Pinching the Anti-Home Rule Corn.

The regular Dublia correspondent of the New York Catholic News, in his last letter to that journal, says:

If one may judge by the frantic efforts the Irish Unionists are making against it, Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, whether modified or unmodified, is destined to pass into law. Nothing like their present flurry was ever seen before now. Although they abhorred the Land Bill of 1881, and commonly described it as a measure of spoliation and plunder, they did not take a tithe of the trouble to oppose it which they are taking towards securing the rejection of the Home Rule Bill of 1893. It would be really amusing to watch their antics were it not for the seriousness of the issues involved. The same set of men are appearing in a dozen different capacities to pass resolutions declaring that the Bill spells robbery and murder and red ruin for them. For example, we have a number of persons meeting on one day as the Senate of the University of Dublin; on another day they turn up afresh at a meeting of graduates of that university; on still another day they come on the scene as members of select vestries, then a lot of them are transformed into grand jurors; then another lot pose as members of diocesan synods of the disestablished State Church; in a few days they are to pose as members of the General Synod of that organization; most of them have already appeared as members of the Unionist Alliance; and about fifty of them have gone to London as a deputation to press their ridiculous fears on the leaders of British political parties—this time assuming the character of merchants, governors of the Bank of Ireland, and directors of the leading Irish railway companies.

Now for the little information about the self-deputed deputation, so that my readers may know what value to set on their representations. First, as to the governors of the Bank of Ireland. The bank carries on its business in the very buildings wherein the Irish Parliament sat for many years up to the last moment of its existence. Naturally the majority of the Irish people would for the sake of linking the present to the past, like to get back the old Senate House on College Green for the use of the revived native legislature; because its atmosphere would be redolent of the lofty thoughts and brilliant eloquence of Grattan and Curren and Plunkett and Flood-and to mention lesser yet still distinguished names. Just as naturally, from a selfish point of view, the governors of the Bank of Ireland would like to retain their premises; although I have been told that there is a clause in their leave compelling them to surrender the historic and marvellously beautiful buildings whenever the Government may call on them. To clear out and have to set up shop in a new location would be pretty troublesome to the governors of the Bank of Ireland; it would be expensive also, and therefore would hurt the interests of shareholders temporarily; but all the same the governora are not taking an enlightened view for the benefit of the bank, which should of necessity become the right arm of a native Government in all matters of finance. The opposition of the governors, therefore, is as short-sighted as it is selfish; and no one who could pre tend to rank as a statesman would attach a feather's weight to anything they might say in the circumstances.

Now for a word or two about the directors of the milways. One of the first duties which an Irish Government would have to undertake is to buy out the railways and work them as a department of the State, like the postoffice and telegraph systems, if Irish industries are to have any chance of existence. In that case the occupations of the railway directors would be gone. It is a curious fact that of the four principal Irish lines having ter-

mini in Dublin not one has an Irish traffic manager. The Great Northern has a Scot in the person of Mr. Robertson; the Midland and Great Western has an Enghishman, Mr. Joseph Tatlow; the Great Southern and Western has a Scotchman in the person of Mr. Colhoun, and the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford has an Englishman, Mr. Payne. These are all clever railway men; but they do not understand Iroland and the situation of the Irish people, and any sympathies which they may have, over and above the mere mechanical working of their departments, is presumably on the side of the races from which they spring. Anyhow, the establishment of an Irish Government would necessarily have the effect of curbing the British tendencies of the traffic managers, and of abolishing the various boards of directors in favor of a governmental staff whose business it would be to run the railways for the general benefit of the Irish public. Hence the directors of the railways like the governors of the Bank of Ireland, are opposed to the Home Rule Bill.

Perfume at the French Court.

The rage for perfumes at the French Court reached its apogee during the reign of Louis XV., writes Lucy Hamilton Hooper in the April Ladies' Home Journal. His court was known throughout Europe by the name of the "Scented Court." The expenditure of Madame de Pompadour for this one branch of her toilette amounted to a hundred thousand dollars annually. It became the fashion for the host or host vs of a great entertainment to signalize to their guests what particular perfume was to be employed for scenting their rooms on the night for which the invitations were issued, and they were expected to use no other, so that the delicate effect of a unity of the odors might be produced. At court a different perfume was prescribed for each day of the week. This all sounds very refined and charming, but it must be remembered that the utter disregard of the rules of cleanliness during this reign and that of Louis XIV. even byindividuals of the highest rank, rendered the use of powerful scents, to a certain degree, obligatory. The gorgeous palace of Versailles did not contain a single bathroom till one was arranged for the use of Marie Antoinette. Tha ill-fated Queen was very fond of perfumery, her favorite scent being essence

Perfumes went entirely out of fashion in France during the epoch of the great Revolution. They were brought back into vogue by the Empress Jourphine, and have never since lost their hold upon society. Queen Marie Amelie, the wife of Louis Pailippe, was fond of crange flower water.

Davin.

Suddenly the gladsome light leaped over hill and valley, casting amber, blue, and purple, and a tint of rich, red, rose, according to the scene they lit on and the curtain flung around, yet all alike dispelling fear and the cloven hoof of darkness, and pro-claiming, "God is here." The life and joy sprang reassured from every and joy sprang reassured from every crouching hollow, every flower and bud and bird had a fluttering sense of them, and all the flashing of God's gaze emerged into soft beneficence. So perhaps shall break upon us that eternal morning, when crag and chasm shall be no more, neither hill nor valley, nor great unvintaged ocean, but all things shall arise and shine in the light of the Father's countenance.—Blackmore.

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