

Paris; last year, Mr. Gladstone being again in office, she seized a slice of Afghanistan; and now, Mr. Gladstone having returned to office, the Treaty of Berlin is violated. Mr. Gladstone and the Gladstone system of Government are, in fact, regarded with contempt by Russia, as by most of the Continental Powers, and each of his terms of office during the past twenty years has been signalized by some impudent claim and ignominious surrender. It is to be hoped, however, that a surrender in the present case will not be consummated. In Mr. Gladstone's present position he has no right to commit the incoming Government; and Lord Salisbury, or whoever may be Premier, ought not to be confronted, as in the Afghan affair, with a *fait accompli*, to which his predecessor has assented. A *fait accompli* there will be; but it is time England dealt in a manner different from the Gladstonian with a Power which never intends to observe a treaty a day longer than suits her convenience.

THE present election has made it clear that the assumption is quite unfounded that the Conservatives owed their strength in the boroughs, in the last election, to the Irish vote. Evidently the Irish vote in England is important only in the imagination of the Parnellites: it has in this present election turned the scale in favour of the Gladstonites only in two places.

THE following double-barreled toast, which has been variously attributed to Smeaton, Erskine, and others, it is suggested might be used at convivial meetings of the National League, after the toast of the Queen has been drunk: "Dam the canals, sink the coal-pits, blast the minerals, consume the manufactures, and disperse the commerce of Great Britain and Ireland!"

THE following confirmation of the fact that the Roman Empire had some commercial intercourse with China is given in the *Wochenschrift für Klassische Philologie*:—"In Northern China, in the province of Shansi, sixteen Roman coins have been found, which belong to the coinage of twelve different Emperors, from Tiberius to Aurelian. Inquiry has brought out, that these coins were dug up some fifty or sixty years ago in the vicinity of Ling-shih Hien."

ONE of the banners displayed at Mr. Gladstone's reception in Edinburgh on Thursday, says the *St. James's Gazette*, bore the following couplet:—

Great is thy power and great thy fame;  
Far kenn'd and noted is thy name.

Mr. Gladstone's admirers do not seem to be aware that the quotation comes from Burns's "Address to the Deil," and that the succeeding lines are the following:

An' though yon lowin leugh's\* thy hame,  
Thou travels far:  
An', faith! thou's neither lag nor lame,  
Nor blate nor scaur.†  
Whyles rangin' like a roarin' lion  
For prey a' holes and corners tryin'  
Whyles on the strong-wing'd tempest flyin',  
Tirlin'‡ the kerks.

As a curious illustration of the demoralising effect of the present suspended animation of government in Ireland, says the *Spectator*, we may mention an instance of the action of the tenantry in relation to rent which we know to be true, and which we believe to be typical. While the Conservatives were in office, the tenantry of a certain landowner demanded a reduction of 20 per cent., and accepted a reduction of 10 per cent. on their rents. The Liberal Government came in, and the same tenantry then withdraw their assent, and demanded a reduction of 40 per cent., refusing to pay till it should be granted. Then Mr. Gladstone's Bill was thrown out, upon which the tenantry at once came and paid down part of their rent, with a promise to pay the rest, by way of securing their position. What can illustrate more vividly the disastrous moral effect of the present uncertainty in Ireland?"

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *St. James's Gazette*:—"May I ask a corner in your paper to protest against one incident in Mr. Gladstone's journey to Scotland which happens to affect me somewhat seriously? The train stopped several minutes at Hawick, during which time the Right Honourable gentleman said that he "regarded Hawick as the birthplace of his family." For the last month I have been busy compiling a little booklet of views, with illustrative letterpress of the chief places where Mr. Gladstone was born. This includes front and side views of his birthplace in Wales, a bird's-eye view of Leith (where Mr. Gladstone was born), two sketches of the house where he first saw the light in Lancashire, and one of his Norway birthplace. By springing Hawick upon me after the volume had gone to press, the Right Honourable gentleman detracts from

the completeness of my book. I may add that it will be out in a fortnight, under the title "The More Famous Birthplaces of Gladstone."

In his speech at Newcastle, Mr. Morley denounced the English plan of local self-government for Ireland as unworkable. If Kerry, he said, were treated as Northumberland, Kerry must control her police; and if Kerry controlled her police, there was an end to law and order. This admission, that to give Ireland county self-government, involving the surrender of the police to the new municipalities, would involve the subversion of law and justice, is startlingly frank, and is in curious contrast with the trustfulness of Mr. Gladstone, who would, confident in their lamb-like professions, invest the National League with the government of Ireland. However, Mr. Morley would do so because he thinks that as France emerged somehow from the Reign of Terror, Ireland may do so as well, and in the process evolve a strong government of some sort. But the total contradiction between the means proposed by these two political doctors to bring about this desirable result is surely a good reason for trusting neither.

THE *Spectator* has this appreciative note on one of the soundest statesmen of the day: "Mr. Goschen grows. We cannot, in the limited space at our command, give even the chief points of his speeches this week at Darlington, Newcastle, and Edinburgh; but this we note, that they have shown in him a great popular power for dealing, and dealing not only good-humouredly, but often with great point, with hostile comment of no very scrupulous kind, and that he sticks to his brief, in spite of all interruption, and positively compels his audience to grasp his argument. He is a great political educator, and no speeches recently have equalled his in the closeness of their logic and the power of his retorts. He compelled the Newcastle people to see that some large scheme for the settlement of the Irish land question is certainly not dead, but is at most in a condition of suspended animation; and at Edinburgh he has made a very great impression, by showing the absolute impossibility of so distinguishing Irish, Scotch, and English affairs as to permit of separate Legislatures of anything like the Parliamentary type. . . . His popular speeches have indeed been models of close, lucid, and familiar argument."

It is a most significant circumstance that the public debate on Home Rule has been carried on wholly within Great Britain. Not a single great gathering has been held by the Nationalists in Ireland where the complicated provisions of the Irish Bills might have been explained to their constituents. To this day no one knows what the Irish people think of giving up the right of determining their own Customs and Excise duties, which Mr. Parnell has told them they ought to have; nor what they have to say about paying tribute, or on the question, so hotly discussed in England, as to the exclusion or non-exclusion of the Irish representatives from Westminster. In fact, the sentiment of the people of Ireland with respect to the Irish Bill is wholly unknown; and it looks very much as if it has been carefully suppressed lest it should become evident to England that in agreeing to accept the Bill as a settlement the Parnellites have been trying to impose on English credulity. They have carefully avoided committing the Irish people to the acceptance of the Bill as a settlement; but until they did so, and the approval of the Irish people were expressed openly through other channels than the Parnellites, we should refuse to believe that these speak any other than the voice of their American-Irish employers.

THE *St. James's Gazette* says:—"Mr. Gladstone's metropolitan supporters met in St. James's Hall on Wednesday. A careful examination of the platform and the auditorium showed that Mr. Gladstone's metropolitan supporters consist of Mr. Michael Davitt, ex-convict; Mr. Sexton, rhetorician in ordinary to the Irish-American party; Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Anglo-Irish journalist; Messrs. Crilly, Clancy, O'Brien, Sullivan, and other Irish members; that well-known politician, Mr. Moy Thomas; and the Chinese Ambassador. Further, of Mr. James Stuart, M.P., Professor of Applied Mechanics and Social Pruriency; of Mr. Bolton, M.P., and Mr. C. H. Wilson, M.P.; and of about five thousand Irish labourers from the East-end. Was it worth while to hold a meeting to illustrate so clearly the character and composition of the London Home Rule party, even for the sake of airing Mr. Sexton's eloquence? Old electioneering hands should have managed the business better. . . . As for Mr. Sexton's speech, it was eloquent, no doubt; but Mr. Sexton has been much more eloquent before. Let us take, for instance, his observations to the Land League meeting in Dublin in October, 1881:—"I will not mince my words, and I say that the one prevailing and unchangeable passion between Ireland and England is the passion of hate." This may be usefully compared with his protestations of regard and attachment for the English people on Wednesday evening.

\*Flaming pit.

†Nor bashful nor easily frightened.

‡Shaking.