

THE IRISH TRIUMPH.

THE *St. James's Gazette*, the well-known Conservative organ of London, writes frankly as follows, on the triumph of the Irish party on the question of cloture:—

The Irish party alone need have no reserves. They can look back over years in which a single purpose has been steadily pursued, and they can point to the vote in proof of its entire accomplishment. It is true that the cloture may occasionally be directed against themselves. But any inconvenience they may experience from this cause is but momentary and occasional. The representatives of the Irish people, as was said, "will have courage and resource enough to make themselves felt and heard in spite of any gag." Even if they should be silenced their fate will be worthy of Samson. They will do more in their death than they ever did in their lives, for their victory involves the overthrow of the Parliamentary liberties of England. This is the triumph which Mr. Sexton claims on behalf of the Irish party. He rejoices that he has seen the day when a speech "fraught with memories which thrill the English heart" has fallen dead on hearts closed against national feeling and minds proof against argument. To the Irish party the degradation of the House brings no sense of shame. Its history and traditions have no interest for them; they are "but strangers and sojourners" in an English Parliament. To see the alien assembly in which they sit by compulsion proclaim itself unworthy of the right of free speech is the keenest pleasure they can enjoy. In their eyes the adoption of the cloture is an act of Parliamentary suicide, and they boast that in committing it the House of Commons has but done what it was the object of the Irish party to drive it to do. This is the note which ran through the whole of Mr. Sexton's most significant speech. I am going, he said in effect, to vote with the Opposition, because I am for free speech, and not even to benefit my country can I consent to be numbered among its enemies. But I shall rejoice when you adopt the cloture in spite of me, because it is on Englishmen and the English House of Commons that the disgrace will fall. For years the Irish Parliamentary party have made the destruction of Parliamentary liberty in England the main object of their policy. That has been the vengeance which they have determined to wreak upon the legislature which eighty years ago robbed Ireland of Parliamentary independence, and has ever since refused to restore it, but at last accomplished. But the cloture is something more than an act of vengeance. Mr. Sexton sees in it a means by which the Irish party may force Parliament to undo the wrong it has inflicted on his countrymen and to give Ireland the Home Rule she demands. His reasoning on this point is very much to the purpose. The opportunity of Ireland lies in the necessities of English politics, and nothing so much prevents these necessities from becoming acute as the existence of a "frank and friendly union between the two great English parties." What the Irish members desire is to see party feuds become chronic and party contentions embittered, and this is the result that Mr. Sexton looks to see follow upon the cloture. Hitherto, he says, English politicians have been able to remain personal friends in spite of party differences. Under the cloture there will grow up "hatreds and rancours which will eat their corroding way even into private life." We cannot doubt that Mr. Sexton is in this respect a true prophet. To be defeated after fair debate irritates no man who is accustomed to live under Parliamentary institutions, but to be defeated in advance of debate—to be condemned unheard, to be allowed just so much interval as a contemptuous majority is inclined to accord, before execution—these are the things which raise political passions to a white heat and dispose those whom they irritate to promise anything that will enable them to turn the tables on their opponents. In a House of Commons of this temper the Irish party will see abundant opportunities of driving bargains. It is probable that after the next general election they will come back very much strengthened, and so far more able than they have yet been to hold the balance between English parties. To each of them they will offer their temporary support on the single condition that the bid made for it shall be higher than that made by the other side. Until now there has been at least a hope that the patriotisms alike of Liberals and Conservatives would stand in the way of any serious consideration of such proposals. But in proportion as the hatreds and rancours of which Mr. Sexton speaks become more violent, the temptation to listen to them will be greater. To "dish the Whigs" has but once been avowed as a motive by an English politician, but when the party in power has silenced its opponents as well as beaten them, the prospect that so attracted the late Lord Derby may have irresistible charms for both parties. From every point of view, therefore, the Irish triumph is complete. They have degraded the House of Commons, in the very act of degrading it they have made it more subservient to their purpose, and the tools by which they have worked out their double end have been the leaders of the English Liberals.

Though not advertised it was generally known that the members of the County Galway Club (the Blazers) would to-day, 8th November, meet at Eastwell. Placards were posted throughout the district this morning calling on the people to stop the hunt. At about half-past one o'clock Major Comyn, Ballinderry; Mr. Thomas Tully, Rathfaran; and Mr. Donelan, of Killah arrived. By this time several hundred men had assembled with sticks and other weapons. They took up different positions in the vicinity of Eastwell House, and by their movements showed signs of their intention of preventing the meet. The appearance of the dogs and huntsmen was the signal for groaning and such shouts as "No hunting," etc. Several attempts were made to break cover, but men with sticks stopped the dogs and ultimately the hunt had to be abandoned.

The Press Association says it is rumoured that a grant of £2,000 per annum will shortly be proposed to be voted by Parliament to Sir Garnet Wolseley and Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, on account of their elevation to the peerage.

ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL WESTPORT.

THE Christmas examination of this school was conducted by the Rev. Father Walsh, assisted by Messrs. Organ, Sproule, and Carrick (teacher). The examination, which was both oral and written, on the usual subjects of an English education, including Christian doctrine, was carried out in a very systematic and painstaking manner.

In order to reward merit and encourage future exertions to study, the Committee deemed it advisable to bestow prizes; which were awarded according to the highest aggregate number of marks obtained by each as follows:—

Fifth Class—Boys.—James Scanlon, dux; John Roche, 2nd; A. Anderson, 3rd; P. M'Loughlin, 4th.

Fifth Class—Girls.—Margaret O'Callaghan, dux; Harriet Leoni, 2nd; Fanny J. Pain, 3rd; Emily Easton, 4th.

Second Division.—John Sherlock, 1st; James Sheahan, 2nd.

Girls.—Mary J. Sherlock, 1st; Louisa Tottenham, 2nd; Margaret Hanna, 3rd.

Third Class—Boys.—Jos. Sherlock, 1st; William Sherlock, 2nd; Jas. Curtayne, 3rd.

Girls.—Kate McMahon, 1st; Mary Sheahan, 2nd; Amelia Anderson, 3rd.

Third Class—Second Division.—William M'Loughlin, 1st; Daniel Sheahan, 2nd; John M'Connell, 3rd.

Girls.—Mary Horn, 1st; Mary M'Loughlan, 2nd; Annie Scanlon, 3rd.

Second Class—Boys.—Thos. Pain, 1st; William Organ, 2nd.

Girls.—Margaret M'Connell, 1st; Louisa Anderson, 2nd; Wm. Leoni and Charles Sibree, *ex aequo*, 3rd.

First Class—Boys.—William Hanna, 1st; Thomas Hanna, 2nd; James Kelly, 3rd.

Girls.—Margaret Horn, 1st; Norah Horn and Margaret Curtayne, *ex aequo*, 2nd; Lucy Pain, 3rd; Angela Sontgen, 4th.

First Class—Second Division.—Kate M'Loughlan, 1st; Mary Sontgen, 2nd; Robert Hanna, 3rd.

Mr. Sontgen's prize to the girl who obtained the highest aggregate number of marks on all subjects was gained by Margaret O'Callaghan.

Good Conduct specially awarded to Andrew P. Anderson, John Walsh, John Sherlock, Gerald Organ, Harriet Leoni, Jane Robinson Carr, Margaret O'Callaghan, and Mary Horn.

The Committee acknowledged the receipt of valuable books for prizes from Mrs. Simon and Mr. Sproule.

After the distribution of prizes vacation was announced to last three weeks.

CAUGHT IN THEIR OWN MESHES.

By means of the Law the Eviction Company, more formally known as the Land Corporation (Ireland) Limited, sought to carry on their operations against the Irish peasantry. By means of the Law this self-same company have met with a staggering defeat. They have been too clever by half, and will now have to mend their hand very considerably if they mean to carry on their campaign for the repression and clearing out of the people who will not knuckle under. It was in the London Chancery Court that this satisfactory result was brought about. There the engineer was hoist with his own petard, and the clumsy contrivers of eviction plans had to retire baffled and defeated to ponder over more elaborate and certain means of accomplishing their ends. We are told that the blow inflicted is not a crushing one—that, in pugilistic parlance, the combatant who has been knocked down will again come up smiling; but for the present, at all events, he has been made to laugh "at the wrong side of his mouth." It was amongst themselves, apparently, that the evictors fell out. There was a question of appropriating a certain part of the money collected to the payment of certain dividends. Holders of "A" Shares were contending with holders of "B" Shares as to the way in which the money subscribed by both should be allocated. The case came before Mr. Justice Chitty on Monday. That learned Judge, after examining the point raised from every possible point of view, was forced to declare that the rules of the Corporation were so drawn up as to bring them within the provisions of the Act of Parliament prohibiting companies from doing the thing which the Land Corporation sought to do. This decision was solely against the learned Judge's grain, as he himself most candidly confessed in more formal phraseology. It is now announced with a flourish of trumpets that the landlords are by no means defeated. They have not played their last card, they assert; and they will immediately set about revising their articles of association, so as to bring themselves within the protection of the law in whatever monetary arrangements for the better clearing out of the Irish tenants they wish to make. But this may be all assumed for the purpose of concealing their chagrin. They cannot deny that they have sustained a signal reverse at the very outset of their campaign, after the expenditure of a vast deal of thought and labour in the elaboration of their plans. They contrast very unfavourably in the conduct of their movements with the popular leaders in theirs. In anything started on the people's side there has been no bungling of this sort—a fact which shows that with justice they have brains.—*Dublin Freeman.*

The Musher Mountains, county Cork, in Ireland, are now literally swarming with grouse, there being nobody to shoot them. The landlords are too afraid of their tenants to go near the place, and the latter have no guns, having had to surrender them, under the Coercion Act, to the authorities. It was in this neighbourhood that the informer Connell and more than sixty farmers' sons were arrested as "Moonlighters."