

THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

MR. GLADSTONE in the House of Commons on Monday night, 1st December, unfolded the scheme of redistribution which has been arrived at in the conferences between the Cabinet and Lord Salisbury. On Tuesday morning the Redistribution Bill was printed and circulated. The following brief analysis of its provisions will give a fair idea of the general effect of it and the changes it will make in Ireland if it passes into law:—

The bill proposes to give twelve additional members to Scotland and six to England, Ireland and Wales are to continue as they are, Ireland retaining 103 representatives. The twelve men added to the Scottish representation will be members for twelve new constituencies; the six given to England will sit for constituencies representing the six places now disfranchised for bribery, etc. Two of these are Sligo and Cashel. The present House of Commons consists of 652 members, but the six seats in abeyance for bribery bring up the nominal strength to 658. There are to be 12 new members added, thus making the House in future number 670.

All boroughs under 15,000 population are to pass into the counties, and to cease to have separate representation. Boroughs ranging from a population of 15,000 to 50,000 are to have one member, above 50,000 to 165,000 two members, and for every additional 50,000 in the population one additional member is to be allotted. Boroughs having upwards of 165,000 inhabitants are to be divided into wards, and each ward is to elect one member. The same principle is followed in the counties. In Ireland, therefore, Carlow, which has a population of less than 50,000, loses one of its members, while Cork gains five additional representatives. All the counties having two or more members are to be divided into single-member constituencies.

Boroughs to be merged in the Counties and to have no separate representation.

Armagh	Dungarvan
Athlone	Ennis
Bandon	Enniskillen
Carlow	Kinsale
Carrickfergus	Lisburn
Clonmel	Mallow
Coleraine	New Ross
Downpatrick	Portarlington
Drogheda	Tralee
Dundalk	Wexford
Dungannon	Youghal

Total—22.

Boroughs which in future will have only one member.

Galway
Limerick
Waterford
Total—3

Boroughs to receive additional members.

Belfast in future will have 4 members
Dublin " " " 4 "

Each of these two constituencies will be divided into four separate divisions, and each division will have one member.

The following list gives the number of members which each Irish county will have if the bill passes. Carlow, as we have previously said, having a population of less than 50,000, is to lose one of its members. Each of the remaining counties will be divided into as many districts as it will have members, and each member will sit for a separate district:—

Name of County.	No. of Members.	Name of County	No. of Members.
Antrim	4	Londonderry	2
Armagh	3	Longford	2
Carlow	1	Louth	2
Cavan	2	Mayo	4
Clare	2	Meath	2
Cork	7	Monaghan	2
Donegal	4	Queen's	2
Down	4	Roscommon	2
Dublin	2	Sligo	2
Fermanagh	2	Tipperary	4
Galway	4	Tyrone	4
Kerry	4	Waterford	2
Kildare	2	Westmeath	2
Kilkenny	2	Wexford	2
King's County	2	Wicklow	2
Leitrim	2		
Limerick	2	Total	85

Counties	THE TOTAL IRISH REPRESENTATION.		
Dublin University	2	Waterford	1
" City	4	Londonderry	1
Belfast	4	Newry	1
Cork City	2	Kilkenny	1
Galway Borough	1		
Limerick	1	Total	103

—Exchange.

Dynamite is a much maligned explosive. Not merely is it condemned for its own sins, but it has to bear the blame when other agencies have been making a noise. If the cork flies out of a ginger-beer bottle a cry of "dynamite" is raised immediately, and if boilers or engines burst the same cry is heard. For instance a large boiler in the bacon-curing establishment of Messrs. Stoker and Co., of Cork, accidentally exploded on Monday, and we were told the next day that "the general belief was that another dynamite outrage had taken place." It was clearly shown, however, that the fault did not lie at the door of the dynamitards, but we dare say that some of the English papers sedulously spread the report that it did.—*Nation*, December 20.

THE MOST REV. DR. CROKE IN KILDARE.

ON Monday evening, Dec. 15, his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Croke arrived at Kildare, on a visit to the Very Rev. Dr. Kavanagh, P.P. He received an enthusiastic greeting from the people. At Dr. Kavanagh's residence addresses were read to his Grace from the members of the Rathangan branch of the National League, asking him to preside at the county convention on the following day, and from the priests and people of Kildare. To these two addresses Dr. Croke replied as follows:—

My first duty is to make a couple of acts of thanksgiving, and my first act of thanksgiving shall be, as it should be, to God, in token of all He has done for us since last I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking to you here. We have made great progress since then. I need not recapitulate for you the different stages of it. Suffice it to say that our representatives in Parliament were never more powerful or more determined than they are at present (cheers), that priests and people were never more thoroughly united, and that the national cause never looked brighter or more promising (cheers). We thank God for this. My next act of thanksgiving shall be addressed to your venerated and patriotic pastor (cheers). I thank him for having invited me to his hospitable house this evening, and for the additional great pleasure that he has afforded me of meeting once again the sterling patriots of Kildare (cheers). Your pastor is a credit to you and to us all (prolonged cheers). Besides being a ripe scholar, an eloquent speaker, and a learned divine, he is the ablest advocate, perhaps, of the people's rights amongst the gifted priests of Ireland (cheers, and you and I owe him a debt of gratitude accordingly, which I fear we shall never have funds enough on hands to repay. My third act of thanksgiving is to yourselves. I thank you very sincerely for the hearty welcome that you have given me (cheers, and a voice—"You are heartily welcome")—not, indeed, for the first time—to the holy shrine of Kildare. The honour that you have thus repeatedly conferred on me, in publicly and right royally welcoming me here, was meant more, I'm sure, as a proof of your high regard for the exalted position which, however unworthy, I fill in the Irish Church, than as a personal compliment to my humble self. I take demonstrations like this to be a public expression of your faith as Catholics in the Divine origin and constitution of your Church, and in its pastoral arrangements; and if, in addition, anything may be supposed to be mixed up with it of a purely secular nature, I may assume that you are kind and complimentary to me, in an unusual degree because you believe that I am not only devoted to the interests of the Church, which claims our first love and allegiance, but in proper measure to the land likewise in which you and I were born and brought up (cheers). That land is entitled to our love and devotion (cheers). I cannot say that it is a rich, but certainly it is a "rare and fair land this native land of ours" (loud and prolonged cheering). 'Tis a land worth fighting for, as I believe the robber Cromwell said of old. We are waging a constitutional fight for its advancement and social emancipation; and I am sure I can safely say of you, as I do of myself, that we shall never lay down our arms in this laudable and legitimate combat until we have either secured the blessings which we desire, or built a solid platform, at all events, on which those who come after us may stand securely, and carry on the good fight to lasting victory (prolonged cheers). I hope this consummation may be near at hand, and that we may live to see it (cheers). But, whatever may betide, history will tell that foremost in the fray were the men of historic Kildare, headed by their fearless and devoted pastor (cheers). As to the convention, it would be my delight to be there, and, if necessary, to preside; but there is no necessity for it, and it would not suit me for reasons which I need not enter into now. But if I shall not be there in the flesh I shall be with you in the spirit (cheers). My views are known to the good pastor who stands beside me (cheers) for Dr. Kavanagh. He will be there (cheers). Though I have received a good many demonstrations of good will, I can assure you that in no case, not even in popular gallant Tipperary (cheers, have I felt more grateful for kindness than that which I have received from the good people of Kildare (loud and prolonged cheers).

During the past week Cork has been the scene of very remarkable, inspiring, and instructive events in the shape of lectures from eminent and distinguished Irishmen. The eloquent Father Buckley, of Buttevant, gave a most graphic and picturesque account of "Owen Roe O'Neill"; the Hon. Mr. O. H. Bromby, ex-Attorney General of Tasmania, delivered a masterly and most admirable *resumé* of "The English in Ireland;" and, last but not least, the celebrated and world-famed Michael Davitt, the prince of victims to British persecution, enthralled a large audience with his most able, exhaustive, and splendid pronouncement on "Political and Party Cries." Altogether it has been a week of decided interest and profit.—*Nation*, December 20.

Bismarck, "The man of Iron," has sustained another defeat at the hands of Dr. Windthorst, the Catholic leader of Germany. On Wednesday the motion which stood in the name of the latter gentleman, proposing to repeal the law empowering the Government to expel or intern priests for "unlawfully" exercising ecclesiastical functions was discussed. It was vehemently opposed by the Imperial Chancellor, but all to no purpose, as on a division Dr. Windthorst's motion was carried by 217 votes to 93. Bismarck is finding that it is not at all such an easy matter to conquer the Catholic Church as it is to overthrow some of the first-class Powers of Europe. Other and perhaps even greater men have made the same discovery before him.—*Nation*, December 6.

Colonel White and his agent, Mr. Lane Joynt, are at present engaged in carrying out wholesale evictions on the estate at New Birmingham. Several hundred industrious people are now homeless in that district, and armed emergency men are placed in possession of the evicted farms. This affords practical proof that the devastating power of landlordism is not yet extinct.—*Kilkenny Journal*