in the days of the ancients were, of necessity, heroes, men who were born to lead, and who never swerved in the pursuance of their object, who saw from afar with an eagle eye the end it was theirs to aim at, and went straight forward to that end heedless of all obstacles. Mr. Parnell years ago fixed his eyes upon the restored and ameliorated Parliament of Ireland, and although as yet but a young and inexperienced man, saw by intuition the manner in which his goal might be gained. His course has been from the first that of a man following a plan well and plainly laid down, and the success of each stage, and the proofs given that it was but a further stage of a settled journey safely accomplished, have afforded the best possible earnest of the result of the whole. To the people also who have supported Mr. Parnell in his leadership much credit is due. A great deal was done to injure him in their eyes, and to rob him of their trust and confidence, the necessary conditions of his final victory, but, although in some respects the position was new to them, their discernment showed them the true nature and wisdom of the man, and nothing could withdraw them from his following. And now, as we have said, the beginning of the end appears in view. Home Rule, of which no man of responsibility a little time ago, would have thought it worth his while so much as to deny the possibility, is now spoken of as a matter of practical politics, as a thing to be given in "God's name," and is promised by the leader of one the great parties in the kingdom so far as it shall be found consistent with the integrity of the Empire. But with that it is wholly consistent, and will even add to its strength. It is in the denial of Home Rule that the danger lies

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ONCE more the East of Europe attracts the attention of the world, and sets men speculating as to what may possibly arise again from a quarter where so many disturbances have hitherto arisen. The revolution, indeed, by which Eastern Roumelia has suddenly united itself, to Bulgaria has been peaceful in its accomplishment, but grave doubts may well be entertained as to what may still come of it.—There had long been a party whose object it was to see this union accomplished, embracing also that of Macedonia, in a common State, but their hopes were based upon Russia to whom they looked for protection against the irritation that they believed would be caused to Servia, Greece, and Austria by the carrying out of their plan, even if it were possible to act upon it without provoking hostile opposition. Made as the union has been, leaving out Macedonia, without the aid of Russia, and in favour of a prince who, as having frustrated Russian designs, and insisted upon the withdrawal of domineering Russian officials, is doubtless regarded with at least concealed unfriendliness at St. Petersburg, the situation appears in some degree doubtful, and it is not easy to foresee what may come of it. If the larger Bulgaria were likely to prove, as it was intended by the Czar that the State originally committed to the rule of Prince Alexander of Battenberg should prove, a mere dependency of Russia, to be governed by Russian officials, controlling and even browbeating the Prince with hardly disguised contempt, and to support an army Russian in everything but name; there would be room to suspect that the revolution had been brought about by Russian intrigue, and that an encroachment of the Czar, in carrying out his never-dying designs on Constantinople, had been made. The Prince of Bulgaria however, has shown that he is hardly the man to perform the part of a tool, and that he is a ruler both of ability, and independent spirit. It required, in fact, the parts of no ordinary man to escape from the toils in which he had actually been surrounded, and to vindicate the independence of his country against the power of the Czar. It may, nevertheless, enter into the plans of the authorities at St. Petersburg to place the Prince in such a position as may oblige him to relinquish the independent course on which he has set out, and assume the attitude which they desire to see him maintain. The formation of a strong independent state, such as the combined Bulgaria and Roumelia under an able and vigorous ruler must form, would by no means be welcome to the principal Continental powers. It would thwart the objects of Germany and Austria no less than those of Russia, and it can hardly be possible that it will be allowed to become an accomplished fact without opposition. Russia, then, may have foreseen in this revolution the opportunity for regaining the predominance that Prince Alexander had obliged her to relinquish, by supporting the newly formed State unable to exist without her countenance, and she may possibly have intrigued to bring the revolution about. But if this be the case the possibility arises of her having to settle the matter with Austria and Germany,—and even England cannot see wholly without concern an advance made by her in the direction of the Bosphorus.

GEOLOGISTS AT FAULT.

THE *Dublin Review* for July, in a notice of "the Challenger Expedition," lately published by Government, but at a price that places it beyond the reach of the ordinary reader, gives us a fact or two that should prove of interest to those good folk so plenty now-a-days, who place all their reliance on the theories of physical science:—"One result of the expedition is of such importance that even if nothing else had been discovered, this fact alone would have been quite worth the heavy expenditure entailed by the cruise. Up to quite a recent date the school of Sir C. Lyell to which most of the English geologists belonged, believed that there has been a constant see-saw between sea and land. The land and rocks upon which we stand, they held, had once been deep sea, and that in time to come the Atlantic would probably fill up and become the future home of men and nations. Among the very first results of the *Challenger* researches, was the discovery of enormous beds of globigerina ooze upon the Atlantic floor. This upon examination proved to be identical in substance with the material of which our great chalk cliffs are built up. The conclusion was at once jumped at that the Atlantic was slowly filling up, and laying the foundation of a chalk range that would, in distant ages, be the continuation of that great chain of rocks that stretches from Egypt to Great Britain. This brilliant hypothesis has now been shattered. If there is one thing upon which Sir C. Wyville Thompson and his colleagues are agreed, it is this: that there is such a fixed character about the great ocean basis as to preclude altogether the idea that they were at any time dry land, or that they are ever likely to become dry land. The great abysses were all fringed with a shallow ledge of land, never more than a hundred miles broad. And beyond these we descend at once, by almost perpendicular descent, into the great abysmal depths of from one to two thousand fathoms. Our rocks show nothing like the red clay and deposits that now strew the great ocean floors. If there has been any change of land and sea, these movements have been entirely confined to the shallow seas, or the narrow shallow borders that fringe the ocean depths. This fact is of passing importance to geology. It renders the mode of formation of this world of ours more mysterious than ever. It was so simple and easy to understand how in the dim past the fiery globe that was hurled from the sun gradually cooled in its mad course through the cold regions of space, how the cracks and fissures resulting from this cooling formed themselves into hollows; how the heavy vapours and steam were condensed and filled up these wrinkles. And all these pretty theories must be modified. The advocates of special creation have now quite the best of the argument, and the evidence, whatever there is, goes in their favour."—We may also recall to our readers, in connection with the theory of the earth's having been cast out as a fiery ball by the sun, the declaration of Faye that the earth had been the first of the two created. So much, then, for those who found their dogmas on the scientific basis.

THE SCIENTIFIC THEORY REVERSED.

ANOTHER nut that the *Dublin Review* gives our scientific friends to crack is taken from the *Civilta Cattolica* for April 4th. It is the following:—"History presents us with three peoples, the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Chinese—who, in the remotest ages, possessed no ordinary degree of culture and who were specially versed in this science (astronomy). Now two facts respecting their knowledge are worthy of notice. First, that each of these three nations was acquainted with certain high astronomical truths, and at the same time ignorant of others much more obvious; and what is stranger still lacked apparently those necessary notions which would seem essential to the attainment of the scientific knowledge which they did possess. For instance, the Egyptians had formed a very nearly correct estimate of the comparative masses of moon and of the earth. How did they arrive at such an accurate calculation, ignorant as they were of the law of gravitation, and moreover entertaining the erroneous idea that the distance of the moon was only 328 kilometres (246 miles) from the earth? The reviewer gives several other marvellous instances of high astronomical knowledge among the ancient Egyptians, noting at the same time discrepancies scarcely conceivable if this knowledge had been the simple result of their own observations. The ancient Chaldeans, as is generally known, were also remarkable, and even famous for their astronomical knowledge. They believed, on the faith of ancient tradition, that the moon shone by light borrowed from the sun, and were able to calculate eclipses. They seem to have possessed notions not far removed from the truth, as to the distance between the earth and the sun, moon, and planets respectively. They considered the moon to be the smallest of the planets, and were even acquainted within a fraction with its synodical revolution, as well as with the length of the solar year. We know that the ancient Chinese were acquainted with the difference between the lunar and solar years, and could foretell eclipses. . . . The other not less noticeable fact is that ancient records concur in representing astronomy, not as in the way of progress from the imperfect to the perfect but rather as more perfect in its original masters, while with their successors the science became barren and disconnected, and soon degenerated into the dreams of a superstitious and fraudulent astrology. Thus the history of three peoples noted for their science and cultivation in primitive times furnishes us with their united testimony to the existence of a primitive science, of which but a few fragments were retained in later times, mixed with vulgar errors—when, indeed, all