

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

HOME RULE TRIUMPHANT.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—It is an admitted fact by nearly every intelligent man that Ireland is and must ever be indissolubly connected with Great Britain. Whatever the solution of the problem may be that is to tranquilise that part of the Empire, its separation from a joint interest in the destinies of Great Britain cannot now be entered upon for a moment as a possible, or even desirable factor towards that end. It is essential, therefore, from its intimate and abiding connection with the Empire that Ireland should as speedily as possible be freed from every impediment to progressive prosperity. The wretched friction, the serious discontent, the bitter animosities, and the chronic poverty of its peasantry, which are prevalent in that country are, indeed, grangrenous sores that are daily becoming more obnoxious and give painful evidence of bygone maltreatment. It is useless, however, to reflect on "what might have been," for the ulcerous wounds are there, and no body can be sound when any member thereof refuses or is incapable of working in harmony with the controlling will of the head. If any reasonable and kind-hearted man were to witness a horse with galled shoulders and a feeble emaciated body refusing, with the resolute boldness of inability, to pull an impossible load, and see its master cruelly using a whip to urge it forward, his impulse would be to remonstrate against the barbarity, and to suggest the lightening of the load. The legislative union with Great Britain, secured, as it was, by fraud and injustice, and without the consent of the nation, and based upon gross partiality to the small minority of the inhabitants of Ireland, was the intolerable load laid upon an impoverished and weak people which a powerful master has compelled them to bear for nearly a century. It is true that time after time a few concessions have been reluctantly granted in order to avoid the total breakdown of the disabled and fractious nation, but still there is left the most oppressive part of the burden, the exceptional administration of the law, known as Castle Rule, with all its hideously cruel espionage, and anti-Irish spirit. Surely after so long an experience of the utter futility of coercion and compulsion to bring the Irish people into loving subjection to Great Britain, it seems like the madness of an infuriated tyrant to continue applying salt to the gaping wounds which are spread over the whole body politic of Ireland. A wise, kind, and skilful physician, finding that drastic treatment was making his patient daily worse would try a milder and quieter method. Home Rulers are like that physician; they advocate a conciliatory system of government, and although they do not anticipate any miraculous cure of the chronic evils of Ireland, they do hope that granting self-government to that country will most materially tend to improve the relations between itself and Great Britain. They want the speedy realisation of that hope, for they do not for an instant doubt that it will sooner or later be achieved. When Home Rule is obtained, the wonder will be, as it has been in all past concessions to Ireland, why it was not granted long before the end of the century. Among the marvels that Pilgrim saw in the house of the Interpreter was a fire, upon which one kept casting oil while another constantly poured water. Yet did the fire maintain its work and continually burn higher and higher. In like manner, we see the British Government on many occasions and in many and various ways feeding the fire of liberty with the oil of education, of liberalising and extending the franchise, and of colonial examples of self-government and we see the same Government pouring torrents of the water of coercion on the fire they keep inflaming, repressing the aspirations they have created, and putting aside in contempt the loyal and moderate representations which they have taught the Irish people to make through their elected representatives in Parliament. Why Ireland has been denied ordinary fair play for so long is because the popular mind and will of Great Britain had scarcely any expression in Parliament until recently, the rich landlords and upper classes predominating, and the main opposing force to the demand for Home Rule lies still in that body. It is to that body the words of Professor Harrison apply, with which I close, describing a policy that is doomed and that has been the corrupting cause of the agrarian miseries and crimes in Ireland. He says, "For many centuries rich men in England have found in Ireland an unlimited field where the strong might wring wealth out of the weak. There for centuries they have built up a scheme of speculation which they pleased to call Law, maintained by a system of terrorism which they named Government, and consecrated by a system of religious injustice which they pretended to be a Church. The end of it all was pecuniary, not politic."—I am, etc.,

A TRUE UNIONIST.

PARNELL DEFENCE FUND.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in forwarding to you for transmission Home to the Secretary of the Parnell Indemnity Fund the sum of sixty-five pounds eighteen shillings sterling (£65 18s), which has been subscribed by the generous and patriotic members of the Irish National League in the Grey Valley, parish of Ahaura.

Besides this amount which I now send, there has been already forwarded the respectable sum of thirty-one pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence (£31 17s 6d), through the Central Branch of the Irish National League in Grey-mouth (viz., Blackball, £17 2s 6d; Maori Creek, £9 5s; and Cameron's Terrace, £5 10s); making a grand total of £107 5s collected this year in the parish of Ahaura for the Defence Fund. By publishing in the next edition of the TABLET

the accompanying list of subscribers together with the respective sums contributed, you will very much please your admiring friends in the Grey Valley.—I am, etc.,

Ahaura,

D. F. O'HALLAHAN.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in forwarding you £111 1s 6d towards the fund to defray the expenses of Mr. Parnell and his colleagues in their costly contest against the *Times* and the Tory Government. The subscription was inaugurated here by our parish priest, and though we have many difficulties to contend with, this remittance will show that the people of Waimate are in full sympathy with the struggle which is being made to win for Ireland rights and liberties similar to those we enjoy in this Colony. We trust that the arduous efforts of Mr. Parnell and the other Irish Nationalists to achieve legislative independence for Ireland will soon prove successful, despite the malignant influence of the *Times*, and the detestable administration of Salisbury and Balfour, and that the Irish at home will ere long enjoy the blessings of being governed by themselves again.

Attached herein, I send you the list of subscribers, which we will thank you to publish in the next issue of the TABLET. Wishing you and the Indemnity Fund every success,—I am, etc.,

JOHN O'CONNOR, Secretary Parnell Defence Fund.

Waimate, March 19, 1889.

TO THE EDITOR N.Z. TABLET.

SIR,—Enclosed you will please find post office order value £12 8s 6d being the amount collected by me towards the Parnell Defence Fund which amount has been subscribed by different denominations of Waitahuna district. You will be good enough to publish in the TABLET the different names from the list I have herewith forwarded to you. You will oblige by remitting this amount to the treasurer of the Parnell Defence Fund. Mr. Martin Ryan gave me most valuable assistance in collecting the above sum,—I am etc.,

JAS. CAMPBELL.

Waitahuna, March 20, 1889.

CONCERT IN DUNEDIN.

THE concert given by the Irish Rifles in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin on Monday evening, as a celebration of St. Patrick's Day, proved a thorough success. The hall was filled, and, in some instances, there was a difficulty found in securing places. Among the audience we noticed the Ven. Archdeacon Coleman; the Rev. Fathers O'Leary, Lynch, and Vereker; Colonels Wales and Jack; Majors Gordon, and Callan; and a large number of the officers and members of the Volunteer corps of the city. The programme, which consisted almost exclusively of Irish music, was well selected, and, as the services of professional and amateur talent of a high order had been obtained, the performance was all that could be desired. The lady vocalists were the Misses Woodbridge, Walsh, Blaney, and Corrigan, each of whom interpreted the number entrusted to her in a very happy manner. Miss Woodbridge's mellow voice and finished style are familiar to the music-loving public of Dunedin, and are always an attraction of great power. Her singing on this occasion was no exception to the rule, and deserved for her the enthusiastic encore in each instance given her. Miss Walsh has now attained to a highly creditable place among our amateur singers. Her natural powers, which are very considerable, have been made a great deal more of by careful culture, and the result is particularly charming. Her notes are extremely sweet and easily produced, and in feeling and expression she excels. She was also honoured with an encore. Miss Corrigan has for some time been an established favourite in Dunedin. On the present occasion she had ample scope for the display of an admirable flexibility of voice, which is one of the chief features of her singing, and one sufficiently rare to make it additionally valuable. An encore marked the appreciation of the audience. Miss Blaney is a young amateur of much promise, who sings with exceptional sweetness. Her pretty and charmingly-rendered song also received an encore. The gentlemen who sang solos on the occasion were Messrs. Walls, Umbers, Jago, and Young. Mr. Walls was new to a Dunedin audience, but by his sweet singing at once gained and retained the admiration of the audience. Mr. Umbers acquitted himself in capital style, and was particularly happy in the expression given to his songs. Mr. Jago, as usual, was admirable in every respect, and proved himself well capable of interpreting Moore, which is no very easy task. Mr. Young made a most pleasing impression. Some of the "Melodies" sung by male voices as double quartettes, and without accompaniment, were especially effective. A fantasia on Irish airs performed by the Garrison Band, under the conductorship of Mr. D. Wishart, and whose performance was fully up to the reputation justly earned by the conductor and his band, and an arrangement of the "Melodies" played with artistic skill on the clarionette by Mr. W. Corrigan, were the instrumental items. Messrs. Barrett and Bracken, performed the jealousy scene from *Othello*, in which they added fresh laurels to those obtained by them in the late representation of the tragedy given at the Princess Theatre. Messrs. A. J. Barth and E. Towsey, as accompanists, contributed much to the success of the evening. A Bechstein grand piano had been kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. C. Begg and Co. The decorations of the hall were very appropriately arranged by Mr. Sutton. The committee desire us to thank, on their behalf, the Direct Importing Company for the loan of a handsome screen and pot-plant.

Our esteemed contemporary the *Boston Advertiser*, says that William O'Brien is "a very hot coal for the Englishmen to handle," but adds that, if Balfour can get him into his power for six months, "there is little doubt that he would be effectually silenced." Nobody doubts Balfour's willingness to compass the murder of William O'Brien, but everybody knows that he lacks the hardihood to do so while the murder of Mandeville is so fresh in the public memory.—*Pilot*