

## The English Parliament and the Irish Question

At Present in the Background, but shortly to become the Centre of Historic Struggle.

(Hugh Sutherland, in the Philadelphia North American.)

There is a ghost which haunts these dim paneled halls of Westminster. For a hundred years it has flitted to and fro in corridor and chamber. Governments have risen and fallen, sovereigns have been crowned and have died, great questions of empire and trifling questions of politics have been fought, colonies won and lost, but still this accusing wraith has remained. More persistent than ever, more vigorous and masterful than any of the policies it has outlived, a perpetual problem of parties and a menace to ministries, the Irish question still challenges Mr. Speaker and josts the elbow of the distracted Premier himself.

THE IRISH QUESTION WILL INEVITABLY BE THE CENTRE OF A HISTORIC SUBJECT VERY SHORTLY.

You hear little of it in the ordinary procedure of the House of Commons. Just now that unwieldy body is wrestling with the nationalization of the schools. The army scandals, the Chinese labor problem in South Africa, the navy and other big matters, as well as the innumerable questions of local government with which this Imperial Parliament must deal, all have their turn, and so far as a stranger might discern, the century of oppressive misgovernment in Ireland engages no thought.

But it is in the immediate background of every question, and inevitably will become the centre of a historic struggle very shortly. The demand which generations of studied neglect could not discourage and ingenious tyranny could not stifle is stronger than ever to-day. It is voiceless simply because the time is not yet right.

John E. Redmond, chief of the Irish Parliamentary Party, cabled to the North American six months ago: "Since the time of Gladstone, Ireland never occupied a more powerful position than she does to-day. The Home Rule question is absolutely the main issue now before the public."

The great chieftain is noted for his conservatism of utterance upon these matters. Idle predictions he never makes. Each word that he cabled was weighed. Recently, speaking carefully, and withholding far more than he uttered, he repeated in substance this declaration, but went much further.

"The Government," he said, referring to the Liberal party, with its overpowering majority, "has definitely engaged to bring in a bill next winter which shall deal adequately with Irish affairs. As it stands that promise means much. How much I should not presume to say. Specific prophecy would be absurd. But I can and do assure our friends in America that within a few months an expression of Ireland's historic demand will be laid before Parliament, with the indorsement of the strongest Ministry the empire has had in a generation."

"Do you mean," was asked, "that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman proposes to ask the passage of an adequate Home Rule bill, and that within a year or so Ireland is to be governing herself?"

Mr. Redmond smiled, in evident enjoyment of the blunt request for the disclosure of political secrets. "You seem to think," he remarked, "that I speak vaguely. I do. It is manifestly impossible for me to forecast accurately and in detail the intentions of the government."

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND IS AS INEVITABLE AS THE RISING OF TO-MORROW'S SUN.

"But you know what has been promised?"

"Yes. But what I have said embraces all that I am at liberty to

disclose at this time. Home Rule for Ireland is as inevitable as the rising of to-morrow's sun, and, as I have said, the prospects for its rapid realization are brighter now than ever before. If I have further information, you will understand that public discussion at this time would be premature and harmful.

"But you may be assured of this much: The government has very definitely pledged itself to deal with the pressing problem of Ireland, and its pledges are of such a character that the Irish members look forward with the highest confidence to the development of the next few months."

Most of us, I suppose, are more or less affected by what may be termed stage settings. In every incident of life the theatrical "properties" have their effect. The benediction of a bishop in his shirt sleeves could not be very affecting. A President in a parlor car is infinitely less impressive than a President in the White House.

Something of this was felt in talking to Mr. Redmond in historic Westminster, not only the scene of mighty deeds of empire, but the place where this man, singularly devoted to a great cause, plans and works with indefatigable energy and searching diplomacy to serve the land he passionately loves.

It was not easy to see him. As the leader of Irishmen the world over, and particularly of that amazing loyal and compact party of eighty-three Irish members, his time by day and night is ceaselessly employed. But at a day's notice he engaged to receive me.

As a party leader, Mr. Redmond is entitled to an "office" in the big building, and it was in this room, somewhat like a cheerful dungeon, with an outlook from its leaded windows upon a gray cloistered courtyard, that he received me. A busy-looking desk, comfortable chairs, heaps of leather-bound books and litters of documents, with the inevitable fireplace, gave the apartment an air of continued occupancy. He spoke with his accustomed incisiveness upon many aspects of the great question. What he said may be put in substance thus:

THE IRISH PARTY HAS A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING WITH CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN

"The Irish Parliamentary Party has a thorough understanding with Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. He has pledged his government to a definite policy, and there is not the slightest doubt as to the sincerity of their intentions. As to how far toward our demands their views may go, it is impossible, of course, to say. But it is settled, and is a matter of public pledge, that the government next winter will undertake to deal with the Irish problems."

"Upon the details of the proposed bill we shall be consulted, probably during the coming summer. These conferences will be private. The fact that the Premier intends to submit his programme to us in advance is proof of his sincerity. We shall then endeavor to enlarge the scope of the measure he proposes."

The outlook is really inspiring. We have in power a government backed by a huge majority, and thoroughly committed to give to Ireland some measure of the justice which she has fought for during the last century.

"Naturally, there must be further delay. I am sorry to see that some Irishmen in America, too, affect to condemn what they term the 'reaction' of the Irish members. Parliament has been in session four months; they say contemptuously, 'and you have done nothing.' You are supporting the Liberals, but getting nothing in return. You are neglecting Ireland's interests and trifling away time and opportunity."

"This is unfair, but worse than that, it is foolish. Besides their

pledges to Ireland, the Liberals took office with definite policies upon many great questions, and by all the rules of fair play they are entitled to time in which to make good. The Irish Party might create an enormous fuss, and embarrass the government very seriously, by clamoring for immediate consideration of Ireland's case; but such a bull-in-a-china-shop policy would accomplish nothing but unpleasantness.

"We have the government's pledge, and in due course, when some other big imperial matters have been disposed of, we shall expect the pledge to be redeemed. That day is not far distant, and I am perfectly convinced that Ireland's long-deferred hope is shortly to develop into reality."

"It would be too much to expect that the first offer of any British Government, even this one, will meet the demands of our country. But I am sure it will be a long step in the right direction. Already the Ministry has shown its good will in suspending the infamous system of coercion and promising its erasure from the statute books."

"But even if we do not get all we want, common sense would demand that we take what we can get, and then go after more. If a man owes me a sovereign, and, after long delay, offers me one and sixpence, I would be justified in rejecting it; but if he offers me 15 shillings on account, it would be folly to refuse. You may be assured that Ireland will never give a receipt in full until the last farthing of her righteous claim is paid."

The Morality of Ireland.

Morality is now playing a very important part in war. No government now wants drinking men in her army or navy. We are just learning that morality is a very prominent factor in political economy. Marriage and the birth rate now are quotable in the great commercial exchanges. Dr. John W. Taylor, professor of gynaecology in the Birmingham, England, university, and the foremost statistician of Great Britain, in an article contributed to the February issue of the Nineteenth Century Magazine on the decline of births in England, says of the morality of the Irish people, that Ireland's birthrate is the highest in Europe. Dr. Taylor explains the morality of Ireland by remarking: "The fertility of Ireland seems to show the power of religious faith and practice in stemming the tide of luxurious selfishness and social suicide. Ireland is chiefly a Roman Catholic country, and its birth rate in the main represents the true fertility of the country."

What a glorious tribute to Ireland's morality, published in the pages of an English magazine, and written by one of England's greatest professors of medicine, is the honest, true, unprejudiced verdict of Dr. Taylor. Ireland with a birth rate the highest in Europe, and with a people whose morality wins the admiration of all who honor purity of life, adds another jewel to her crown of glory.

Her religion, her loyal Catholicity, keeps Erin from the social sin which is sweeping over England, cursing France, and gnawing into the life of this country. "France," says Dr. Taylor in his article, "has anticipated the rest of the world and has thus come near the consummation of its social fêlô de se." Dr. Taylor charges the lowering of the birth rate of the world not to "the greater stress of modern life, but as a consequence of the greater desire for luxury."—Western Watchman.

Pope Plus X. and his Irish Oculist.

Patrick Cahill, oculist, Dublin, who for eleven years was oculist to Pope Leo XIII., and is now appointed to the same office by His Holiness Plus X., was received in special audience by His Holiness recently. Mr. Cahill had the honor of presenting His Holiness with a prismatic field glass on the Brusch system, an aneroïd barometer with gold mountings, and a pair of eye glasses of most perfect manufacture. The Holy Father received these gifts most graciously, and in return presented Mr. Cahill with a medal and a portrait of His Holiness.

## Orangemen Attack Edward VII.

The King a Traitor.

"His Throne Must Rock"

Over one hundred lodges of the Orange Institution attended the Ulster Hall, Belfast, recently, and vigorously applauded a "sermon" by the Rev. R. D. Patterson, in which, under the chairmanship of Bro. Rev. Samuel Cochran, D.D.C., of Ireland, the preacher delivered a violent attack on Edward VII. Humorously enough, the proceedings ended with the singing of "God Save the King."

In the course of his oration Mr. Patterson proceeded to say:—"But Protestantism was being betrayed—betrayed by those who had sworn to defend it, betrayed alike by the occupant of the pulpit and the occupant of the Throne (applause). Protestantism could not die, but it remained for them to see that Protestantism in this country was not overwhelmed by a wave of Romanism, and to do so they must take up a position of watchfulness and guard that one dearest thing that was committed to their trust. Let them live for it, work for it, fight for it, and if need be, die for it. History, they were told, repeated itself. Their age might be compared to the opening years, perhaps, of James I's reign. Then, as now, every effort was made to unite the crowns of England and Spain by a Spanish marriage; but where James and Charles and Buckingham dared not go, our statesmen—or should he say certain members of the Royal Family of England, had gone. James feared our forefathers. Do the present day schemers hold us in utterable contempt, or take it for granted that the spirit of Protestantism is dead and dead for ever. Surely the time had come when from the Protestants of this country there should go forth a voice like the voice of many waters—like the voice of thunder amid the hills, like the voice or doom declaring in a manner that could not be mistaken, that they at all events could not, would not, dare not join in the congratulations upon the lady who now occupied the Throne of Spain, for they regarded her conduct as an act of apostasy and disgrace (applause). Their King and statesmen might think that they could sport with the religion of the people of this country with impunity, and thinking so they might know the opinions of their own courtiers; but it was just as well that it should be brought home to them that the religion of the vast majority of the people of this country was Protestant, that the vast majority was still as bitterly and as sternly anti-Papal as ever it was, that they were determined, with God's help, to remain anti-Papal, and that they would not, under any pretence, allow their religion to be stolen from them by degrees (applause). The Throne of England was grounded not on brute force, because Edward VII. could command no millions of obedient bayonets to do his behests. It was throned on far nobler, broader, and more certain foundations—it was broad based upon the nation's will. But the warning must go forth to him who sat thereon that by his conduct to the Romanish party ever since he ascended the throne he had succeeded in exciting suspicion, in alienating the affection and in straining the loyalty of thousands of his most valuable subjects (applause). Without that loyalty and affection his Throne must rock, and to regain it he must cease, and cease at once, coquetting with the Church of Rome (loud applause). The lesson of recent events was this. They must trust God and themselves, they must no longer put their trust in princes. They must trust, every man his God, and every man his own arm. There devolved in the future upon every Protestant a responsibility to do his duty to his religion. Each of them had got a part to play, and each of them must be prepared to do his duty and to bear his share of the sacrifices they would be called upon to make."

## A Tonic - Laxative.

**Abbey's Effervescent Salt**

Nature's remedy for tired, fagged-out, run-down man or woman. It cleanses the stomach, quickens the liver's action and leaves no astringent after-effects.

## Irish Leaders in the Government of Australia.

The election of the Hon. Timothy F. Quinlan, a Tipperary man, to the speakership of the newly-elected House of Representatives of Western Australia, reminds the Westminster Gazette of the great number of Irishmen who have filled the chairs of colonial legislative assemblies, including Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, Sir Francis Murphy, Sir Charles McMahon, and the Hon. Peter Lalor. A notable addition to this distinguished list might be made by the name of the Hon. Sir George Maurice O'Rorke, the son of an Irish Protestant rector in Galway, who has been elected no fewer than four times in succession to the chair of the House of Representatives of New Zealand, having previously filled, from 1865 till 1876, the speakership of the Auckland Provincial Council, says The Freeman's Journal of Dublin. A very delightful chapter might be written by a competent historian of the magnificent services of Irishmen in the winning of responsible government for the colonies.

Mr. Wentworth, who was one of the leading figures in the agitation for responsible government for the Australias in the 'fifties of the last century, was an Irish Protestant gentleman, and the Hon. William Porter, who won responsible government for Cape Colony, and having been offered the chief justiceship and the premiership, declined all honors, and gave the half of a large fortune made at the Cape bar for the endowment of educational institutions in the colony, was likewise an Irishman and an uncle of the Right Hon. Sir Andrew Porter, Bart., the present master of the rolls.

Even in far away Koolgardie, Ireland is well to the front. Robert M. Keenan, who was called to the Irish bar in 1890, and is a son of the late Sir Patrick Keenan, the resident commissioner of Irish national education, is the newly elected member for Koolgardie in the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, of which Mr. Quinlan is speaker.

Mr. Keenan, as Mayor of Koolgardie, presided over the meeting of the United Irish League which was addressed by William Redmond—a step which increased the popular enthusiasm which secured his election; while his wife was deputed by the ladies of Koolgardie to make on their behalf a presentation to Mrs. William Redmond of an Irish Celtic cross, formed out of the purest gold of Koolgardie.

Mr. Keenan was indeed brought up amid surroundings replete with Irish patriotic associations. The residence of his father was Delville, Glasnevin, in former days the home of Dean Delaney, the intimate friend and associate of Swift and Thomas Sheridan, who frequently spent weeks together as Dr. Delaney's guest in Delville, which is at the present day preserved just as it was nearly two centuries ago. From a turret in the grounds there is a magnificent view of the city, and in a dark vault beneath that turret the first impression of Swift's "Legion Club" is supposed to have been printed. The famous Drapier's Letters were written and secretly printed in Delville.

Tested By Time.—In his justly celebrated Pills Dr. Parmelee has given to the world one of the most unique medicines offered to the public in late years. Prepared to meet the want for a pill which could be taken without nausea, and that would purge without pain, it has met all requirements in that direction, and it is in general use not only because of these two qualities, but because it is known to possess alternative and curative powers which place it in the front rank of medicines.

## Moville Abandoned as Canadian Port of Call.

(The Irish Independent.)  
A Reuter's Montreal cablegram of yesterday announces that as a result of the conference between the Canadian Post Office authorities and representatives of the Allan and Canadian Pacific Steamship Lines, it has been arranged that the steamships carrying the Canadian mails will sail from Montreal on Friday mornings and from Liverpool on Friday afternoons. The call at Moville for mails is to be omitted.  
Mr. Charles Devlin, wires our London correspondent, has noticed that the Victorian, the large turbine steamer of the Allan Line, lately made the journey from Rimouski in the St. Lawrence River to Moville, landing Irish passengers and mails from Montreal, in five days and four hours. Between Southampton and Montreal, via New York, the journey takes seven days at the very best going. Mr. Devlin has based upon this fact a question of great importance to Moville. He proposes to ask the Postmaster-General whether it is not advisable in the interests of economy and expedition to have all the Canadian mails despatched by Moville, and the port on the St. Lawrence River instead of being forwarded by German lines to New York via Southampton.

## Italian Monasteries.

The Rome correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette writes to that journal on the Italian monasteries: "When the State, at the time of the making of Italy, suppressed various monasteries, the general mode of procedure was to leave the monks already there in possession, with the prohibition to any others to enter. When reduced by death to six, the monastery was to be closed and the remaining monks to find refuge in other houses of the order. Now, after thirty-five years, this dread day has come to several communities, and the lonely old monks, with tears in their eyes, are obliged to leave the place they have made an Eden.

The case of the Barefoot Trinity Order at San Oreste is particularly touching. The spot has been dedicated to religion since the fifth century, and the Trinity have been there for over five hundred years. That a change must be made they knew, but they did not realize until the other day, when they were informed that the whole place had been sold by the Government to a private person. The blow had fallen, and like true saints, they packed their modest belongings and left quietly the home where they had hoped to die. But the town people did not take the news of the departure of their beloved friends and benefactors so quietly, and got up a popular demonstration, in which hundreds of women took part."

Worms cause feverishness, moaning and restlessness during sleep. Mother Graves' Worm Extremator is pleasant, sure and effectual. If your druggist has none in stock, get him to procure it for you.

## EX-EMPRESS GIVES CASTLE.

The ex-Empress Eugenie has given to the state her Castle of Arenenberg, to be used for charity. As it is to be a sort of museum, she leaves all her works of art, and treasures that in the chapel, which is never to be diverted from Catholic worship, four masses are to be said annually, one for Queen Hortense, another for Napoleon III., a third for the Prince Imperial, and a fourth for herself.