captain Wiggins who has been mainly instru-

mental in furthering the attempts which have been made is said to have demonstrated by no less than fifteen voyages, the last occupying only three months, that commerce by means of the great rivers which empty into the Arctic Ocean, and the numerous branches of which penetrate into almost all parts of the interior, is not only possible but practicable during the summer months, the result must be in the near future that Siberia will no longer be a vast and dreary prison-house for Russian exiles, but a thriving and progressive country, offering homes to millions of industrious settlers of the hardy northern races. Of course the traffic by such a route must always be more or less precarious, but with the aid of the great railroad now projected and others which would soon become necessary, free intercourse with the outside world would soon be established, and possibilities hitherto unsuspected disclosed and developed. Reading of these voyages the people of our own North-West may well renew their courage and faith in the Hudson Bay route that is yet to afford them a far shorter, and one might well suppose surer, outlet.

THE TRUTH ABOUT IRELAND—I.

THERE have been so many contradictory statements about Ireland that even well-informed and intelligent people have been baffled in their endeavours to learn the exact truth.

The writer was brought up "in the straitest sect" of the believers in Ireland's wrongs. His faith was so robust that it actually survived the justification by an intelligent Irish patriot, in his hearing, of a horrible case of mutilation of a landlord's horses. When he subsequently came to examine the facts, to look for evidence, and to compare the treatment meted out during this century to the three nations, he ultimately came to the conclusion of the *Economist*—the greatest political financial authority in the world—that England is "the least favoured nation," and that the case of alleged continuous ill-treatment is disposed of by Shakespeare's words "The fault is not in our stars but in ourselves."

The patient and persevering truth-seeker will discover that there is a great deal of meaning in the well-known saying of the late Archbishop Whately, who was Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, and the author of Whately's logic. He observed that the ancients said that truth lay at the bottom of a deep well, but that in Ireland he found that it lay at the bottom of a deep red bog.

Schiller said that it was rare to find a man who truly pictured in his mind that which he heard or read of, and that this lack of imagination was a great obstacle to arriving at the truth. The English lack imagination and consequently often fail in the manner referred to by the great German author. The average Englishman does not picture to himself the real Irish facts. If Gladstone is his idol, he believes what he is told about the "Union of Hearts," and that it is an Irish rendering of "Peace on earth, good will towards man." On the other hand, sceptical people, who do not in this instance require much imagination, read in the *Times* the account of the anti-Parnellite meeting at Tipperary, on December 14th, and that Canon Ryan called on the horsemen on the outskirts of the meeting "to come in and trample the hirelings (Parnellites) down," and to "kick the villains out." That subsequently during the progress of the fight between the two factions—fought with sticks and stones—the Reverend Canon and Father Humphreys, scornful of the time-honoured shillelagh, "wielded their umbrellas, rushed amid their supporters, and, calling on them to follow, 'charged upon the other side,' and that 'a fierce conflict ensued, but that at last the Parnellites fled in all directions.'" Such sceptical people even moderately gifted with imagination, instead of seeing Gladstone's "Union of Hearts"—"Peace on earth, good will towards man," behold a Donnybrook Fair rehearsal Home Rule, and think that such people, instead of Home Rule-unloosing, require a strong Government to keep them at peace.

The Celtic Irish have too much imagination, and often picture to themselves imaginary facts. This repeatedly results in untruthful statements, which in many cases is not intentional falsehood, but imagination run wild. The unimaginative Anglo-Saxon does not understand this.

The following is a good instance: Mr. Mulhall is an eminent Irish author, whose literary forte is claimed to be statistics. He is the author of several widely-read statistical works. In his *Statistical Dictionary*, when giving the number of Irish evictions during the present and past generation, he positively multiplied the official and real number by seven, repeating the error several times. In his case the erroneous statement resulted from Celtic heedlessness and credulity, and his inclination to strengthen the Wrongs-of-Ireland case. Another factor was his unfitness for a class of literature which, more than any other, requires a judicial mind, the rare faculty of rightly weighing conflicting evidence, and also a keen perception of truth. A statistician must ever bear in mind the old proverb "that all is not gold that glitters." A man thus gifted would not have acted as he did. Macaulay's schoolboy would have scorned such a grievous blunder.

Although Mr. Mulhall, bowing to indignant criticism,

has publicly retracted his marvellous exaggeration, yet it is to this day generally quoted by Nationalists and their sympathizers as being true, even by those who know the real facts.

Even if his statement had been true, the number quoted was greatly below the New York average during the same period. This fact gives a vivid idea of the difficulty of learning the truth about Ireland. Here we see a highly-intelligent and well-educated Irishman shutting his eyes to the truth, and stating as a fact that which any intelligent, well-informed, and unprejudiced man would have known to be false. Such a man would know that one of the troubles of Irish landlords has been caused by their general easiness in time past. In no part of America would landlords suffer tenants to get four or more years in arrear. In Irish evictions the arrears on a large average equal four years. Neither would American landlords in populous districts be content with from ten to sixteen per cent. of the produce for rent. Nor in America is it claimed to be a landlord's duty to be his tenant's providence, or to have to compensate him for his inefficiency or lack of industry. The English proverb "Let every tub stand on its own bottom" and the Scotch "Let every herring hang by its own head" are not recognized in the south and west of Ireland.

The cardinal error in this country is in judging the Celtic Irish by our Canadian standard of commonsense, industry, law-abidingness, truthfulness, and sense of justice. We often forget that there are different races in Ireland who are differently endowed in such respects.

THE SOIL OF IRELAND.

Ireland is the finest grazing country in Europe. In the temperate zone there are very few, if any, in the whole world that equal it for dairy farming. According to Parnell, the soil on the average is ten per cent. more fertile than in England. Arthur Young was the greatest agricultural authority of the last century. A portion of his work on France is used as an eighteenth-century condition of the people text-book in the Government schools in France. He twice travelled in Ireland, 1776-1779 (Cassell's publish a cheap edition of his travels). He thoroughly understood agriculture in all its branches, and was a man who investigated very closely, reasoned well upon what he saw and learnt, and was fair-minded. He sympathized with the toiling multitude. In his admirably written book he is never tired of praising the capabilities of Ireland, and he speaks highly of the improvements by the larger landlords, which improvements have since then been partially confiscated. He repeatedly states that it greatly exceeds England in fertility, and he gives many instances proving the fact. "Some of the lands (near Kingston) will carry an ox and a wether, per acre. Rents (for such superior land) 15s. to 20s. per acre"—\$3.66 to \$4.87. Is there any such land in Ontario, and, if there is, could it be got at that rent?

YIELDS.

The present average yield of the crops in Ireland, under a poor system of farming, taken altogether, is about 25 per cent. greater than in Ontario, which latter is above the average of the States. Hay, clover, and grass, which together include four-fifths of the Irish farmed land, yield per English or statute acre one-half more than in Ontario. Some quote the case of mountain land, not included in the fifteen millions of rented acres, and try to make the unwary believe that such is a fair sample of the more fertile lands, rented on an average for the whole of Ireland at less than three dollars per acre. But nowadays sorrowfully-experienced men meet heated Nationalist assertions by a reference to facts. Like cold-water they produce a healthy reaction.

PRICES OF PRODUCE.

Prices of course are higher on the average in Ireland than here. As near as can be calculated the average cash value of the produce per farmed statute acre, including dairy produce, is 42 per cent. greater than with cleared land in Ontario. Probably it exceeds 42 per cent., for it is very difficult to get at the exact truth in Ireland. For obvious reasons it is the interest of the Irish farmer "to bear" the returns, while here it is the reverse. They are possible buyers, and we are possible sellers.

If a farmer in Ontario rents a fair average hundred-acre farm, all cleared, in a thoroughly settled county, his rent will be \$350. But the Irishman from an average hundred-acre farm, all cleared, will get 42 per cent. more cash than his Canadian friend, and will only pay about \$260 rent. Besides this, by the Land Act of 1881, he has been made part owner to the extent of about one-third. On a wide average of tenant-right sales, his share equals twelve years' purchase of the rent. The value of the landlords' share has now on the average fallen below eighteen years' purchase, with no buyers, because there is no security. For if Home Rule were granted, the tenants would get their landlords' property on their own terms, which many clamour for at prairie value.

FAIRPLAY RADICAL.

(To be continued.)

THE most unhappy of all men is he who believes himself to be so.—*Henry Hume*.

THE mistakes committed by women are almost always the result of her faith in the good, and her confidence in the truth.—*Balzac*.