

# The Catholic Weekly Review.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CANADA

*Reddite quæ sunt Cesaris, Cesari; et quæ sunt Dei, Deo.—Matt 22: 21.*

Vol V

Toronto, Saturday Oct. 10. 1891.

No

## CHARLES STEWART PARNELL.

CHARLES STEWART PARNELL died at his residence, Walsingham terrace, Brighton, at 11.30 last night. His death is said to be indirectly due to a chill which he caught last week, and which at first was not regarded as being of a serious nature. Mr. Parnell, however, grew worse, and a physician was called in, with the result that the patient was ordered to take to his bed. This was on Friday last, and from that time Mr. Parnell lost strength and finally succumbed.

Such was the brief announcement on Wednesday last, which startled the world, telling them that the late Irish leader was dead. It has been well known that Mr. Parnell has not enjoyed the best of health for years past, and it has been noticed and widely commented upon that since the O'Shea divorce developments became a matter of public notoriety, and since political troubles came upon him, the great Irish member of Parliament had grown thinner, and that he had perceptibly aged in appearance. But nobody expected to hear of his death, and no inkling as to his illness had reached the newspapers. The exact nature of the disease which caused his death is not made known at present. From the day he took to his bed, however, the state of Mr. Parnell's health has been such as to necessitate constant attendance of two physicians, but in spite of their incessant and untiring efforts to prolong or save life he gradually sank lower and lower until he expired.

CHARLES STEWART PARNELL was born at Avondale, in the County of Wicklow, Ireland, as recently as 1847. His father was the son of a gentleman who was at one time high sheriff for the County Meath, and his mother the daughter of Admiral Stewart, who commanded the United States frigate Constitution during the war of 1812. He inherited the estate on which he was born, and was educated at Harrow school, England, and Magdalen College of the University of Cambridge. In 1875 he was elected member of Parliament for Meath, and represented that constituency until the general election of 1880, when he was returned for three constituencies, including the one he had represented so long. He preferred to represent the city of Cork. At the beginning of his parliamentary career he was a member of the Irish Home Rule party, in which he soon rose to eminence, although a Protestant and personally not popular with the leading members. In October of the same year he founded and was made first president of the National Irish Land League. Simultaneously with an agitation which in 1880 made Mr. Parnell the supreme Irishman and the virtual ruler of his country, extraordinary means of relief were adopted for the relief of Irish distress, in which both England and the United States took a conspicuous part.

In January, 1880. Mr. Parnell visited the United States and created a feeling that crystallized itself in the formation of Land League associations, which proved the main financial support of the home organization. He was subsequently chosen president of the Home Rule party in place of Mr. Shaw.

Toward the close of 1880 information of seditious conspiracy was applied for by the Crown against Mr. Parnell and certain of his associates, which resulted in a trial brought to an indeterminate issue, but their virtual acquittal, by the non-agreement of the jury. When he took his seat for Cork the young statesman was made leader of the Irish party in the House of Commons. His tactics of observation produced a strong feeling

against him in England, and under the Coercion Act, which was thought necessary by Mr. Gladstone's Government in order to the restoration of the power of the Crown in Ireland, he was, in October, 1881, arrested as a suspect and imprisoned at Kilmainham gaol. He was released, it is alleged, as the result of a letter to the Prime Minister in which he is understood to have offered his co-operation with the regular authorities in the restoration of order and the devising of measures intended to obviate the causes of political trouble in his native land. Since his return to the House of Commons, as previously, he had shown remarkable ability as a leader, and had been the head and front of local agitation in Ireland. When the Land League collapsed as the result of the repressive legislation adopted by Parliament, he organized the Irish National League, which is largely composed of the same membership.

His following after the general election of 1885 numbered 85 members, their numerical strength so impressing Mr. Gladstone that he introduced Home Rule, which drove him out of the Treasury benches, although he received the solid support of Mr. Parnell and the entire strength of his party. Then followed stirring times in the English Parliament, every effort being put forward to overthrow the new Government which Lord Salisbury had formed, but unavailing was the opposition. The events which led up to the appointment of a commission to investigate the contents of the celebrated circular on "Parnellism and Crime," which resulted in the complete vindication of Mr. Parnell, are still fresh in the memory.

Mr. Justin McCarthy was called upon by the representative of the International Telegram Company. He was much affected by the death of Mr. Parnell. The news, he said, was a complete surprise to him, for he was not aware that Mr. Parnell had been ill. Mr. McCarthy continued:—"I last saw Mr. Parnell on September 11. He came here to talk over the claims arising from election registrations before the split in the party. He looked tired and wasted, and was probably overworked addressing so many meetings, but he was thoroughly buoyant and happy. I believe I am speaking not only for the Irish parliamentary party, but for every Irishman, when I say his death will be universally regretted. Since Daniel O'Connell Mr. Parnell has been the most prominent figure in Irish politics. In history he will be worthy to hold a rank only second to the great liberator. While we regret Parnell personally, we also regret the loss to a certain extent through recent circumstances of a career which might have been more magnificent than the one just closed. He is now dead. I hope those who supported him will return to the party and all dissension will cease."

At the conclusion of the interview Mr. McCarthy declared that Parnellism was a personal not a party question, and but for Parnell's first manifesto he would not have broken from him. Mr. McCarthy spoke in a tone which indicated the sincerest sorrow for his old friend and late antagonist.

In another interview he said it was not possible to forecast the political effect of the death of Mr. Parnell. Mr. McCarthy added, however, that he hoped it would lead to a complete reunion of all shades of opinion among Irishmen in general, and in the Irish Parliamentary party in particular. Certainly, he said, it would not hinder the progress of autonomy, or, in other words, of the movement for the self-government of Ireland. Mr. McCarthy said he believed all feeling of hostility to Mr. Parnell, of hostility to individual members of the Irish Parliamentary party, would be swallowed up and completely disappear in the feeling of genuine and universal regret which was experienced at the death of Mr. Parnell. "Three weeks ago," Mr. McCarthy continued, "we had a long and friendly conference. This conference took place at my house at Chelsea, and we mutually agreed to draw part of the Paris fund from the bankers in the French capital in order to defray the expenses of registering, which were incurred before the split in the party."