

the monarchical form of government, which he prefers to the republican, and he considers that the hereditary succession to the throne is the means of preventing much confusion and many abuses. It is, however, touching the religious and educational questions of the day that he is most concerned. He admits that England, although no longer Catholic, remains profoundly Christian—giving an admirable sketch of the religious vicissitudes of the Established Church from the time when, in the second half of the last century, indifference and unbelief had reached their climax among her people. We know, indeed, that at the time when Wesley began his reform the Church of England was hardly any longer more than Christian in name. The life of utter worldliness was that which, for the most part, prevailed even among her ministry, and open infidelity and profligacy were not unfrequent among them. Wesley's revival, although it had its extravagant features, and eventually separated from the Church and branched off into a number of sects, was still a genuine Christian revival for the Establishment itself, and religion in England undoubtedly owes no small debt to it. The Cardinal also alludes to the Oxford movement, and to the hopes that may be based upon the growth of a more Catholic knowledge among the community alluded to. He mentions as a proof of Christian life the immense sums expended during the last forty years on the restoration of churches, a great work by which the piety of the past has been brought before the eyes of the present and future, and he concludes that it is not for Catholics now to do that which had been done by Cranmer, Ridley, and Knox, and to take any part in the destruction of religion. The Cardinal, also, in proof of the Christian, though, alas, not the Catholic spirit of England alludes to the great sums spent on schools where a religious education has been given, and it is especially in defence of these schools that he addresses his readers. The test which he proposed for the trial of every candidate before the votes of Catholics were given to him was as to whether he would, or would not, oppose the secularisation of education. We are, moreover, particularly interested in this portion of his Eminence's argument because it coincides so exactly with the recommendations that we ourselves have so often given to the Catholics of this colony.—We see by a cablegram received this week that the Pope has written to Cardinal Manning approving of the voluntary Catholic schools as supported in these colonies. We do not, of course, know the particulars of the case, but if it turns out as it apparently may do, that his Holiness has pointed to the efforts made by Catholics here to give their children a Christian education as a model for the Catholics in England, who are now fearing that they also may be made the victims of secularism, we shall have something of which we may well be proud, and we shall have something more than even the sanction of the Holy Father to encourage our perseverance.—Cardinal Manning, then, approves of our educational policy and recommends its adoption by the Catholics of England and the Pope commends our efforts for the preservation of our children's faith.

#### A PROMISE OF VICTORY.

THE return of Mr. Parnell to Parliament at the head of a compact and devoted body of 86 is a triumph of Irish union and determination. The great parties in the House of Commons are not, as

it seemed as if they would be at the beginning of the elections, evenly balanced. The Liberals have a large majority, and, strange to say, they owe their strength in great part to the country districts—their failure in the towns being probably due in a great measure to the opposition of the Irish voters. But to what their success in agricultural parts is due we cannot as yet tell. Has there been smouldering in the heart of Hodge an enmity against the squire and the parson? Does he desire the downfall of the Established Church, or has he a longing for a share in his landlord's acres? To all this as yet we receive no answer, but time will doubtless explain all as it really exists. The Liberal party, however, is very much divided, and the differences between its various sections may go far to weaken the majority which it commands numerically. At any rate, Mr. Parnell, who did so much in a hostile House with a small troop of followers, will surely be able to make the most of his vastly increased strength in a House that we believe will prove more friendly. The Irish question, meantime, is evidently gaining ground in many places, and even in quarters that were at one time noted for their opposition to the cause, a disposition is now shown to deal fairly with it. Nor need we look upon this as a mere patient acceptance of the inevitable, and a determination to make a virtue of necessity. The rights of the case have been forced upon the attention of the world, and they are too plain when once fairly considered to admit of any continued misunderstanding concerning them. Our contemporary the *Dunedin Evening Star*, for example, now admits that the concession of a system of self-government to Ireland, similar to those enjoyed by the greater colonies, is no more than a reasonable proposal, and such as all English statesmen should agree to. He qualifies his admission, indeed, by warning Mr. Parnell that all English parties would unite against an attempt to extort anything more. But as Mr. Parnell's demands would be fully satisfied by such a concession, the

warning is hardly necessary. A Parliament dealing with Irish matters as colonial Parliaments deal with colonial affairs is all that Ireland asks for, or could reasonably ask for. It is, moreover, all that she has a right to, for no country can claim the right to injure a great empire—involving also her own irremediable and fatal injury—and any attempt at secession might lawfully be met as the Northern States met that made by the Southern confederacy in the great civil war. No one can be more ready to recognise this than Irishmen themselves who took so large a part in repressing the rebellion. It would also be recognised by the inhabitants of the Southern States who for the most part now perceive the folly of their outbreak and are grateful for its want of success. That there are fanatics who would be satisfied with nothing but a total separation from England we do not deny—but these are men for whose opinions no one of common sense has any regard, and they would gain no more attention in an Irish Parliament than has been accorded by the House of Commons, for instance, to Mr. Bradlaugh. Granted justice, and there is no reason why Ireland should desire separation from the British Empire. Two reasons alone could be produced for such a step, and neither of them is worthy of consideration. The one is a sentimental reason with regard to the glories of ancient times—the other a reason of revenge for evil days gone by. Both, however, will be repudiated by all rational people, who take a practical view of things, and will not be permitted to influence the ordinary affairs of life. Mr. Parnell goes with 85 colleagues into the House of Commons to demand only what is rational and just, and worthy of a man as moderate as he is patient, persevering, and able. It is well that a disposition is shown to meet his demands in an accommodating and friendly way—and we have no doubt whatever as to the result.

Whatever else the results of the Irish elections SIGNIFICANT have proved, they have shown beyond all RETURNS. controversy the falsehood of the very last plea urged against the concession of Home Rule.—There is in some eyes a vision of the stalwart bands of a united province marching to attack the Parliament House in Dublin, and strewing all their way with the corpses or maimed bodies of vanquished Papists. No one sees any prisoners dragged along in the rear of the conquering army, for even their worst enemies will not dare to accuse the Ulster Orangemen of the possibility of giving quarter. They may have bowels of mercy; there may be some one towards whom they are capable of exercising forbearance, but Papists are without exception excluded, and nothing would remain for them but death either immediate or by lingering torture on the field of glory—for their conquerors. There may be a question, indeed, as to the wisdom with which the enemies of the Pope and the devoted admirers of the Orange heroes oppose the concession of Home Rule, for regarding it as certain, as they do, that in any conflict between Protestants and Papists the former must be sure to obtain the victory, they should more consistently advocate a step that must at once deliver over the objects of their hatred into the hands of the destroyer. An Orange march on Dublin attended by the unsparing and complete slaughter of Papists is the very thing that should command their hearty approval, and the concession of Home Rule contains the promise of it for them, and, in this manner, an easy settlement of the whole question. King Billy redivious would settle the whole concern, and what would be the good of his worshippers if they could not galvanise some successor to him? The picture of United Ulster sending forth nothing but Orangemen, and drawing the sword to avenge the insult offered and the injury threatened, vanishes now, once and for ever, into thin air. Ulster is not united; Ulster is not entirely Orange. It is divided in sentiment and divided a good deal towards the wrong side. The desire for Home Rule has obtained a very considerable holding there, and Mr. Parnell's authority is owned largely throughout the province. Fifteen Parnellites, at least, have been returned for Ulster constituencies, and that must be acknowledged to be a very respectable number, or a very disgraceful one, on the other hand, according as opinions differ. There are thirty-three constituencies in the province, and, since only eighteen Members have been returned for the whole country, who do not belong to the national party—if we assume that in no other part of Ireland was a seat gained by any one who was not a Parnellite—our conclusion is evident, and there are at least fifteen Ulster Parnellites in the new Parliament. But if any constituency outside of Ulster was false to the national cause, the case is still worse, or better, as it may be, and the Ulster contingent is necessarily larger. The threat of civil war then becomes in the face of all this a very feeble one—and an Orange riot or two would be about all that would be likely to occur in the way of hostilities.—As Orange riots, however, are certain to occur in any case, no one need allow his mind to be much troubled about that. People who want to fight and will fight may as well be permitted to fight from one cause as another. They will not handle their sticks or their revolvers one bit more deftly owing to the nature of the aggravation given them—although, no doubt, their anger will be greater in proportion