

RUMORS ABOUT GLADSTONE

TALK ABOUT HIS RESIGNATION.

Much Bickering as to Who His Successor May be, in Case of Resignation—Important European Opinions.

LONDON, March 2.—Mr. Gladstone, accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, left Paddington street station at 5.30 p.m. for Windsor. It is assumed that during his stay he will tender his resignation to the Queen. Before leaving Downing street Mr. Gladstone received Sir William Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer; John Morley, secretary for Ireland, and a few other intimate friends. Throughout his drive to the station he spoke but little. After entering the railway carriage he leaned back in a corner, leaned his head on his hand and closed his eyes. He seemed to be lost in meditation and gave only laconic answers to Mrs. Gladstone's remarks. A crowd which had gathered at the station showed the deepest respect for the old man. Hardly a word was uttered until the train began to move. Then everybody on the platform cheered and waved his hat. Mr. Gladstone started from his corner and bowed and smiled from the window as the train drew away. The 2,000 or more persons who had assembled at the Windsor station cheered repeatedly when Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone alighted. Mr. Gladstone smiled and bowed, then entered the Royal carriage with his wife and proceeded to the castle. The streets through which the carriage passed were filled with men and women who greeted the Premier with cheers and waving hats and handkerchiefs. Mr. Gladstone had an audience with the Queen before dinner and told her of his intention to retire from office. The formal act of resignation, however, may be delayed until after the meeting of the council which the Queen will hold tomorrow. All the ministers will attend this council, at which the formal prorogation of parliament is to be enacted. There are but two topics in the political clubs and journalistic reports this evening. They are the retirement of the Premier and the choice of his successor. Rumors and surmises of all sorts are repeated from mouth to mouth, but news with any noteworthy foundation in fact is very scarce. The newspapers are printing columns of varied speculation, but most of this matter is the result of guess work and throws no light on the cabinet situation.

A news agency of some pretensions to reliability sent out yesterday a report that Mr. Gladstone's secretary had personally informed its representative that the resignation of the Premier could no longer be delayed and that its presentation to the Queen was merely a matter of hours. The report further said that at his audience with the Queen on Tuesday Mr. Gladstone had told Her Majesty that his failing eyesight, together with other infirmities of advanced age, made it imperative that he should lay down the cares of office, etc. All of this is untrue. Nothing of the kind occurred in either instance. To ascertain how much, if any, truth was contained in these statements a representative of the United Press called upon Mr. George H. Murray, who, with Mr. G. W. Spencer Littleton, acts in the capacity of private secretary to Mr. Gladstone, and submitted them to him. Mr. Murray unhesitatingly repudiated what purported to have come from him or his associate, and to emphasize his disclaimer wrote the following:—

"No such statements were made by any of Mr. Gladstone's secretaries yesterday. Mr. Gladstone has not yet tendered his resignation to the Queen.

G. H. MURRAY."

From this it is evident that the news agency mentioned is making the most of all the available sensations—ready made or made to order—without regard to reliability or plausibility.

That Mr. Gladstone will resign very shortly is without doubt true, but his resignation has not yet been announced. Delay in making such announcements is a matter of etiquette. No minister, and no one is better acquainted with the written and unwritten laws of propriety in such matter than Mr. Gladstone himself, can properly announce his resignation until he has made his resignation an accomplished fact by tendering it to the Queen. Upon the formal re-

ceipt of Mr. Gladstone's resignation it will become the duty of the Queen to immediately summon to her presence other statesmen with a view of selecting his successor. Dissolution of Parliament will not necessarily follow. Mr. Gladstone will dine with the Queen this evening and sleep at Windsor to-night. On this occasion he will probably tender his resignation and discuss the matter of appointing his successor. But, the news agency to the contrary notwithstanding, he has done neither yet.

THE RADICAL PROTEST.

LONDON, March 2.—The Radical agitation over the selection of Lord Rosebery as the successor of Mr. Gladstone continues unabated. A majority of the Radical leaders, while preferring a Commoner, are disposed to acquiesce in the leadership of Lord Rosebery, but the extremists vehemently oppose his appointment, declaring that if Lord Rosebery is made Premier the existence of the new ministry will not be prolonged beyond a week. Even some of the more moderate Radicals express fear that Mr. Gladstone's withdrawal means the breaking up of the party which his personal influence has held together. Major-General Sir John Clayton Cowell, master of the Queen's household, visited the Treasury department this morning and held an extended conference with Right Hon. Edward Majoribanks, patronage secretary to the treasury. After the departure of the Queen's representative, Mr. Majoribanks had an interview with Mr. Gladstone. The conference was with reference to the arrangements for Mr. Gladstone's visit to Windsor to-day.

In a letter to the Liberal whip, Mr. Labouchere says: During the Tory administration the fact that the Premier was in the House of Lords was a mock complaint of the Radicals in and out of Parliament. Mr. Gladstone's popularity was largely due to the fact that he was regarded as the people's minister, scorning even old age, while holding the premiership. Without his being in the House of Commons we also complained the party could not consult in regard to its future leader, and we cannot admit for a moment that either the Queen or the Cabinet can select our leaders in secret conclave. It is obvious that the Queen will select the man most grateful to the court instead of to the people. The secrecy maintained in regard to Mr. Gladstone, the semi-official denials up to the last moment, the manner in which his successor was sprung upon us, and the course not sitting, have a very ugly aspect and smack of cabal and intrigue. That the Queen has a right to select the premier is more true in theory than in fact, and it is probable that within the next few years, if we remain united, we shall sweep away the hereditary chamber. When we welcome them in the House of Commons as elected members they will have the same claim as others to lead us. Until then it would be more patriotic if a Liberal peer chosen by the Queen should decline to serve." Mr. Labouchere said further he regarded unity of party as paramount to leadership. Personally he believed the claims of Sir Wm. Harcourt to the premiership were paramount to those of any other.

T. P. O'CONNOR SPEAKS.

LONDON, March 2.—Mr. T. P. O'Connor to-day said: "I regret personally, and in behalf of my party, the prospects of losing our leader, and I still more regret the indisputable fact that he is vanishing from public life. In view of the certainty, however, that his resignation was inevitable in the near future, it was the wisest step that it should occur immediately. It is doubtful that his strength could outlast the coming session, and it is still more doubtful that he could have endured the hardships of a general election. If the Liberal party were left in a state of doubt regarding the leadership, it would fall into demoralization and leave the field open to scheming and intriguing to the lasting prejudice of the party." Mr. O'Connor was asked what comments he had to make on the statement made by the Freeman's Journal that Herbert Gladstone would succeed Mr. Morley as chief secretary for Ireland. He declined to give any definite expression of his opinion, but said if such an appointment was made it would be acceptable to the Irish party. He believed Herbert Gladstone, who was converted to Home Rule years before his father, would make a good chief secretary. Indeed, he could not bring to mind any one who would be likely to fill the office more satisfactorily. Mr. O'Connor said

Mr. Gladstone would undoubtedly hand his resignation to the Queen to-morrow. Referring to the Earl of Rosebery's succession to the premiership, Mr. O'Connor said he was not aware that his selection would be opposed by the Irish party.

AN UNNECESSARY EVIL.

That a man's enemies are of his own household is true in more than one sense of the text, and what is true of a household is often true of a nation, and of the Irish nation in particular. It is safe to say that no humiliation received at the hands of her foes has injured Ireland more than the thoughtlessness of some of her own people. There are thousands of her sons who would willingly and gladly die in her defense yet heedlessly strew in the pathway of her bleeding feet the nettle of vulgar caricature.

The Hon. T. W. Anglin, the gifted Irish Canadian, in his lecture on "The Benefits conferred on humanity by the Irish race", regrets the prevalence of the "Stage Irishman", and in conclusion, remarks that if Ireland is to take her place among the nations, Irishmen must respect her and themselves.

Do the Irish fail in this respect? Most decidedly so if we are to judge from the numerous efforts some of them make to belittle their national character.

At one time it was quite the fashion to refer to the Irish immigrants as the "Biddies" and "Paddies" who were only tolerated for the amusement they afforded and the work they performed for a superior (?) people some of whom, incredible as it may seem, were themselves of Irish descent.

This, thank God, is almost a thing of the past, but enough remains, too much indeed, to allow it to exist without some protest however feeble.

Not long ago in the neighboring Republic comic papers were published which contained the most shameless caricatures of all things Irish, and these vile cartoons were spread broadcast through the land week after week, until a number of persons not possessing any knowledge of the innate nobility of the grand old Celtic Race conceived the idea that the native born Irishman was a species of Ape, and as America is the "Greater Ireland" the greater portion of the support of the papers in question must have come from the Irish purse. This is by no means exaggeration. It is simply a matter of history. And furthermore as if to emphasize this crime against Irish Nationality the imported Apes and Gorillas were named after some of Erin's most honored sons and daughters, and when an indignant Irishman protested against the outrage and demanded an investigation, his wish was granted, but that was the last heard of it. Why? Not for want of patriotism or energy on the part of the committee. Oh no! but because the result of the enquiry would have caused more scandal than the offense itself. It was discovered that it was an Irishman who had given the names to the animals in question.

Shades of Washington and Carroll!!! If an American citizen was so lost to all sense of true manhood as to name an ape in a public garden after the first president of the Republic, or in a like manner to insult the memory of Martha Washington, not alone the Americans, but all people possessing any claim whatever to chivalry would rise up in indignation, and in this Canada of ours no true Canadian would allow such an insult to the revered memory of Cartier, Maisonneuve, Wolf or Montcalm. And are the names of the famous ones just mentioned more worthy of honor than Ireland's illustrious saints? Truly, as a certain writer says, "We go out of our way to insult ourselves."

The various concerts given under the auspices of Irish Committees are admirable in the extreme, but no matter how refined the programme may appear, before the evening is over, something will occur to offend the high sense of honor and respectability of the true Irishman.

It may be a song (in character of course) or some farce or other where an individual with a certain gift of mimicry or facial expression will give to the audience his ideas of some of the peculiar traits (?) of the Irish race. He is listened to with admiration and a vigorous encore brings him back to repeat the insult for the pleasure of an admiring Irish audience! Is it any wonder that some of

those present go away under the impression that Ignorance and Irish are synonymous terms.

Even the entertainments of the children are poisoned with this pernicious habit of caricature. At the distribution of prizes or annual examinations,—some dialogue or drama (?) will be enacted with all the innocent enthusiasm of childhood and the Irish (?) character is here again shown up to the assembled parents of the little ones, and the remarks heard in the audience are "Isn't he clever!" "How funny." "True to the life," etc., and all this under the instruction and supervision of an Irish teacher who would be more than insulted if any doubt was cast upon his patriotism. It is about time that the black bottle and the ignorant servant were cast out from the leading roles of these so called Irish character sketches. If the actors in these songs and farces are guilty to such an extent what must we think of the writers of these vile productions. They take a delight in putting before the public in every possible way their imagination can conceive some wretched idea of Ireland and the Irish, and usually the wharf or the quarry is the scene of "Paddy's" display of ignorance or intemperance.

The working class seem to be the butt of these would-be wits or moralists, no doubt to give credence to the now exploded idea that the people of Erin are the hewers of wood and drawers of water the world over.

Any one who uses his talent to bring into ridicule the nation to which he belongs is a traitor, and even traitor is too mild a term, for he not only betrays, he vilifies. It is written of an ancient nation that each individual, each citizen, had to live as if the integrity of the empire depended on his nobility of character. If this rule was followed by the Irish people, Ireland would soon be again "The seat of learning, the Isle of Saints."

Ireland, more than any other nation has walked in the footsteps of our suffering Redeemer, and in this as in others she resembles Him most minutely, for this additional cross is forced upon her by her own. No doubt one of the most bitter drops in the Chalice of our Lord was the thoughtless ingratitude of His own people. It was the alien, the Roman who said "I find no cause in this Just Man," and the Jews, His brothers, His countrymen, cried out with one voice, Crucify Him, Crucify Him!

S. SUTHERLAND.

ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL VISIT.

The Archbishop of Montreal will commence his pastoral visit on May 21, and will continue it during the remainder of May, June, and the first fortnight of July. The appointments of His Grace are as follows:—May: Sault au Recollet, 21; Riviere des Prairies, 22; Pointe aux Trembles, 23; Longue Pointe, 24; St. Leonard, 25; June: Lavaltrie, 4; St. Paul, 5; Ste. Marie Salome, 6; St. Jacques de l'Achigan, 7; Rawdon, 8; Chertsey, 9; Notre Dame de la Merci, 10; Ste. Julienne, 11; St. Calixte, 12; St. Esprit, 13; St. Alexis, 14; St. Liguori, 15; Joliette, 16; St. Thomas, 17; Lanoraie, 18; Berthier, 19; Isle du Pads, 20; St. Barthelemy, 21; St. Edmond, 22; July: St. Cuthbert, 2; St. Norbert, 3; Ste. Melaine, 4; Ste. Elizabeth, 5; St. Felix, 6; St. Ambroise, 7; Ste. Beatrice, 8; St. Alphonse, 9; St. Come, 10; Ste. Emmelie, 11; St. Zenon, 12; St. Michel des Saints, 13; St. Jean de Matha, 14; St. Damien, 15; St. Gabriel, 16.

BRANCH 74 C.M.B.A.

The following officers of the above branch of the Grand Council of Canada were installed by District Deputy J. E. H. Howison last week:—Spiritual adviser, Rev. Father O'Meara; chancellor, W. Cullen; president, M. Murphy; 1st vice-president, James Noonan; 2nd vice-president, John Kenny; rec-secretary, R. Morris; asst. rec-secretary, Jerry Coffey; financial secretary, M. Hagarty; treasurer, John Penfold; marshal, J. Foley; guard, M. Hannan; trustees for two years, J. Penfold and W. Cullen; representative, Jerry Coffey; alternative, W. Cullen.

I suffered for a long time with constipation and tried many medicines without success. I then tried Burdock Blood Bitters and very soon had great relief, so I continued its use and am now completely cured. JOSEPH PHILLION, Quebec, Que.