

Lady Aberdeen received an address at Berwick from the Berwickshire Women's Liberal Association, and delivered a very eloquent address, in which she ably dealt with the Ulster question. In the course of her remarks she said.—“Have Catholic constituencies shown themselves backward in sending Protestant representatives to Parliament, as long as they would support the national aspirations? You will find it is not so, but that on the contrary a large number of the popular heroes have all been Protestants, such as Swift, Grattan, Flood, Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, John Mitchel, Smith O'Brien, Butt, Parnell, and a score of others. Has the municipal vote in Catholic towns shown a tendency to keep Protestants out of office? Again the record says ‘No.’ In Catholic Cork you will find often Protestant mayors and Protestant sheriffs elected. Not long ago out of the £2,440 emoluments paid to public officials, £1,840 went to Protestants. Apply the same test to Dublin, and you will find that £4,000 goes to Protestant officials out of the total £8,400 salaries paid to chief officers. There have been fifteen Protestant mayors in Dublin since 1850, twelve in Waterford since 1845, and thirteen in Limerick since 1841.”

As the Ulster question was made the main Tory argument at the late elections it is worth noting that: (1) The cry of Protestant life and liberty in danger comes from those districts of the North where there is only a very small Catholic minority, and where the Protestant majority really has no means of judging the feelings of the Catholics. In the South the Protestants who are living peacefully in the midst of a Catholic majority do not think of joining in the cry. They know better. They see Catholics electing Protestants to offices of honour and profit; and they see no trace of an attempt to boycott Protestant business enterprises, or to introduce exclusive dealing on sectarian grounds. Bigotry and ignorance go together in the North. (2) The Presbyterians of Ulster are not Nonconformists in the English sense. They are practically a state endowed Church. When the Irish Church was disestablished the Presbyterians received nearly a quarter of a million sterling in compensation for the withdrawal of the grant known as the “*Regium Donum*.” This money was invested chiefly in Irish land. It would be marvellous, therefore, if this endowed landlord organisation took the popular side, or showed the same large-minded spirit as the Nonconformists of England.

The non-residence of people of means and rank is growing more glaring than ever. There it is a very large Irish contingent in the array of style and beauty that may be seen careering on Rotten Row in London and along the Champs Elysees and in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. Speculators never imagine that the horses and riders came over from Ireland. The horses indeed are Irish, for no prouder nor more stylish steeds can be found anywhere, but the saddles and equipments are either English or French. Irish emigration to America and Australia was almost stopped a few years ago, but it received a new impetus from the split in the Nationalist ranks, and the class of people now going away are of the thrifty sort—people the country cannot well afford to lose. In 1890 the emigration to foreign lands reached 61,000, and last year it was higher still; but the tide of emigration to England has been larger and more steady, until now it is said there are 3,000,000 Irish in that land. It is true these men are not wholly lost to Ireland, for they are sowing the doctrine of liberalism among the people of England.

His Grace the Archbishop presided at a public meeting held recently in the Carmelite Church, Whitefriar street, the object of which was to appeal for funds to provide new schools for the children of the locality. In the course of an interesting address, his Grace gave a striking instance of bigotry on the part of a section of those who are now clamouring for compulsory education. The schools of the Carmelite Fathers have become so delapidated as to be dangerous to the children. As a substitute, the Fathers had arranged with the College of Surgeons to purchase the vacant Carmichael Schools of Medicine for £3,000. The governors of the college held the ground under lease from the “Incorporated Society for the Promotion of English Protestant Schools in Ireland.” This body, on learning that the Carmelite Fathers were in treaty for the premises, declared that they required security for the rent. This the College of Surgeons offered to do, but it soon became evident that the real grounds for objection had not been stated in the first instance, as the society absolutely refused to assent to the sale on any conditions. By this bigoted action it is more than likely that seven or eight hundred children will be thrown on the streets during the re-building of the schools. This is a sample of the conduct of these enlightened individuals who prate loudest about the necessity for compulsory education in Ireland. Those who attended the meeting, however, have done their utmost to nullify the odium of this bigoted body. They subscribed liberally towards a fund for the erection of new schools.

All is not gloom in Ireland. In many branches of industry business is growing apace. It is rare in Dublin to see the sign “To Let” posted on a store or dwelling, and this is a healthy sign. But the greatest boom in business is in the northern section of the country. In Belfast and points close by it is said that the vast sum of £20,000,000 is invested in the manufacture of linens and damasks in factories notably prosperous and giving employment to 17,000 hands.

Two great shipbuilding yards have established a solid foothold in Belfast, giving employment to about 6,000 men. A great boom was given to Belfast as a shipbuilding port by the eminent success which has attended the building of the great transatlantic steamers of the White Star Line. While the linen and damask business flourishes in Ulster, it is a fact worthy of note that the damask factory in Kevin street, Dublin, has been closed for want of patronage. There is a silk spinning mill in Cork which does an extensive business in supplying the factories in the North of Ireland. Shirt-making has become a very profitable industry in Londonderry, where extensive works supply a wide demand all over the United Kingdom. The business is done by machines combined with what is known as home or ‘cottage industry.’ Mullingar, in the centre of Ireland, is looking ‘ahead in the same business.’

It is about time the Nationalists of Ulster and of Ireland should be warned against the insidious doctrine preached by Mr W. T. Stead in the *Review of Reviews*. Mr Stead is a journalist of considerable distinction, but it is rather remarkable that he has never yet been the champion of a cause in adversity. He did much to spoil the chances of the election of 1886 by his milk-and-water support of Mr Gladstone in the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of which he was then editor. He is the champion of every “fad” known to newspaper readers, from Mattei medicines to Salvation Army propaganda. Last month and the month preceding he wrote a couple of “character sketches” in his review, in which he slavishly flattered Mr Gladstone. The Liberal leader, however, seems to have nettled Mr Stead by stating that he had not even read the sketches, and that Mr Stead had no authority from him to be the medium of his views on women suffrage or any other political questions. In June Mr Stead takes his revenge on the man he beset in April and May by attacking the principle of Home Rule, which he knows is nearest to Mr Gladstone's heart, and by declaring that “Englishmen have gone stale on Home Rule,” and that the “living interest in the coming election centres far more in the social questions which affect thirty million Britons than in the political question which affects five or six million Irish.” Once Mr Sexton—it was in days when the shadow of the Divorce Court had not yet thrown itself on the pathway of our National freedom—declared that so long as there were two such men as William O'Brien and William Stead at the head of the Irish and the English Press respectively, Ireland need not fear for the success of her cause. Now William O'Brien is libelled weekly in the newspaper which he made the pulse of the Irish nation, and W. Stead, having essayed everything in journalism and succeeded in doing but little, falls back as a last resource on abuse of Mr Gladstone and Home Rule, the man and the policy on which he raised himself into public notice. Time works wonders, but we trust our friends will not forget the treachery of Mr W. T. Stead.

## WESTPORT.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

August 8.

A PECULIARITY of West Coast weather is—have a holiday proclaimed, or set aside a day for public amusement, and down pours the rain, and it rains for a week after, until the novelty has died out. So it was on Arbor Day. The children of the different schools were jubilant over the novelty of planting and a prospect of being regaled with buns and tea afterwards; but it rained in its usual style, and the trees await another day. It seems a kind of contradiction planting trees in this district where bush predominates. Probably that is why it rained.

The Westport Harbour Board have obtained the permission of Government to spend ninety thousand pounds on the half-tide training-wall and extension of the eastern wall. This work is to be let in three separate contracts. Employment will be given to several men who are now amongst the unemployed owing to the stoppage of the quarries at Cape Foulwind, the suspension of the dredging, and the completion of Messrs O'Connor and McKenzie's Stairs contract. At the last sitting of the Board a deputation argued their prior right to the obtaining of stone. They suggested that the quarry should be let on the co-operative system at schedule rates to the men at the Cape, arguing that the Westport men had the whole district, while the men of Cape Foulwind were circumscribed. Yes, by the configuration of the country, but in every other respect free. This little town had its birth in the Harbour Board, and at completion of the works it will cease to exist. The Board decided, on the motion of the chairman, to call tenders for the work in three separate contracts. All tenders 20 per cent below the engineer's estimate to be declared informal. Mr B. Beeves, M.H.B., argued the case of his constituents, but without avail. Now a deputation proceeds to Wellington, ignoring the decision of the Board or looking on them as an inferior court. The matter will be laid before the Minister for Public Works. With what success, time will tell.

His Grace the Archbishop is expected here soon. A large number of candidates for confirmation are under instruction, He