

sided, old furniture and articles of *vertu* of all kinds still fetch an extravagant price. There are vast accumulations of mercantile wealth as yet untouched by depression. In the natural course of events it will be a long time before England descends to the level of Holland, though there is no saying what may happen if Mr. Gladstone should succeed with his Secessionist doctrines, in stirring up disaffection among the Hindoos. I am told that the Government of India is growing uneasy.

The mention of India reminds me that I heard yesterday a lecture given by Mr. Seton Karr, a high authority, on Hindoo agriculture. I was struck with the primitive character of the implements of which models were exhibited, especially of the plough. It seems impossible that husbandmen using such implements can produce much per head or be very formidable rivals to our wheat producers of the North-west or of Dakota. It is true that they live on almost nothing, so that of what they do raise almost the whole goes to the market.

I send with this a letter which has been addressed to me by Mr. George Baden-Powell, M.P. for Liverpool, and which I have his permission to transmit to you for insertion. It will, I am sure, be read with interest.

Oxford, May 18, 1886.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

DEAR MR. GOLDWIN SMITH:

Allow me to express to you the advantage some of us are deriving at this crisis of affairs from again studying what you have written on the Irish question. There has just reached us a resolution of the Quebec Legislature which expresses general approval of Mr. Gladstone's intentions, though not of the details in his new and strange Irish Bills. I earnestly hope that public opinion in Canada will not misjudge the action and arguments of those who, like myself, oppose Mr. Gladstone's hastily and secretly conceived scheme "for the better government of Ireland."

To our thinking, that scheme, if it were practicable—which it is not,—would rob Ireland of the self-government she at present enjoys in exactly equal ratio with the other constituent parts of the United Kingdom; for it would place Ireland, for a time, at the mercy of a close oligarchy of lackland agitators.

No one appreciates more fully than I do—and that by the light of considerable personal experience in Australia and South Africa—what enormous, nay saving, value to our great colonies has been the concession of local "Responsible Government." Canada is a notable and noble example of the entire success of this ancient British policy: but Canada proves that the foundations of such success are laid in the triumphant knitting together in close political brotherhood of districts already bound to one another in the natural ties of geographical contiguity and ethnical relationship—ties which breed successful commercial and industrial communion. Moreover, Canada consciously and willingly remains an integral portion of the British nation and British empire, and a portion which in the future even more than in the present that nation and that empire could ill afford to lose.

As you well know, Ireland lives and moves and has its being in close commercial communion with Great Britain. The chief Irish industry is supplying food for the densely populated industrial centres of England. Year by year, Ireland is becoming more and more bound up, commercially, financially, socially, with England and Wales and Scotland. During the past fifty years, Ireland has made most marked advances in popular prosperity—advances far greater than could have been looked for under the baneful influence of that persistent political agitation which has from time to time hung like some cloud of blight over Ireland. There has been no proved grievances which the National Parliament has not done its best to rectify; and the National Exchequer has been only too lavish in the promptness and the largeness of its charitable assistance. The Imperial Exchequer, chiefly at the cost of the taxpayers of England and Scotland, has during this century remitted Irish Public Loans to an amount already exceeding \$50,000,000. Our Reform Bills of this century have never lessened the number of Representatives from Ireland in the National Parliament, although this number was fixed at a time when the ratio of the population of Ireland to that of Great Britain stood at one to two, whereas now it stands at one to six. Ireland has now for many years enjoyed all the local autonomy in respect of Poor Law Boards, County and Municipal Government, Harbour Commissions and so forth, that have been customary in England and Wales and Scotland.

This sop of Home Rule which Mr. Gladstone throws to win the temporary favour of those whose aim is National Independence—or rather National Isolation—is based on the entirely fictitious importance given to Parnellism at the last general election. It must be remembered that in the gross, Parnellism in the hour of its greatest triumph received the support only of little more than one-half of the electors of Ireland. But to arrive at the net or real support given the movement in Ireland, we must deduct many elements usually hostile to each other, but on this occasion acting in incongruous and temporary combination. There were the tenants and all others who have been encouraged to think that Parnellism means their becoming the owners of land now belonging to other people; there were the Roman Catholics who are popularly reputed to be aiming at a more complete control over the national education and in certain cases even at a future grasp of temporal power; there was great commercial depression and a general programme of promise held out to all the have-nothings and the proletariat generally. A Reform Bill had newly enfranchised hundreds of thousands of politically uneducated peasants; a thoroughly organized and most skilfully directed electoral organization was in full work; powers and

practices of intimidation, by powers unknown to the constitution were in active operation,—and all in favour of Parnellism. And yet in spite of this temporary combination of usually hostile elements, as I say, but little more than one-half of the electors of Ireland could be prevailed upon to record their vote for the Parnellite candidates. Over here it is well recognized that there is no proof whatever that any definite or widespread agreement prevails in Ireland in favour of any such particular change. But both in Ireland and in Great Britain there is a widely held conviction that Mr. Gladstone was right when only last year he laid down as an indefeasible axiom that whatever was offered to Ireland in the way of extended powers of local government must also be offered to Scotland and Wales and England. All through the United Kingdom we need extended systems of local administration. But in the name of freedom and law and order there is now breaking forth a great voice of the people against this proposed severance of the Union; against this unnecessary taking from Ireland of the sole guarantee that can exist for the economical and good government of that portion of the United Kingdom.

In the terms of Canadian experience, Mr. Gladstone's scheme is as if a statesman of the just influence of Sir John Macdonald were to stand up in the Canadian Parliament, and without consulting the chief colleagues of his long political career, to spring upon Canada a cut-and-dried scheme for the granting full autonomy with prospects of future national separation, say, to the Province of Ontario. Sir John, as I know him, would repel such action as the most pernicious absurdity and very burlesque of statesmanship—and with a Unionist warmth similar to that which over here is now bursting in full flood to sweep from the face of the earth this equally strange proposal of Mr. Gladstone.

You will not have failed to notice that a very remarkable conciliance of opinion is finding expression from our famed men of all shades of political opinion and all manner of knowledge and experience. Lord Salisbury and Professor Huxley, John Bright and Lord Randolph Churchill, Sir John Lubbock and Lord Carnarvon, Mr. Jesse Collings and the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Wolseley,—in fact all our leading men of thought or action, with but two or three exceptions, and totally irrespective of Party—all agree that this scheme suddenly put forward by Mr. Gladstone has been conceived in most injudicious and unthinking haste, and will prove hopelessly and helplessly abortive.

I shall watch with interested curiosity to see what is the verdict of public opinion in Canada when the details of the Irish Bills have been placed before Canadians, and in the meantime ask to remain,

Very truly yours, GEORGE BADEN-POWELL.

House of Commons, Westminster, April 20th.

A SUPERScription.

Look in my face; my name is Might-have-been;
I am also called No-more, Too-late, Farewell;
Unto thine ear I hold the dead-sea shell
Cast up thy Life's foam-fretted feet between;
Unto thine eyes the glass where that is seen
Which had Life's form and Love's, but by my spell
Is now a shaken shadow intolerable,
Of ultimate things unuttered the frail screen.

Mark me, how still I am! But should there dart
One moment through my soul the soft surprise
Of that winged Peace which lulls the breath of sighs,—
Then shalt thou see me smile, and turn apart
Thy visage to mine ambush at thy heart
Sleepless with cold commemorative eyes.

-- DANTE ROSSETTI.

MR. DONNELLY'S SHAKESPEARE CIPHER.

Four years ago Mr. Ignatius Donnelly published a book in which he attempts to prove that Plato's account of the lost island of Atlantis was no fable, but a tradition founded on fact. In this book he undertakes to demonstrate that there was once a great continent in the Atlantic Ocean, opposite to the Straits of Gibraltar, of which the island described by Plato was a remnant. There, he tells us, man dwelt for ages in perfect peace and happiness. In it civilization, arts, and learning, had their origin. It was the scene of the Garden of Eden—the golden age, and of the various traditions of primeval virtue and felicity preserved by so many nations; and its kings and heroes were reproduced in the gods and giants of mythology. This wonderful creation of the antediluvian world was overwhelmed in the ocean by a sudden convulsion of nature. A few of the inhabitants escaped to other regions of the earth; and through their accounts of their lost country and its greatness came the various traditions, legends, religions and civilizations, of the after-world. In support of this theory Mr. Donnelly brings forward a multitudinous array of facts and fancies derived from history, science, and tradition, showing an immense amount of reading, and a remarkable talent in weaving the various elements on which he founds his arguments into a tolerably consistent and plausible basis.