

MR. PARNELL ON THE ENGLISH
DEMOCRACY.

On Monday night, March 15 in celebration of St Patrick's Day, a banquet was given in the Holborn Restaurant, London, at which about 200 Irishmen, resident in London, sat down. The following is the text of Mr. Parnell's speech in proposing the first toast of "Ireland a Nation."

The chairman, on rising at nine o'clock to propose the first toast, "Ireland a Nation," was received with prolonged cheers. He said— I regret that my words to-night must be very few, owing to a severe hoarseness. But my regret is considerably qualified by the fact that we have amongst us a most distinguished son of Ireland, Mr. A. M. Sullivan (loud and prolonged cheers), who has kindly undertaken to respond to this toast, and I shall therefore leave to him the burden of doing it justice. I think I am entitled to congratulate the Irishmen of London upon the proceedings of this evening. I am told by gentlemen who have lived amongst you in this city for many years, and who have taken part in your annual festivals in London, that never has any assembly met together so imposing in its dimensions or of such a character (hear, hear). It gives me great encouragement to witness the progress of the Irish movement as indicated by this dinner. When I look around me I cannot help remembering that it would have been impossible a few years ago to have brought together so numerous, so important, and so influential a body of Irish Nationalists in this city (hear, hear), and not only is it a great indication of the movement in London, but I think it may be taken as a fair test of the strength of the Irish people throughout England and Scotland also. In all the great centres of this country to-night assemblies such as this are met together to celebrate the day of our patron saint of Ireland. We have in many countries influential bodies of Irishmen, and to you it has been reserved to show by your numbers and your presence here what Irishmen can do to-day, and what Irishmen are likely to do in the near future (cheers). I have always endeavoured to teach my countrymen, whether at home or abroad, the lesson of self-reliance (applause)—that in order to work out Ireland's future and regeneration we have to depend upon the exertions of Irishmen at home and abroad (applause). I do not depend upon any English political party (hear, hear). I should advise you not to depend upon any such party (hear, hear). I do not depend upon the good wishes of any section of the English people (hear, hear). Although Ireland may have many friends amongst Englishmen, (applause), and undoubtedly has many friends amongst Englishmen, yet the circumstances of Ireland's position, the nature of her case, render it impossible for them, however well disposed, to give that effectual assistance and work which are absolutely necessary to obtain the welfare of our country. Some people desire to rely upon the English democracy—they look for a great future movement amongst the English democracy; but I have never known any important section of any country which has assumed the governing of another country awaken to the real necessities of the position until they have been compelled to do so (cheers). Therefore, I say, do not rely upon any English party. Do not rely even upon the great English democracy, however well disposed they may be towards your claims. But rely on yourselves (cheers), upon the great power which you have in every industrial centre of England and Scotland, upon the devotion of the sea-divided Gael wherever they are found, whether it be under the Southern Cross or across the wide Atlantic; but, above all, rely upon the devotion and the determination of our people on the old sod at home (prolonged cheers). We are here to-night to celebrate Ireland's day. I am confident that the future is promising, most promising, never was more promising for Ireland. A spirit has been infused into our people which will never die (cheers). They understand better to-day the weak points in the armour of their enemy than they did before. They understand and recognise the most suitable lines of attack. Whether you look at the present position and prospects of the Irish Parliamentary party, or regard the unprecedented union of Irish democracy at home and abroad, or whether you consider that of all the political parties the Irish party which confidently looks forward to any crisis that may arise, I say the prospects of Ireland are good and most hopeful. Our country is well fitted by nature to excel among the nations, to enjoy that nationhood which this toast wishes her (hear, hear). We have a climate unequalled by that of any other part of the world. We have a people most quick, most intelligent, most energetic most adapted, perhaps, of any people to excel in those pursuits which go to make the glory of every nation. That the singular gifts of Ireland and the extraordinary advantages with which she has been benefitted by Nature have not yet placed her in the position to which she is entitled has not been the fault of Nature. I feel confident that the time is very near when all sections of Irishmen and all religions (loud cheers) will have the opportunity of meeting together on Irish soil and of celebrating the day we celebrate on Irish soil to-night under the protection of a Irish Parliament (cheers), and of then sending that message of peace to England which can never be sent from Ireland save by a self-governed nation (cheers). Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink with me the toast of "Ireland a nation."

The Chicago Tribune publishes a letter from a dime-novel reader, just as it was written, with a fine scorn of orthography and education in general. The writer denies the truth of a story that a fellow-victim of yellow-covered literature was disarmed by a schoolma'am: "of John Kaylor the story says that His Name which is another Ded Give Away for our List don't show no such Name of He had been one of the Order when He was called up do you suppose He would have asked the White Squaw what she wanted, especially When he was armed. Do you think He would have let Her get the Drop on him not Much. Its a detective Skeem to Skeer us off the track to dishearten us. We are not to be skeered off by enny freckled facet skool teachers. We know em. the order was never In better working Shape and better Prepared for Business. ef theres going to be any Trouble with germany about the Hog, yewl find out That we are not to Be sneezed At. Please give this the same Prominents that you Did that other Lie from Philadelphia."

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

THE Springfield Colliery last week finished boring operations with the diamond drill. They have put down two bores at some distance from the present shaft—one to a depth of 300ft, the other about 650ft. They passed through four workable seams of coal, varying from 3ft to 5½ft in thickness—the lowest at 545ft. The coal, though not bituminous, is superior to that now worked. The Shag Point Company have arranged to test their ground with the same diamond drill.

Captain Colbeck, who for some time represented Marsden, left Auckland yesterday by the Rotomahana for Wellington, to take passage by the Aorangi for England. Captain Colbeck will remain for some time at home. He will probably form a settlement for New Zealand, and will take steps for the establishment of a woollen factory at Auckland. He was interviewed by a deputation of Rodney electors, who invited him to contest the seat with Mr. Seymour George at the approaching election. Captain Colbeck said he could not definitely make up his mind on the point then, but he would leave his English address and place himself in the hands of his friends.

Dr. Moran, the newly-appointed Archbishop of Sydney, sails for Australia towards the end of June.

The sculling match between Hanlan and Laycock took place on the Nepean River yesterday afternoon, and resulted in a victory for the former by half a length. Hanlan never exerted himself, and won as he liked. The following are the details of the boat-race:—For the first quarter of a mile the boats were level. The competitors both appeared to be rowing a waiting race. Hanlan then increased his speed, and at the half-mile was leading by two lengths. Laycock then spurred, but Hanlan answered apparently without exerting himself, and kept the lead for the remainder of the race, finishing half a length ahead. Time, 22 min. 45 sec. There was a large attendance of spectators.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that the Government have virtually decided to despatch an expedition to Khartoum unless General Gordon succeeds in escaping. The same journal adds that the force will consist of 10,000 men, under the command of Lord Wolseley, and that the expedition will proceed to Khartoum via Souakim and Berber. The officers attached to the British war-vessels now stationed in Egyptian waters are already engaged in equipping steamers suitable for river navigation, and several vessels are being fitted in a manner suitable for the conveyance of troops to Assouan.

SATURDAY.

Mr. H. Feldwick, M.H.R. for Invercargill addressed his constituency last evening. He was well received. The speech contained nothing of special note. In answer to questions, he affirmed himself a Protectionist. He would not interfere with the Education Act, but was in favour of a grant to denominations for school purposes. A motion was proposed that a vote of thanks be tendered to the member for his address. An amendment, that a vote of confidence be passed, was declared carried on the voices. A large number abstained from voting.

Captain Camille, of the Waikato, an old identity, aged 88, has died. Recently his mind showed symptoms of weakness. Last Friday he told his attendants he was going to be flogged by some person, and he would go into the water so that they could not get at him so easily. Labouring under this hallucination, he went and lay down in a creek, immersing the whole of his body except his head, which he rested on a stone. A short time elapsed before he was discovered. When taken out of the water he was quite benumbed, and he gradually sank through the shock to the system.

A petition is to be read at all Catholic churches in Auckland on Sunday, in order to procure signatures to it for presentation to the assembly praying for an amendment of the Education Act. The prayer of the petition is that a capitation grant be given to every Roman Catholic school, based on the general average attendance at the Sunday-school, and on the results of an examination made under Government inspection; that whilst the average annual cost to the Government for each child attending the State schools is estimated in the Government returns at £4, and the result of the closing of the existing Roman Catholic schools—an event that lies in the discretionary power of the petitioners—would involve Government in an extra expenditure of some £5600, exclusive of the cost of extra school buildings, in many already overcrowded districts the proposed remedial measure would entail a considerably less expenditure to the State, and go far to allay the grievous and reasonable discontent of her Majesty's subjects in this Provincial District of Auckland. It also sets forth that there are 18,000 Catholics in the Auckland diocese conscientiously opposed to the existing system, and who have in consequence established and maintained 18 schools, involving an expenditure in sites and buildings of about £28,000, exclusive of any Government grant towards the cost of maintaining said schools; and 1400 children are now being educated in these schools without any aid from Government.

A banquet was given on Thursday evening to Sir Henry Loch, the newly-appointed Governor of Victoria, by a number of Victorian colonists in London. Earl Rosebery presided, and the company included Sir Saul Samuel, Agent-general for New South Wales, and various notables. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, warmly eulogised the tried services of Sir Henry Loch, and urged him on his arrival in Victoria to inculcate a desire for the unity of the Empire. Sir Henry, in reply, promising to exert himself unceasingly to encourage a feeling of affection and confidence between the Colonies and the Mother Country.

In the House of Commons on Thursday night the Government were questioned regarding the reported equipment of steamers under the supervision of the British naval authorities in Egypt. In reply, Mr. Gladstone explained that the Admiralty were making arrange-