

secured and as safe beyond all risk. The most serious difficulty undoubtedly resides in the recollection of the minority that their predecessors used their supremacy tyrannously, and in their fear that the past would necessarily provoke reprisals. We cannot ignore the fact that an atrocious Land Code, an offensive pulpit, and a venomous Press sowed the seed of bitterness throughout the island—but let us remember that antagonists as bitter have been reconciled in Switzerland, and that a Catholic people long subjected to similar injustice in Belgium have set an example of generous oblivion of the past and wise liberality towards rival creeds which no other in Europe can match.

"For myself, as one Catholic Celt, I will say that the men I most honour in our history and the friends I have most loved in life belonged in a large proportion to a race and creed which are not mine. Swift and Molyneux, Flood and Grattan, were not only Protestants but the sons of English officials serving in Dublin courts and bureaux. Curran, Tone, and Father Mathew were the descendants of Cromwellian settlers. The father of the best Irishman I have ever known, or ever hope to know, who has been the idol of two generations of students and thinkers, was a Welshman wearing the uniform of an English regiment. I trust your Excellency is not unacquainted with the honoured name of Thomas Davis. Be assured that there are now a host of Irishmen who would die rather than suffer any wrong to be inflicted on their countrymen on pretence of creed, or class, or historic feuds. And if it be so, the greater praise belongs (as the poet has sung) to the young Irish patriot of Welsh descent who died a generation ago in his thirty-second year.

"Let us look at this political question for a moment from the legitimate standpoint of political convenience. There is a great result to be accomplished, and the party which your Excellency represents in Ireland could accomplish it more promptly and effectually than the Liberals, just as they carried the Redistribution of Seats Act, the other day, which would have been impossible to their opponents. But there is more than one Richard in the field, and competition is as salutary in politics as in commerce. If Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Chamberlain come to Ireland to study what are cynically called our "local institutions," I trust they will receive prompt assistance in the investigation of those singular phenomena. An Irish grand jury is a fiscal instrument that cannot be defended with a grave face. It is worthy of the region of Laputa rather than an empire where taxation without representation is pronounced to be tyranny. And Ireland is ridden by boards and commissions constructed on the principle that the wishes of the people count for nothing. It is not conceivable that these abortions will long coexist with household suffrage and equal electoral districts. They will probably vanish, like a ghost at cock-crow, when a House of Commons founded on these bases sits at Westminster. But what is to succeed them? This is a question which it becometh both parties in Ireland to consider. If the Radical leaders confine themselves to a glorified vestry it will doubtless be an improvement on the present system (what change could fail to be an improvement?); but it will do nothing to satisfy the desire of the nation to control its own destiny. The main end for which Ireland needs a native Parliament is not to gratify the longing for autonomy, though no wise man will undervalue that sentiment, nor to engage in new political conflicts, but to administer national interests which have long gone to wreck and ruin. Our resources are wasted, our trade and commerce in decay, and our people, after an exodus extending over forty years, still fly from the country for want of the guardian care of a legislature with adequate knowledge and sympathy. The most complete transfer of authority from the gentry to the peasantry will do little to further this end. On the other hand, it may work permanent wrong, for I fully recognise the justice of the principle which has been legalised in democratic Australia—that the liability to pay taxes ought to be represented in fair proportion in any assembly authorised to impose them. The Irish gentry may well believe that English radicals, fresh from a first inspection of the preposterous institutions which they have maintained in Ireland, will treat them more mercilessly than their own countrymen would do. It is my rooted conviction that a juster, safer, and more permanent settlement may be made by a Government disposed to arbitrate fairly between Irish parties than by one simply bent on destroying what is no longer defensible. But Ireland has waited too long and suffered too much not to be ready to welcome deliverance from any hand. It is idle to balance the merits of Whig, Tory, and Radical in such a contingency. For myself, I will say that if I had to choose between a Conservative Government which would undertake this supreme and essential work, and a Cabinet of Mr. Gladstone's supporters, or, indeed, of the Seven Sages or Twelve Apostles who refused to undertake it, I would support the former with all my strength. On the other hand, if my choice lay between a Radical Administration prepared to restore our constitution and the best conceivable Government of Conservatives which refused to do so, my choice would be speedily made. But at present the Radicals are on the wrong road. When Mr. Chamberlain speaks of sweeping away Dublin Castle he appeals to deeply-rooted and well-grounded feelings of distrust and dislike; but Dublin Castle and the Vice-royalty are the last remnants of the separate organisation of the Irish nation. Not to destroy, but to reform and restore them is the design and duty of Irish Nationalists. In all the British dominions there is no considerable State except Ireland with a governor which has not also a Parliament; the one is the complement of the other; and we, who are determined to regain our Parliament, would be frantic to destroy the kindred and completing institution associated with it."

In the concluding passages of his letter Sir Charles warns Lord Carnarvon of the failures in the Irish administration who have preceded him. The letter says:—

"I am more certain of nothing under the sky than that your Excellency came to Ireland from the most generous and humane motives. But the best intentions are vain if they miss the right road. There is no man more unpopular in Ireland than Mr. Forster, yet I am certain Mr. Forster came to Dublin bent on generous designs. When I met him first—in 1849—he was engaged in administering a fund for the relief of the famine contributed by the

Society of Friends, and he performed his task in a spirit which was pronounced to be "worthy of the Good Samaritan." He entered warmly into the feelings of the people, and was frankly indignant at a land system which mocked their prayer for daily bread. Yet, in defence of that very system, he filled our prisons with men and women thirty years later because he missed the right road; and because, in the *argot* of modern journalism, he had lost touch of the Irish people. Mr. Trevelyan, who succeeded him, is a man of rare gifts and great force of character. The abolition of the purchase system in the army and the establishment of household suffrage in counties are *au fond* more attributable to him than to Mr. Gladstone. His literary gifts rival, and in some respects exceed, those of his distinguished uncle, yet his life in Ireland was completely wasted. He would not open the door of the asylum, and the *débonnaire* did not want sops in the pan, but the liberty to enjoy his life, of which he had been defrauded."

Sir Charles concludes by calling on the Lord Lieutenant to concede self-government to Ireland, and to take a place in history "with Richelieu and Semers, with Washington and Grattan, with Deak, Cavour and Bismarck—the founders of nations."

### CATHOLIC READING-ROOM AND LITERARY SOCIETY, WELLINGTON.

WE are glad to be able to chronicle the further development of this society, by the admission of ladies as members. For some time past, the council of the society has been considering the question of the admission of ladies, and the occupation of the premises during the day. It was decided lately by them to admit ladies and to place the rooms at their disposal for every day in the week. On Monday, the 14th inst., a large meeting of ladies took place:—Miss Johnston presiding. It was unanimously resolved to form a ladies' branch, and to open the rooms, for the present, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 3 to 5 in the afternoon. Miss Johnston was elected president; Misses Saunders, secretaries; and the following ladies as a committee to manage affairs:—Mesdames Bell, Camino, Grace, Gardner, Garvey, Hickson, Maher, Maginnity, McDonald and Sharp, and Misses McClean and Saunders. No time has been lost by the ladies, as the rooms were opened last week, and from the lively interest displayed we are confident that the matter will be a great success. This opportunity should not be missed by the Catholic ladies of Wellington to become members of this society and promote the interests of Catholicity by the circulation of pure literature. The fees have been fixed at a low figure to bring it within the reach of all.

### OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP.

(Dublin *Freeman*, August 8.)

THE Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, was consecrated on Sunday in the Church of St. Agatha, Rome, by another Irish Prelate, whom his Holiness has singled out for the marked distinction of being the first Bishop in Australia ever raised to the dignity of the Cardinalate. The telegram which we publish from our Special Correspondent in the Eternal City gives interesting particulars of the impressive ceremony, and of the subsequent interview with the Holy Father with which the newly consecrated Archbishop was honoured. Assisting his Eminence Cardinal Moran in the solemn rite of Consecration were two other distinguished Irish ecclesiastics: the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Clogher, and the Most Rev. Monsignor Kirby, Bishop of Lita and Rector of the Irish College. The church was thronged by residents in Rome, clerical and lay, and no feature was wanting to make the ceremony a National event. Not since the days of St. Laurence O'Toole has a prelate occupied the Metropolitan See to whom the Irish race throughout the world looked with such pride and affection as are entertained for Dr. Walsh. The circumstances of his election, the incidents that marked the interval of painful suspense that followed, and the final ratification of the appointment by the Holy See riveted the attention of Irishmen all over the world. They felt that momentous issues were at stake, and their joy in the fruition of their hopes was no more than proportionate to the anxiety with which they awaited the decision of his Holiness. All has ended well, and the ceremony of Sunday hallowed the victory won for Irish Catholicity and Irish Nationality. In the course of the interview with Dr. Walsh, his Holiness spoke affectionately of the Irish people, of their undying faith, and their unswerving devotion to the Holy See. They have had proof that their interests engage the tender solicitude of his Holiness, and the events in connection with the Archbishop of Dublin have drawn closer than ever before the bonds of love that join Ireland to Rome in spiritual communion. The Archbishop will leave Rome in a few days, and will travel homewards by easy stages. With a hundred thousand welcomes and all good wishes he will be received by his countrymen, who, in his elevation, see the realisation of long-cherished hopes.

Mrs. Gill, Princes street, Dunedin, has now received her spring and summer stock of millinery and ladies clothing generally, which will be found chosen with the best possible taste. Mrs. Gill's dress-making department is conducted in first-class style and on the most liberal principles.

Messrs. J. Hancock and Co., Kensington, are supplying, on the most reasonable terms, coals and firewood of all descriptions.

Mr. Harris's Imperial Boot Depot, Princes street Dunedin, should be visited by all persons desirous of obtaining excellent articles at moderate prices.

If your hair is turning grey, don't use the poisonous dyes which burn out its life and produce many diseases of the scalp. Ayer's Hair Vigor is positively harmless, and will restore the natural color of the hair, stimulate its growth, and bring back its youthful gloss and beauty.