

to certainty.' But they were speedily 'dashed to the ground' by Pitt, the steady object of whose later Irish policy (says the same great authority) 'was to corrupt and to degrade, in order that he ultimately might destroy, the Legislature of the country.' 'Mr. Pitt,' says Sir Jonah Barrington; 'having sent Lord Fitzwilliam to Ireland with unlimited powers to satisfy the nation, permitted him to proceed until he had unavoidably committed himself both to the Catholics and the country, when he suddenly recalled him, leaving it in a state of excitement and dismay. The day Lord Fitzwilliam arrived, peace was proclaimed throughout all Ireland; the day he quitted it, she prepared for insurrection. . . Within three months after Lord Fitzwilliam's dismissal, Lord Clare had got the nation into training for military execution.' 'The people,' he adds, 'were goaded and driven to madness' by military brutalities; 'Pitt's object was now effected, and an insurrection was excited.' Lecky also confirms the verdict of this eye-witness, declaring that 'the rebellion of 1798, with all the accumulated miseries it entailed, was the direct and predicted consequence of his (Pitt's) policy.'

Another viceregal ambassador was sent with an olive-branch to Ireland in 1886. In February of that year Mr. Gladstone had returned to power on the fall of the Salisbury Ministry. A new policy of peace was adopted towards the Cinderella Isle. To carry it out, the Earl of Aberdeen was sent to Ireland as Lord Lieutenant. Mr. John Morley (the new Secretary of State for India) accompanied him as Chief Secretary for Ireland. The Earl of Aberdeen was, perhaps, the most popular of the long line of Irish Viceroy's. Much of the kindly feeling with which he was viewed was (says T. D. Sullivan in his recently published 'Recollections') meant to honor his wife, 'who, during her sojourn in Ireland, had interested herself in many good works, and earned the gratitude of thousands of people to whom she had been a benefactress.' Unhappily, their stay in the Green Isle was, like that of Lord Fitzwilliam, all too brief. Mr. Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill was defeated by a majority of thirty in the House of Commons on June 7, 1886. A general election ensued. The Liberals returned to the House in a minority. The Earl of Aberdeen was superseded in the viceroyalty of Ireland, and he left Dublin on August 3, 1886, amidst such an overwhelming demonstration of popular respect and affection as had never before (says Sullivan) been tendered to a representative of the Sovereign in Ireland.

Lord Aberdeen's departure from Ireland was, in fact, a grand Home Rule demonstration. So, too, will be his return. The sentiment of nationality is undying and irrepresible in the Irish breast. Attempts have been made to drive Home Rule beneath the surface, to convince the world that it was confined, to show it under by misrepresentation and ridicule, to 'kill it with kindness' But it will not down. The reasons for it are practically as cogent to-day as when they were summed up by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the following true and forceful words in a speech at Holloway on June 17, 1885—in the days before he turned his political coat and 'rattled' from the Liberal party: 'I do not believe that the great majority of Englishmen have the slightest conception of the system under which this free nation attempts to rule the sister country. It is a system which is founded on the bayonets of 30,000 soldiers encamped permanently as in a hostile country. It is a system as completely centralised and bureaucratic as that with which Russia governs Poland, or as that which prevailed in Venice under the Austrian rule. An Irishman at this moment cannot move a step—he cannot lift a finger in any parochial, municipal, or educational work, without being confronted with, interlarded with, controlled by an English official, appointed by a foreign Government, and without a shade or shadow of

representative authority. I say the time has come to reform altogether this absurd and irritating anachronism which is known as Dublin Castle.'

Notes

The New Liberals

This journal does not permit itself to be flown in the tail of any political party kite. But the decencies of parliamentary and public life are no mere party affair. They are above and beyond sectional aims and interests, and are matters of national concern. For this reason we join in the general feeling of non-regret or satisfaction with which political organs of nearly every hue have viewed the practical extinction of the knot of vociferous extremists yeilded the New Liberals. The rejection of their ring-leader was one of the few sensational surprises of a general election that was in the main as tame and quiet and unexciting as the shaking of a door-mat. However, the ragged and be-draggled edges of that part of our parliamentary life have been pretty well trimmed. And the country is all the better for the process.

Garrick was busy writing one day when an excessively uproarious procession, led by a band, passed by his window. 'What's all that?' said he. 'A temperance procession,' was the reply. 'What nonsense!' he exclaimed; 'I don't make such a row when I get sober.' Well, the New Liberals need hardly have raised such ructions when they discovered—or affected to discover—that they stood for clean administration. 'Ven you're a married man, Samivel,' said Old Weller to his son, 'you'll understand a good many things as you don't understand now; but vether its worth while going through so much to learn so little—as the charity boy said ven he got to the end of the alphabet—is a matter o' taste. I rayer think it isn't.' Some of the New Liberals are young and inexperienced and impulsive—skittish young colts that got too early into political clover. When they're older, they, like Samivel Weller, will understand a good many things that they don't understand now—especially in regard to the risks of over-credulity and the laws of decency and decorum which should hedge a legislature round about and prevent its conversion into a bear-pit. A lesson has been taught by the free and independent elector of New Zealand, that does infinite credit to his sense of the cool-headedness and dignity which should pervade the deliberations of our parliamentary institutions. The lesson was a severe one. And it is, so far, a hopeful sign that some of those for whom it was most directly intended received it with a good grace.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The retreat for the clergy of the diocese opens on Monday, January 22. It will be conducted by the Very Rev. Father Cune, C.S.S.R. The annual synod takes place on Friday, January 26.

The midsummer holidays began on Wednesday in the Provincial Seminary, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel. His Lordship the Bishop was present at the departure of the students to wish them a pleasant vacation.

We regret to record the death of Mr Edward McManus, which occurred at his residence, Clyde, on December 1. The deceased gentleman arrived in Victoria in 1855. In the early sixties he left that colony for New Zealand, being amongst the first of the arrivals at the memorable rush to the Dunstan in 1862. He had been a member of the Dunstan District Hospital Trust ever since the constitution of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards. He was also a liberal supporter of St. Dunstan's Church, Clyde, contributing largely to its building fund. A Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased was celebrated in St. Dunstan's Church on December 6, and the remains were interred in the afternoon of the same day in the Clyde Cemetery.—R.I.P.

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