

Closing Bill, and he kept his word. I found him very straight in what I had to do with him.'

'I met Parnell,' said O'Connor Power, 'in 1874, the time of the Dublin election. He seemed to me a nice gentlemanly fellow, but he was hopelessly ignorant, and seemed to me to have no political capacity whatever. He could not speak at all. He was hardly able to get up and say, "Gentlemen, I am a candidate for the representation of the County of Dublin." We all listened to him with pain while he was on his legs, and felt immensely relieved when he sat down. No one ever thought he would cut a figure in politics. We thought he would be a respectable mediocrity.' So much for early promises.

On March 7 Parnell issued his address to the electors of the County of Dublin, and on March 9 the parish priest of Rathdrum wrote supporting his candidature, saying: 'His coolness, sound judgment, great prudence, and moderation, as well as capacity as a practical man will be a great acquisition to the National Party should he be returned for the County of Dublin.' A few days later the Tories circulated a report that Parnell had treated some of his tenants with harshness. 'It has been sought,' Parnell said in a public letter dealing with the matter, 'to connect me with some difference between Henry Parnell and his tenants. In reply to this transparent electioneering trick, I in the most emphatic manner publicly declare that I was in no way, directly or indirectly, connected with or mixed up in any manner with the said dispute, nor could I in any way control or influence the matter.' As his brother John had been left at the bottom of the poll in the Wicklow election, so Charles was left at the bottom of the poll in the Dublin. Parnell now resumed once more his life at Avondale, and so he remained for a twelvemonth.

#### Then an Event Occurred

which drew him from his retreat. John Mitchel returned to Ireland. He had been sentenced to four-year transportation in 1848 for treason-felony. In 1850 he escaped from Tasmania, and fled to the United States. There he remained for twenty-four years. Just about the time of his arrival in Ireland, in February, 1875, a vacancy occurred in the representation of Tipperary. The Nationalists resolved to nominate Mitchel, and he was elected without opposition. The House of Commons quashed the return on the ground that Mitchel was a felon who had neither received a free pardon nor purged his crime by serving the term of his imprisonment. A new writ was accordingly issued in March, 1875. But the Nationalists resolved to defy the House of Commons, and to nominate Mitchel again. In this crisis Parnell reappeared. Writing to the *Freeman's Journal*, and enclosing a cheque for £25 towards Mitchel's expenses, he said he hoped that Mitchel would again be returned for Tipperary, and that the 'party vote of the House of Commons' would be thus 'reversed,' adding, 'Let the legal question be fought out calmly and fairly afterwards.'

The second Tipperary election took place on March 11. Mitchel was opposed by a Tory, but was returned by an overwhelming majority. He, however, never took his seat. A few days afterwards he fell seriously ill, and died in his native town, Newry, on March 20. Nine days later his old friend and comrade, John Martin,

passed away, and a vacancy was thus created in the representation of County Meath. Parnell, who was now a member of the council of the Home Rule League, was put up by the Nationalists. He was opposed by a Tory and by an independent Home Ruler. But in April, 1875, he was placed at the head of the poll, amidst a storm of popular enthusiasm. 'There was tremendous rejoicing in Royal Meath,' says a contemporary writer, 'over the victory. Enthusiastic crowds assembled in thousands to give vent to a common feeling of delight. Bonfires blazed in many quarters; and the populace of Trim, in which town the declaration of the poll had been made, having discovered Parnell walking down from the parochial house to his hotel, laid lovingly violent hands on him, carried him in triumph round their own special bonfire in the Market square, and finally set him standing on a cask.' where he said a few words of thanks for his return and of congratulations for the Nationalist victory. The hour of the future leader had at length come.

### Tobacco-Growing in Ireland

The eleventh annual report of the Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction for Ireland states that in 1911 pipe varieties of tobacco were planted on 100 acres, cigarette varieties on 28 acres, cigar varieties on 5 acres, and varieties for the production of nicotine on one acre. The season of 1911 was, on the whole, exceptionally favorable for tobacco-growing. Although very dry weather seriously interfered with the preparation of the land and the planting operations, and to a slight extent curtailed the growth in some places, the unusual sunshine, dryness, and warmth were very beneficial to the quality and growth of the plant, and the continuance of dry weather to the end of the season greatly facilitated harvesting and curing. The crop would probably be the best both as to average yield and quality that has been grown since the beginning of the experiments, were it not for the fact that the tobacco on about fifteen acres was unavoidably injured by insects and disease. The tobacco grown in 1910 at all centres except two has been sold to manufacturers, the average price obtained being 5½d per lb. The prices ranged from 4d to 6½d per lb for pipe varieties, 6d per lb for cigarette varieties, and from 3½d to 8d per lb for cigar varieties. The reports of the manufacturers who purchased the crop grown in 1909 were similar to those made on the 1907 and 1908 crops. Most of the tobacco was blended carefully with foreign leaf, but in one case Irish-grown tobacco alone is reported to have been used with successful results.

After having passed a brief holiday in Rome and visited his many friends, the Right Rev. Bishop Vaughan, Auxiliary of the diocese of Salford, left for England. Two days before his departure Bishop Vaughan had a farewell audience with the Holy Father, who asked his Lordship to convey his best wishes to the Right Rev. Dr. Casartelli, Bishop of Salford.

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