

Dublin Notes.

(From the National Papers.)

THE women of Castlecomer, if they are to be credited with the authorship of a hostile address, which was to have been presented to Mr. Parnell on the occasion of his recent visit, have spoken for the daughters of Ireland with no little strength of praise. "Are you," they ask, "the man, the heartless despot, the would-be silencer of public opinion, the shameless destroyer of a home, the unblushing betrayer of a friend, the false, the dishonoured!—we ask, are you the man to be our leader? No? ten thousand times No!" An address of a directly opposite character was presented on Saturday to Mr. Parnell on behalf of the ladies of the city of Kilkenny, who asked his acceptance of a bouquet of white flowers as a token of their admiration of his pluck.

The Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack, Bishop of Galway, in a letter to the Very Rev. P. Dooley, P.P., says: "It would be desirable that every parish in Ireland should meet and speak upon the all-absorbing topic so deeply affecting the interests of our country. On a memorable occasion I gave proof of my sincere esteem and admiration for Mr. Parnell; but now, in obedience to the dictates of conscience, and in the interest of my country, I have no choice but to reject him as a dissolute and dishonourable man, and the sure curse of our country's cause." At a meeting presided over by Father Dooley, a resolution was adopted declaring Mr. Parnell's claim to be still leader of the Irish race as "absurd and audacious." At all the Masses at the Franciscan Church, Ennis, on Sunday, Mr. Parnell was vehemently denounced both morally and politically by the Friars.

Archbishop Ireland, the famous American Archbishop, had a conference at Chicago with the members of the Irish Parliamentary party in that city. The Archbishop said his visit was purely personal, and the statement that he represented the Catholic Hierarchy in any way was a mistake. He also authorised the statement that the Hierarchy of America would take no official action whatever in the matter of the trouble now existing in the National Party. Whatever members of the priesthood in America might do or say it would be entirely personal and not representing the Church as a whole. Archbishop Ireland gave the following as his own individual opinion:—"I am firmly of the opinion that Mr. Parnell should resign the leadership of the party. For him to retain control would only antagonise so large an element necessary to the success of the Irish cause as would necessarily postpone the success of that cause for a long time. If Parnell is patriotic and has the good of his people at heart, he must see that, and step down and out. I am of opinion that the matter will be settled in a few days, and that Mr. Parnell will give way. It is the only thing that can bring success under the circumstances. I have entire confidence in Mr. Glasstone, and believe he will do what is right by the Irish cause." Archbishop Ireland had more faith in Mr. Parnell's patriotism than was justifiable.

Mr. Parnell the week before last (ending December 13) gave us his genuine, real opinions—we suppose we must take them to be his, they are the latest supplied—about the man he had chosen as a fit and proper representative for North Kilkenny. He was, according to him, a tuft-hunter and a place-hunter. On Saturday (December 20) he described for us the *beau idéal* of an Irish member. That was the phrase he used to compliment the man whom he has time and again proposed for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Irish Parliamentary party. On Saturday he gave the following description of him:—"I believe," he said, "the new leader has come down to Kilkenny. After waiting for a week he telegraphed down to the hotel opposite to have a good stiff tumbler of whiskey punch ready for him on his arrival, and a bath of hot water and mustard ready for his feet; and I believe if you went over to him you would find him sitting in that bath of mustard and hot water yet." The crowd is said by the police reporters to have laughed at the deposed leader in his first appearance as funny man. The opponents of Mr. Parnell are stating that the mob was hired. This laughter is the best evidence of the truth of that statement. The elephantine humourist went on to say that the *beau idéal* of an Irish member "is a nice old gentleman for a quiet tea-party," adding, by way of completing the definition, "he has not got an ounce of steel in his whole body, or soul for the matter of that." Mr. Parnell knows his ideals better than their realisation. We suspect that there is a little more steel in the composition of his party than he reckoned when he was "making them."

We hope the few members of the Ennis Board of Guardians who flung the word "traitor" at the head of that sturdy Methodist Home Rule M.P. have the grace to be ashamed of themselves. Mr. Jordan's reply ought to make their ears tingle. "My conscience," he writes, "is perfectly clear, and I never performed a duty with a heavier sense of responsibility; but, having arrived at a decision, no power could cause me to swerve from my allegiance to my convictions. I calculated the cost. I am prepared to pay the penalty, if that penalty be enacted, and no threat could cause me to deviate. Rather the contrary, it would only increase my determination. I regret that such a respectable board, intelligent as it is respectable, should deem it their duty to brand my action in voting according to my convictions as 'traitorous.' I resent with all the integrity and strength of soul the application of such an epithet to me. I am no traitor. I never have been, and I trust in God I never shall be. I have never betrayed any man nor any cause. Since the day I first entered public life I have never deviated to the right hand nor to the left from my public promises and duties. Why should I? I have no higher ambition to gain than to represent West Clare, and that I have done up to the present faithfully. I have no interest to serve. I want neither place, position, or money, other than I possess. What could I gain by voting against Mr. Parnell? All things being equal, I would prefer him to any other man. And after all these considerations, when I feel within my conscience that I voted for Ireland and virtue only, I must, at the risk of appearing warm, courageously and indignantly repel the accusation that my conduct is 'traitorous.'

I would fain trust that that insinuation was made in a moment of excitement, but representative and deliberative bodies such as yours should be slow to tear the fair fame of men like me, who are your public servants, because we differ from you in public matters, on which we have more and better material and information to form a correct judgment than you can possibly have." Really, the Parnellites ought to revise their dictionary.

Another patriotic Methodist, who sympathises with Mr. Jordan, is Rev. Henry S. Lunn, well known in the commencement of the fight for the part he took in the Protestant Home Rule Association, and at elections in England. The majority of the association has gone Parnellite. Their decision has evoked the following letter from Dr. Lunn:—"After the decision which the general meeting of the Irish Protestant Home Rule Association arrived at the other evening supporting the committee in its action with regard to Mr. Parnell, I feel that there is no other course open to me but to withdraw from the association, with which it has been a great pleasure to me to be actively and publicly identified in the past. The fact that I travelled nearly 3,000 miles on behalf of the association during the General Election of 1886, and addressed meetings from London to Inverness, thereby risking my ordination as a Wesleyan minister, is sufficient proof of my sympathy with the principles with which the association has been identified in the past. If, however, the association is prepared to support the leadership of a man whose record is disgraced by the basest treachery and moral turpitude, I feel that the time has come for those who hold national righteousness to be of more importance than the success of any political cause, to withdraw from membership in the association." Dr. Lunn and Mr. Jordan are not alone among Methodists, and North Kilkenny will win them many new adherents.

It having been insinuated that the Ossory priests had not freedom of action, Dean Kelly and Canon Hogan, who presided at the recent clerical meetings, declare that all were unanimous in pronouncing against Mr. Parnell's leadership, and that no attempt was made to coerce any priest of the diocese. The Catholic clergy of the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, including thirty-four priests from Longford, twenty-three from Leitrim, thirteen from Westmeath, eight from King's County, seven from Cavan, and three from Roscommon, making a total of eighty-eight, in the course of a declaration against Mr. Parnell's leadership, call upon the members who represent in Parliament the seven counties into which the diocese extends to refuse to serve any longer under such a leader. The Deanery of Castlebar, in a declaration signed by fourteen priests, denounce Mr. Parnell as "a firebrand of discord, strife and disunion," and warn the people "against giving any countenance to such a man, bereft of common sense as he has proved himself to be, of all moral and honourable principle," affirming "that as Ireland, historically pre-eminent among the nations for purity of morals and fidelity to faith and fatherland, never used foul instruments in the pursuit and assertion of her sacred rights in the past, so does she in the present turn away from such with loathing." Another declaration by the Deanery of Westport, signed by twelve priests, reprobates Mr. Parnell's conduct in the strongest language, and calls upon Irishmen at home and abroad to unite in a struggle for the honour and virtue of Erin. The Deanery of Dunmore (Tuam) including fifteen priests, proclaim Mr. Parnell "pre-eminent in guilt and shame, unfit to be the leader of virtuous and holy Ireland," and the Deanery of Claremorris, represented by fourteen priests, condemn him "in the sacred interests of Irish morality and fatherland, heartily endorse the action of the majority of the Irish Parliamentary party."

United Ireland having erroneously stated that the Chapter of the Archdiocese of Dublin, his Grace the Archbishop presiding, had unanimously endorsed the view of the Very Rev. Mgr. Lee, D.D., V.G., P.P., of Bray and Dean of the Chapter, who was represented as having strongly urged upon the clergy to take no action upon the question of the hour as the Catholic laity were divided in opinion upon the subject and popular feeling was so manifestly in favour of Mr. Parnell, adding that Mgr. Lee, if he had to take a side would have taken that of the Irish leader, an authoritative contradiction has been given to that misleading statement. Dean Lee called at the office of that journal and informed Mr. Campbell, M.P., that the statement was inaccurate, tendering a letter contradicting it for insertion. Mr. Campbell expressed his willingness to make the necessary correction, but declined to insert the letter in its entirety, on the ground that it libelled Mr. Parnell. The Dean, in the course of the letter, which has since been published in full in many papers, says:—"No such meeting of the diocese has been held. That there be no mistake about my individual opinion on the present crisis, I am convinced that all Irish Catholics, clergy and laity, should act in concert with the Bishops, and that for the reasons assigned in the Bishops' recent address to the clergy and people of Ireland. The character of Mr. Parnell, as revealed in the Divorce Court, speaks for itself. Since the verdict of that court Mr. Parnell has given further abundant proof of his unfitness to be a leader of the people of Ireland. I am indeed of opinion that in the present state of public feeling, excited and misled as it has been by the *Freeman's Journal* and some few other newspapers, it would not be expedient for the clergy of the parish to get mixed up in the violent proceedings which at a time like this too frequently take place at public meetings, led or misled by over-earnest partisans, not always fully informed as to the merits at issue. This opinion, which, I am happy to know, is identical with that of the Archbishop of Dublin, I expressed when my opinion was asked by his Grace at a recent meeting of the Dublin clergy, but I am no less clearly of opinion, and I expressed myself to that effect on the same occasion, that the clergy, not only of this parish, but of the diocese, as responsible advisers of the people, have a most serious duty to discharge in the present crisis, and in discharge of that duty they should on every suitable occasion put before the people, and especially before those who take a leading part in public affairs, the abundant grounds on which, notwithstanding Mr. Parnell's many previous services to the country, we find ourselves with regret now forced to the conclusion that he should be regarded as a fallen leader, no longer worthy of the confidence of the